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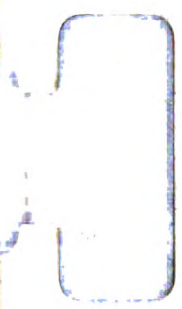


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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Allies and Turkey.

In the course of his remarks on the situation in the Near East during the debate in the House of Commons on December 22 Mr. Lloyd George was not able to add much to our knowledge of the actual position. He was more concerned to ask Parliament to support the Government in the non-committal attitude that it has taken up. With regard to Turkey he held that Great Britain could only approach Mustapha Kemal through the Constantinople Government; as the latter was now in touch with the Angora authorities, nothing could be done until the result of the negotiations was known. He pointed out that territorial modifications of the Treaty of Sévres might well be the same as the tearing up of the Treaty, and he seemed inclined to favour the policy of waiting to see what Greece under the new régime proposed to do in connection with her responsibilities in Asia Minor.

Mr. Lloyd George and Greece.

Perhaps the most notable part of the Prime Minister's speech was his admission that there might be another side to the Greek question. "We have all been filled," he said, "with a good deal of resentment and a certain measure of contempt for their (Greek) action recently, but we do not know the whole of the facts, and there may be explanations. It is very difficult for one country to judge the politics of another." He continued: "Are we upon scrappy meagre evidence to found a great policy in a part of the world which is vital to Great Britain, more vital to Britain than to any other country in the world, and vital to interests which Britain has deeply at heart?" Accordingly, Mr. Lloyd George deprecated "rushing" into any new policy in the Near East. It is to be hoped from his remarks that King Constantine and the Greek Government will now be given an opportunity of following a course conforming with the Allies' wishes, if they are so minded. The only effect of the policy advocated by the French Government would have been to antagonise the Greek people without making sure that any of the advantages anticipated from a modification of the Turkish Treaty would be secured.

M. Sterghiadis.

The announcement that M. Sterghiadis, Greek High Commissioner of Smyrna, "has rallied to King Constantine" may have an important bearing on the course of events in the Near East. In the first place M.

Sterghiadis, who has never been a party man, may, from his own point of view, have done nothing more than his obvious duty in placing his services at the disposal of his Sovereign. But his action brings to the side of the Greek Government the one man who shares with M. Venizelos the position of being head and shoulders above his contemporaries. M. Sterghiadis has earned the good will and esteem of all the Allied representatives with whom he has been brought into contact, and if he could be persuaded to take charge of the Greek Administration the last excuse that the British and French Governments have for sending Greece under King Constantine to Coventry would be removed. In view of the present attitude of the two Powers, it is difficult to see how any Greek Government can do the right thing or fail to be driven into a false position, to the prejudice alike of Greek and Allied interests. With M. Sterghiadis as Prime Minister, the folly of the policy that has found favour with Mr. Lloyd George and M. Leygues must be apparent even to its authors.

A Peasant Entente.

A report credits M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, with a desire to bring about an *entente* between the peasant organisations of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with the object of defending the rights of small agricultural proprietors against Bolshevism on the one hand and reactionary tendencies on the other. It will be necessary to learn more about the scheme before its chances of success can be gauged. There can be no doubt that the peasant communities of the various countries are more drawn towards one another than politicians and newspapers will always allow, and any proposal of a federal nature emanating from the Balkans is to be welcomed. On the other hand, the peasant politician, where not endowed with the genius of a Stambolisky, has his limitations, and unless he listens to sound advice is apt to indulge in legislative experiments that are only a few degrees less fatal to the economic prosperity of the country than the iconoclastic doctrines of Bolshevism. But, whatever the details of the Bulgarian Prime Minister's scheme, he is on sure ground in pointing to the peasant proprietor as an infallible bulwark against the Bolshevik theories.

Bolshevist Threat to Caucasia.

"The wish is father to the thought," and the Bolsheviks are fond of reporting as having actually occurred what are, in fact, only effects that they hope to bring about by means either of their propaganda or of their armed forces. This probably accounts for disturbing

reports regarding the situation in Georgia which found their way recently to this country from Constantinople, only to be denied by the Georgian representative in London. According to the latter, the political situation in Georgia was officially reported to be "absolutely stable" on December 26, and "no crisis whatsoever or disturbances worthy of mention" have taken place there; and other messages from Georgia, reporting the arrival at Batoum on December 29 of a French cruiser, add that the situation was quite calm. Moreover, it is satisfactory to learn, the Georgian Government felt itself able quite recently to return a decidedly stiff reply to a Note addressed to it by M. Chicherin on the subject of Batoum. Steps taken for the defence of that town "without the knowledge and consent of the Georgian Government," M. Chicherin was bluntly told, would be "interpreted as acts of an imperialistic character"; and the Georgian Government intimated that it felt capable of defending its own territory and had no wish for outside help.

A Time for Action.

Although this is only what we should expect from the Georgians, it stirs our admiration none the less, and we sincerely hope that their confidence in themselves will be fully justified. But in view of recent happenings it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the matter may very soon be put to the test by their Bolshevik neighbours; and should that prove to be the case it would be not only cowardly, but extremely unwise also, if the Allies left them to endeavour to dam back the "Red" flood unaided. Armenia affords a painful example of the results of such a policy; and unless we are willing to see the Bolsheviks, when they are ready, make a determined attempt to gain complete control of Caucasia, we must take the lesson to heart, and be prepared to help Georgia promptly and unstintedly if and when the need arises. If we are not prepared to take such action, we must not be surprised if Persia should be overrun by the Bolshevik hordes, and if Anatolia, Syria, and Mesopotamia have to stand on the defensive against them in the near future. It would be interesting to know whether the Allies have made their choice of these alternatives, or whether they are hoping against hope that some miracle may occur to save them from that painful necessity.

A Barmecide Feast.

Coming at such a time, the publication of President Wilson's award on the Turco-Armenian boundary question inevitably wears a rather ironical appearance, and will probably remind many people of a Barmecide feast. According to this award Armenia is to receive Kars, Trebizond, Tireboli (some 50 miles west of Trebizond), Erzinjan, Mush, and Bitlis, the boundary passing south of Lake Van. Comparing this with the actual area under Armenian rule to-day, and remembering the desperate straits to which the unfortunate Armenians were put to defend the territories of the Armenian Republic against the Kemalists and the Bolsheviks, we cannot avoid the feeling that the terms of the award are not likely to be enforced in the near future. They might have been enforced soon after the Armistice, but the delay has changed the situation entirely; and the disappointed Armenians must, in fairness, place the responsibility for the delay where it is chiefly due. Neither President Wilson's sincerity nor the generosity of his impulses will ever be questioned, but his failure to win over his countrymen to his views has spelled disaster for the Armenians.

Indian Politics.

For the moment the centre of interest in the field of Indian politics has shifted to Nagpur, where the National Congress, now a predominantly Extremist body, is grappling with the future of its notorious policy of non-co-operation. So far the cables have brought news only of the preliminary manoeuvres, which cannot be interpreted with safety at this distance, and we must await the reports of the final sittings to know how far the militants who control the proceedings have been influenced by the gradual development of hostility among the general public. A month ago the protagonist, Mr. Gandhi, was still serenely confident in his

monopoly of political wisdom, and even the redoubtable Colonel Wedgwood admitted in the course of an interview that his attempts at conversion had proved futile. Those who have read Sir Valentine Chirol's incisive character-sketch of the "saint and firebrand" in his recent article in *The Times* will recognise that Mr. Gandhi's mentality is definitely irrational, and the issue has now to be decided by the men who have hitherto followed him. If their enthusiasm is maintained, there is probably trouble ahead, and the best hope for India is that the pernicious doctrine of non-co-operation may gradually be submerged by the rising tide of sanity, which is the distinctive feature of the last few months.

The Indian Civil Service.

At last we have the final decision of the authorities on the methods of recruitment for the Indian Civil Service. With one important exception the scheme follows the general lines laid down by the Public Services Commission six years ago, with provision for the higher proportion of Indians proposed subsequently in the joint report of Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu. The exception is that, while the Commission proposed to recruit from the schools, the Secretary of State has decided to rely on the universities, and has fixed the age limit for the competition at 21-23, the reduction of a year allowing of a corresponding increase in the period available for training on probation. We do not propose to re-argue the vexed question of universities versus schools, now decided for the time, but we must congratulate the authorities on the extension of the period of probation, the shortness of which was the great blot on the system in force before the war. The extra year will be invaluable, provided that the course of reading is properly devised and the instructors wisely chosen; and it ought to be possible to send out men thoroughly grounded not only in jurisprudence, history and economics, the subjects which have always been essential, but also in political science, a knowledge of which will be not less necessary under the new régime.

Indian Honours.

So far as India is concerned, the outstanding feature of the Honours List issued on New Year's Day is the recognition accorded to successful commercial enterprise. Sir Ernest Cable's peerage and Sir Archibald Birkmyre's baronetcy will be generally acclaimed in Calcutta, and they are supported by four new knights, Sir Thomas Bennett for Bombay, Sir Montagu Webb for Karachi, Sir Alexander Murray for Calcutta, and Sir Thomas Smith for Cawnpore, making altogether a representative and satisfactory selection. The lists of honours conferred on officials are mostly of the familiar type, but we are glad to find the name of Mr. D. T. Chadwick, the Indian Trade Commissioner in London, among the new Companions of the Indian Empire; while the conferment of the same distinction on Dr. Butler, of Pusa, and Mr. Sampson, of Madras, may be welcomed as an indication that the devoted labours of the pioneers of agricultural development are at last winning some share of the recognition they have earned so well.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

Christmas and New Year.

Christmas was astonishingly like all previous Christmases. I suppose from time immemorial foolish weather prophets have predicted hard winters and an old-fashioned Christmas—a prediction which comes off about twice a century. (Personally, I should not think it worth while to be a seer on a fifty to one chance.) Yet we always pretend to believe these people, and when Christmas comes in damp and muggy, as it did this year, we express our astonishment, and protest that the English climate is changing. But it is not. It is only necessary to look through Pepys and Evelyn to see that things were the same then. A green Christmas had never happened before, but somehow it always happened that particular year.

New Year, too, was like all previous New Years. December 31 dawned with good resolutions, January 1 with a headache. On the whole, these New Year supper dances at the hotels are becoming rather a bore, especially for anybody else staying in the hotel. One is not necessarily senile or a soured puritan because one likes to get to sleep before four in the morning.

New Year's Honours.

The Honours List was very much what was expected; a large number of prominent and estimable provincial gentlemen, a few politicians, the inevitable actor—Mr. Martin Harvey—and that most modest of all God's creatures, an editor. The one surprise was to find Dr. John Clifford, the venerable Nonconformist, a Companion of Honour—a distinction which he shares with Mr. Seddon, the Labour leader, and a few others.

On the whole, it might have been worse; one remembers some Honours Lists of which it might have been said that "among that earthen lot, some could articulate, while others not"—at least, so far as aspirates were concerned. Nothing is here for tears, or even for malicious gossip.

Parliament Adjourns.

Parliament rose just before Christmas, after an all-night sitting which lasted till noon the next day. Members do not meet again before February, and next session we are promised licensing and anti-dumping, a Scylla and Charybdis on which the Independent Liberals are hoping that the Coalition will split. Their hopes are not likely to be gratified, but for all that it will be interesting to see whether or not the Coalition Liberals are able to pull their weight in the boat. Of course, it is the pose of the Wee Frees to hint that the Coalition Liberals are no longer of the true faith, but a kind of parasite on the Tory dog; they do not quite believe their own words, but they are satisfied if they have succeeded in annoying their old comrades, whom they still charge with wrecking the historic Liberal party. A cooler judgment would probably hold that the Liberal party wrecked itself—eight years of office was too much for it. But we can hardly expect the little band who are wandering in the wilderness to admit this.

Ireland.

Preparations are already being made for carrying out the provisions of the Home Rule Act. Two Parliaments are to be set up, one for Ulster, the other for the irreconcilable South; and if the ordinary rules of politics applied to Ireland, we would say that the problem was solved. So far as Ulster is concerned, there is no doubt that the provincial parliament is being taken seriously; the South has still to define its attitude. If the people want it to work, the scheme will work; if not, not. But it is difficult to see any Irish grievance left. Unfortunately, if grievances do not exist they can be manufactured.

Naval Armaments.

The discussion on naval armaments and the possible rivalry of Britain, the United States, and Japan, with the further possibility of a triangular duel—if one may use the phrase—in shipbuilding goes on. England's voice is plain and definite—the country is in favour of small armaments and peace. Rarely has there been

such unanimity; pacifist organs like the *Daily News* find themselves in agreement with the *Morning Post* and other beasts of the Tory field; economy is the watchword everywhere. It is to be hoped that some kind of agreement will be possible; people rightly feel that it would be absurd if, after disarming Europe, the rest of the world were to start the old competition afresh.

The League of Nations.

In this connection we cannot help noticing a change of tone here regarding the League of Nations. A year ago the ordinary politician found that nobody believed in it; he piped, but the audience refused to dance. Now things have changed; people are beginning to think that the League may have a future. The admission of Austria and Bulgaria has certainly made a difference; I doubt if there would be any great objection here to the admission of Germany in a few more months. The absence of America is, of course, regretted, but we have grown accustomed to that. Russia is another matter, and the controversy over Russia remains a bitter one.

On the whole, Mr. H. G. Wells has done a good deal to turn public opinion against the resumption of trade with Russia. He was obviously a friendly witness for the Bolsheviks, and he indulged in the usual ridiculous denunciations of the "blockade" and the "capitalist"; but his work did leave the impression that Russia has nothing to trade with except propaganda, a commodity with which we are already overstocked.

The revulsion against the Bolshevik theory has been marked during the last three months; outside the Clyde district it would be difficult to find anybody in the British Isles who now takes it seriously. And the advocates of trade with Russia are too vague in their details to carry much weight; the suggestion that the resumption of trade with a country in that position will be a cure for unemployment is too absurd to convince the ordinary man that it is put forward sincerely.

School Increases.

The announcement is made that the public and private schools are again compelled to put up their fees. Twenty-five per cent. has already been added in most cases; another ten per cent. is now spoken of. It now costs more to send a single boy to a public school than to feed and clothe two or three children at home, which is absurd; but the great schools are more than full. Their patrons, however, are changing; very few of the clergy, for example, can afford to send their children to a public school, and the university is quite beyond their means. One cannot think this a good thing for the future of the country.

The Small Depositor.

When Farrow's Bank failed early last month a good deal of criticism was directed against the great banks for their attitude towards the small depositor. The thrifty person who can only save a pound or so at a time never ventures to open an account at one of the Big Five's branches; there has been a general impression that they do not want him, and that they take his money with a sort of supercilious condescension, as though they were conferring a favour on him. The consequence is that, unless he goes to the Post Office Savings Bank, which is swathed with the usual official red tape, he is forced into the hands of the so-called penny banks, which generally collapse sooner or later.

Fortunately the attitude of the great banks is now said to be changing. One of these institutions, Lloyds, is advertising that it welcomes the small depositor; but, I take it, the trouble is not with the directors but with the branch staffs. The small depositor in bulk is a considerable factor, and the board of a great bank knows it; but in detail his petty transactions are rather a bother to the clerks, who do not encourage him. This attitude of mind will have to be changed if any good is to be done; for the small depositor has feelings like the rest of us, and the same objection to being politely snubbed.

The Book World.

A disappointed author once wrote a short story about a publisher who, he said, became human at Christmas and did not recognise himself. He was so shocked at

the reality that he offered to spend the rest of his life making reparation, but his punishment was even worse: he was condemned to turn into a publisher again.

Whatever the truth or the reverse of this very moral story, the publishing world ceases from issuing new masterpieces at and immediately after Christmas, and devotes itself to stocktaking. As books sell well in these days, this should be a cheering occupation; but I am informed that the real difficulty is the question of cheap reprints. Hundreds of books are out of stock and awaiting new editions, but it does not in the least follow that because a book sold well at sevenpence it will catch on again at eightpence, the current equivalent; and one that found a ready market at a shilling may be a drug in the market at half a crown.

Authors and subjects, of course, have mysterious alternations of popularity and neglect, apart from prices, and this must be an added difficulty. A year ago, for instance, England was mad on spiritualism, and some very dreadful stuff was published; no bookseller's catalogue was complete without its ghostly revelations. But this craze is now said to be on the wane. A few of the more ardent spirits have gone on to occultism, but the mass, suddenly recalled to earth, are displaying an unprecedented interest in economics. From the seventh heaven and the Mahatmas to the theory of diminishing returns and the relations of capital and labour is a biggish jump, and I understand that the seers and crystal-gazers are very indignant about it. However, such is human folly that they are never long without a clientele.

The only book that has come my way this week is "Vision and Design" (Chatto and Windus), by Roger Fry. The ordinary art critic is a bore when he is not a humbug—very often he is a combination of both—but Mr. Fry is not merely sane, but convincing; even in his analysis of taste and beauty there is little to quarrel with, and his discussion of the cause for the lack of taste in the Victorian age—which he ascribes to the decay of craftsmanship—is altogether admirable.

OCELLUS.

THE NEW YEAR HONOURS.

Among the names mentioned in the New Year Honours List, which was issued on December 31, are the following:—

BARONS.

Beardmore, Sir William, Bt.
Cable, Sir Ernest.

COMPANION OF HONOUR.

Ellerman, Sir John Reeves, Bt.

BARONETS.

Baden-Powell, Lieutenant-General.
Sir Robert Stephenson Smyth, K.C.B., K.C.V.O.
Birkmyre, Sir Archibald, C.B.E.
Cox, Reginald Henry, D.L., J.P.
Yate, Colonel Charles Edward, C.S.I., C.M.G., D.L., M.P.

KNIGHTS.

Bennett, Thomas Sewell, C.I.E., M.P.
Oldham, Ernest Fitzjohn.
Bylands, William Peter.
Collier, George Herman, C.I.E.
Arnold, Thomas Walker, C.I.E., Litt.D.
Shadi Lal, Justice Brod Bahadur.
Banerjee, Surendra Nath.
Parekh, Gokaldas Khandas.
Webb, Montagu de Pomeroy, C.I.E., C.B.E.
Murray, Alexander Robertson, C.B.E.
Abdul Husain Sahib, Khan Bahadur Mirza.
Dadabhoi, Marakjee Byramjee, C.I.E.
Smith, Thomas, V.D.
Goenka, Rai Bahadur Hari Ram, C.I.E.

G.C.M.G.

Manning, Brigadier-General Sir William Henry, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.

C.M.G.

Orr, Major Charles William James, R.A.
Dodds, Major James Hugh Hamilton.

K.C.M.G.

Berkeley, Ernest James Lennox, C.B.

G.C.B.

De Robeck, Admiral Sir John Michael, Bt., G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

C.B. (MILITARY DIVISION).

Fitzmaurice, Rear-Admiral Maurice Swynfen, C.M.G.
Owing to pressure on our space, we are compelled to hold over the Indian list until next week.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, December 6.

The Duke of Connaught.

The Duke of Connaught is expected to pass through the Canal early in Christmas week en route to India, and the High Commissioner and his staff will go to Port Said in order to greet his Royal Highness on his way through. Lord and Lady Allenby have arranged to proceed to Khartoum for a short tour at the end of the first week of January. The Sudan is, of course, within the jurisdiction of the High Commissioner of Egypt, just as was the case before the war; and Lord Allenby, in making these annual visits to the Sudan, is but following the precedent set up by the late Sir Eldon Gorst and Lord Kitchener.

The Political Situation.

There is absolutely no change in the political situation. Adly Pasha Yeghen has had an audience of the Sultan; he has attended a meeting of the Cairo Committee of the Egyptian Delegation, at which he is reported to have made a statement meeting with the approval of the members; and he has been entertained to dinner in his capacity as President of the Club by the members of the Mohamed Ali Club. Beyond that, however, he has made no public appearance or utterance, and, as was anticipated, he seems disinclined for the present to take any active part in political affairs. There is, indeed, no doubt that the proper course for all concerned is to await the statement which the Cabinet will make in the House and the proposal which the British Government will presumably make to the Sultan as head of the Egyptian State. When the nature of that statement and of that proposal is known will be the time for action, but any step before that time would be ill-advised; and it is doubtless in accordance with this view that Adly Pasha and the other prominent Egyptians are refraining from any activity.

Meanwhile, the economic situation is receiving close attention from the Government, and is absorbing the thoughts of the mass of the population. Deputations have come up from the provinces in order to lay the situation before the Government, and on Thursday last a large body of landowners had an audience with the Sultan, at which His Highness fully discussed the situation with them and promised that every effort should be made to assist them, and from which the deputation withdrew evidently delighted at their reception. There is no doubt that this interview is a step in the right direction; and this spontaneous appeal on the part of the people to their sovereign shows that, mentally, they are returning to more constitutional lines.

The Provincial Councils have been requested to give their opinion on the question of the proposed restriction of the cotton area in 1921, and it is confidently expected that legislation on these lines will at once be introduced. It is, of course, somewhat late for this measure to have any real effect on the wheat area, for winter sowings are usually over by this time. That there would in any event be a smaller cotton area next year was to be foreseen as a natural result of the decrease in cotton prices: but while it is possible that the measure proposed will not be productive of much extension of the cereal area, the Government has been well-advised to introduce it, since it is the unanimous desire of the country; and it has been even better advised to seek the advice of the Provincial Councils, since such a procedure, by associating the people in a decision on a question interesting the whole country, cannot fail to draw governors and governed closer to one another.

The Kantara Bridge.

It has been definitely decided to demolish the railway bridge across the Canal at Kantara, and after December 31 communication between Palestine and Egypt "overland" will be maintained by means of a ferry across the Canal. As I mentioned recently, the question of this bridge has been the subject of discus-

sion for several months now between the British and Egyptian Governments on the one hand and the Compagnie Universelle du Canal de Suez on the other hand. It was, I understand, discussed last November at the annual meeting of the Consultative Council of Engineers held in Paris, and it was then decided to reject any proposal for the erection of a new bridge to replace the existing one.

It is, indeed, very regrettable that it has been found impossible to agree to the erection of a bridge, which would fulfil all requirements as to non-interference with navigation in the Suez Canal; for the substitution of ferries will naturally make the cost of transport from Cairo to Jerusalem very much higher and must lead to delay in transit. It is to be feared that the effect will be seriously to interfere with and handicap the commercial relations between Egypt and Palestine, which had gradually been growing closer, and that it will to a certain extent impede the economic and commercial development of Palestine. The latter has, of course, a good deal more to lose by this decision than Egypt, and we may in the near future hear considerably more about this question of the means of communication between the Asiatic and African sides of the Canal; for the Palestine Government will certainly not accept this decision without a fight for the maintenance of the link, which is regarded by those who have studied the question as vital to that country.

Charity Bazaar.

This afternoon the annual Bazaar in aid of the Young Women's Christian Association was held at the Semiramis Hotel. The Y.W.C.A. has done, and is still doing, excellent work in Egypt, and these annual bazaars are held in order to pay off the debt on account of the new premises which had recently to be purchased in order to meet all the calls which are nowadays made on the Association. The debt at present amounts to barely £2,300, and the Association now possesses premises for which but the other day a cash offer of £21,000 was made. The hostels run by the Association all pay their way, and the proceeds of the bazaars are devoted solely to the paying off of the debt on the property and initial establishment.

Canon Horan opened the proceedings with a short prayer, and introduced Lady Allenby, who, in an admirably phrased little speech, expressed her pleasure at having been asked to perform the ceremony, and in declaring the Bazaar open wished the venture all success. Mr. Harry Farnall brought the ceremony to a conclusion with a speech of thanks to Lady Allenby. There was an excellent attendance and the stalls were very well patronised, and the Association must have benefited materially by the brisk business done by the stall-holders.

While warmly congratulating all concerned at the excellent organisation and the successful result of their labours the writer feels, however, constrained to offer one little criticism. Neither the introducer of the gracious lady who performed the opening ceremony, nor the proposer of the vote of thanks, made any reference to the absence from the Bazaar of one of the most familiar faces, viz., Sir Alexander Baird, who for years past rarely failed to attend the Bazaar and make one of his inimitable witty speeches, and who was in all probability identified for a longer period than anyone else at present in Egypt with the work of the Association. The omission of any reference to the death, since the last Bazaar, of this old and deservedly popular resident was, of course, an oversight, but an oversight all the more regrettable seeing that the late Sir Alexander Baird was such a generous supporter of, and warm sympathiser with, local charitable enterprises, amongst them the Y.W.C.A.

CAIRO, December 13.

The Sultan in the Provinces.

His Highness the Sultan paid a State visit to Mansura on Saturday last. This visit, which was made in response to an invitation extended by a deputat-

of notables who visited Alexandria in October, should have taken place three weeks ago, but it had to be postponed owing to the death of the Sultan's sister. His Highness was accorded a very fine reception, not only at Mansura, but also all the way along the route from Tantah, the decorations being especially noticeable. There is little doubt that the interview which the cultivators had with his Highness ten days ago, and the satisfaction of the popular demand with regard to the restriction of the cotton area, were greatly responsible for the warmth of this reception. Towards the end of the year the Sultan proposes to make an extensive tour in Upper Egypt by river.

The Kantara Bridge.

With reference to what I wrote last week, communications from Palestine indicate that there is considerable feeling in commercial and other circles on the question of the demolition of the bridge; but there is no indication of any Government action as yet. In the meantime, steps are being taken to dispense with the bridge after December 31, and the railway authorities at both ends are doing their best to reduce to a minimum discomfort and inconvenience. I understand that through-booking will still be possible from Egypt to Palestine and *vice-versa*.

The Political Situation.

The telegraphic agencies last week brought us a summary of Lord Milner's preface to the new edition of his book and of the recommendations which the Milner Mission have embodied in their report to the Cabinet. Both of these items of information are being discussed with great interest. Particularly so is this the case with Lord Milner's preface, to which the vernacular press has devoted considerable space. Generally speaking, it is regarded as indicating that Lord Milner intends to defend his proposals to the utmost and that, as the report itself will probably not be made public, he is desirous of putting the case clearly before the British public before the Cabinet makes its statement of policy and a discussion on that statement can take place.

Some of the Extremist organs deduce from the publication of this new edition at the present juncture that the Milner Mission have decided to agree to the reservations, while others take up a somewhat aggressive attitude and declare that nothing but the acceptance of those reservations can solve the Egyptian problem. The summary of the recommendations, which, by the way, is obviously incomplete, has, by comparison, not aroused much comment, and one can safely say that the general attitude continues to be that of waiting for the expected statement of policy from the Egyptian Government.

GREECE.

ATHENS, December 18.

The Result of the Plebiscite.

The definite results of the plebiscite which took place on November 20 (O.S.) regarding King Constantine's return are now known. The total figures for the whole of Greece, including the front, are as follows:—In Old and New Greece, out of a total of 902,101 votes, 895,561 were in favour of his return and 5,193 against. There were 1,166 blank votes, and 76 votes were cancelled for various reasons. On the Asia Minor front, out of a total of 89,633 votes, 84,735 were in favour of the King's return and 4,208 against; 627 votes were

cancelled. In the Army of Thrace 19,667 voted for the King and 982 against, 359 votes having been cancelled. The names Constantine and Venizelos were found coupled together on many votes of the civil population in Thrace.

Commenting on the results of the plebiscite on the Asia Minor front, the Liberal Press points out that it was a great blunder on the part of the Government to publish the full figures and thus acquaint Mustapha Kemal with the actual strength of the forces opposing him. In certain provinces the number of voters exceeded considerably those who participated in the elections of November 14. In Attica and Boetia, for instance, 126,003 persons voted at the plebiscite as against 82,648 at the elections. In the Salonika area the number of votes was nearly twice that registered at the elections. As the majority of the Venizelists refrained from participating in the plebiscite these results would appear to be rather strange, and the *Patris* is of the opinion that a good many people succeeded in voting more than once. One cannot, of course, say whether there is any truth in this assertion, but the indisputable fact remains that the Greeks—at least the big majority—want their King very badly; there should not be the slightest doubt about it abroad. Ever since the receipt of the wireless message from the Averoff announcing her departure from Venice with the King aboard, the Athenians have been in a fever of excitement. The word "Erhetai" (he is coming) is on everybody's lips. The Royal Family is expected in Athens to-morrow, and great preparations are in progress for its reception. Thousands of people from the provinces have invaded the capital, and every hotel, lodging-house, and many of the private houses have been full to overflowing since the beginning of the week. As the influx of visitors still continues, many are being accommodated in cafés! With very few exceptions every building and shop in Athens is gaily decorated with laurel or olive branches and the national colours. There is also a great display of the Union Jack and of tricolours. In spite of the threatening Notes presented by the Allies to the Hellenic Government and the hostile attitude adopted towards the King and the country by certain English and French newspapers, the Greek people view the future with great optimism, and are more than confident that the Great Powers will ultimately recognise King Constantine and grant the country the badly-needed financial assistance.

The Greek Army in Asia Minor.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Armies in Asia Minor, General Papoulas, who arrived from Smyrna two days ago, was present at a Council of Ministers held at M. Rallis' house on Friday. The General supplied full particulars as to the actual military situation on the Asia Minor front, which he declared was extremely satisfactory. The moral of the Army, said General Papoulas, is excellent, and there is no reason whatever to fear Mustapha Kemal. The Hellenic forces are well equipped, and are ready, at any moment, to undertake an offensive against the Kemalists troops.

Miscellaneous News.

M. Sofoulis, the ex-President of the Chamber, will, in all probability, be appointed Chief of the Liberal Party. As, however, M. Sofoulis failed to gain a seat in the last elections, it is proposed that one of the Liberal Deputies—preferably a member for one of the Thracian towns—should resign in his favour. This would, of course, necessitate a by-election, but the Liberals are confident of its issue.

On Sunday last about 5,000 women demonstrated in Constitution Square in favour of King Constantine's return, and at the same time to protest against the Government's decision not to allow the women to participate in the plebiscite. Madame Yannaros, the wife of the editor of the *Esperini*, delivered a speech from a balcony, after which the demonstrators sang the "Son of the Eagle" (a tune specially composed for King Constantine) and then dispersed.

The Minister of the Interior has granted the necessary authority to open a subscription throughout Greece for the erection of a statue of M. Jean Dragoumis, who was murdered last August.

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ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, December 12.

Outrage in the Senate.

Last Wednesday afternoon, while the Senators were entering the Senate, a fearful explosion took place, killing outright Bishop Dimitriu Radu, of Oradea Mare (Transylvania), and seriously wounding M. Grecianu, Minister of Justice, and Senator Spiru Gheorghiu, who both succumbed to their wounds a few days later, and General Coanda, the President of the Senate. Hopes are entertained that he may recover. Several Senators were slightly hurt.

According to official investigations, two shells of 76 cm. calibre, connected by clockwork, were timed to explode at the hour of assembly. This infernal contrivance was placed close to the seat of the President of the Senate. Thanks, however, to the explosion taking place when the Senators were entering, only a few happened to be in the neighbourhood at the time, otherwise the number of victims would have been greater. Despite the efforts of the authorities to trace them, the perpetrators of the crime have not yet been discovered. The Government has offered a reward of 200,000 lei for any information that will lead to their arrest.

This sinister outrage has produced a painful impression throughout the country, as this is the first time that an act of anarchy of this kind has occurred in the annals of the Roumanian Parliament. In view of their high standing, and the circumstances under which they died, the victims have been honoured with a State funeral.

Parliament.

The present session seems a slight improvement on the last. The various political parties appear to be more willing to collaborate when important questions are on the table. During the last week the work of the two Houses has been rather curtailed owing to the tragedy in the Senate, and the deaths of the three victims, as the sitting had to be suspended several days as a sign of mourning. The dastardly attempt upon the Senate was strongly condemned by the various political leaders and minorities, including the Socialists. During the week M. I. N. Anghelescu introduced the following Bills in connection with the new fiscal reforms which are so urgently needed to improve the economical and financial situation of the country:—1, *Schedular tax on special income, and progressive tax on total income*; 2, *tax on the exchange of goods, stocks and shares, services, and on the consumption of luxury goods*; 3, *excess profits tax on landed and real estates*; 4, *alcohol monopoly*; 5, *sugar monopoly*; 6, *exceptional progressive tax on capital*; 7, *Bill for payment of war indemnities, and amelioration of the rate of exchange*.

M. Anghelescu, among other remarks on the new Bills, in referring to the Budget approved in the last session, said, that according to to-day's calculations the present deficit would be more than 2 milliard lei, to which will have to be added a further half milliard lei for war credit and for payment of the postponed coupons. Besides that, there will be a separate Budget for reconstruction. He went on to explain that there are bills circulating abroad to the amount of 8½ milliard lei. Against this, the total revenue will not exceed 5 milliards. The reforms cannot be applied before 1922. M. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance, is expected to arrive from Paris in a few days, and will also propose a number of schemes in connection with fiscal reform.

A Black Sea Derelict.

The Greek boat *Quequen*, on her voyage from Constantinople to Constanza, met a vessel drifting about off the Dobruja Coast. The captain of the Greek vessel, after making the usual signals and receiving no reply, approached the boat. He, together with a few of his crew, boarded her, and found, to his surprise, that there was no living soul on her, but, instead, a quantity of rifles, machine-guns, and ammunition. There was neither food nor fuel, which proved that the abandon-

ment of the vessel was either on account of piracy or on account of the fierce gale which took place a short while ago. The crew, seeing their lives in peril, got away in a lifeboat, and probably reached the nearest coast. The derelict was flying the Russian Imperial ensign; the cabins were rather damaged, and arms were thrown about, otherwise there were no signs of any human habitation at all. The authorities have therefore come to the conclusion that during the flight of General Wrangel's army from the Crimea, this boat was probably being towed and broke loose. It was brought to Constanza, and will be dealt with according to maritime law.

BUCHAREST, December 19, 1920.

Parliament.

In the last meeting of the Chamber, one of the Opposition leaders moved that the censorship should be abolished, but the motion, when put to the vote, was rejected by a small majority.

The Under-Secretary of State for Reconstruction, in reply to various accusations in connection with the deplorable state of the railways, said that the fault lies with the preceding Governments, who have neglected this vital question. The present state of the railways is due not only to a material disorganisation, but very largely also to a moral one, and it is especially against the latter that he intends to take the most drastic measures. Naturally, the main cause is still the lack of locomotives, but in view of the projected arrangement to hand over the workshops to foreign management, he trusts that in a very short time railway traffic will become normal. Nevertheless, the situation to-day is worse than can be imagined, and one could even say it has reached a climax. He therefore appealed to everyone to abandon party squabbles, at least on this question, and to co-operate in restoring the railways to their pre-war condition.

The Minister of Labour introduced last week the following Bills:—*Trade Union Bill*; a Bill providing that the present Budget should remain in force until April 1, 1921; and another Bill to cancel the extraordinary credits.

M. Take Jonescu, on being asked when the remainder of the 40 per cent. still due on the exchange of Transylvanian crowns will be paid, said that the delay had taken place owing to a misunderstanding between the National Bank and the Government, but that it will be paid in a very short time.

During the debate on the Bill for the new regulations to be adopted in Parliament, the Opposition moved an amendment that the Parliamentary immunity should be maintained, but on being put to the vote, it was rejected.

The Senate has lost practically the whole week, owing to the fact that the house is still under repairs,

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and the police still need it for their investigations of the recent outrage. It only sat on Saturday, when two new Bills were introduced, namely, the Control of Aliens Bill, and a Bill to establish a new Under-Secretaryship for the ethnical minorities.

Miscellaneous.

General Macri, Director-General of the State Railways, has resigned, and has been succeeded by Brigadier-General Mihail Jonescu, the Chief of the General Staff, who will take over his duties on December 15.

In view of the numerous losses and thefts of parcels, luggage and goods which have been so frequent in transit by rail, the directorate of the railways has decided that claims for damages arising therefrom will be charged to the officials responsible.

Mr. Lloyd George, on behalf of the British people, has conveyed, through the British Legation at Bucharest, expressions of sympathy with the Roumanian Government on account of the deaths of the eminent prelate, and of the Minister of Justice, resulting from the recent outrage in the Senate.

Lady Dering, the wife of the British Minister, arrived in Bucharest on Saturday, the 18th inst., from Nice.

Prince Carol has returned to Bucharest from Lucerne.

It is reported that the Royal weddings of Prince Carol to Princess Helena of Greece, and Princess Elisabeth to Prince George of Greece, will take place immediately after the Orthodox Christmas holidays.

In view of the false reports which have been lately spread about that the Bolshevik Army is making preparations to attack Roumania on the Dniester, the Government has decided to take severe measures against the originators of these rumours, which only alarm the people, and convey abroad a wrong impression of the state of affairs existing in the country. The Government further state that the necessary measures have been taken to safeguard the country against any such attack.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, December 19.

The Political Situation.

The political situation remains unchanged. Long conversations are being carried on by the different political clubs with a view to forming a strong Coalition Government that will be able to carry on the business of the country for two years without the constantly recurring crises which have done so much harm during the past two years. The leaders of the Mohammedan Party are Dr. Mehmed Spaho, a well-known Herzegovinian, and Dr. Halil Bey Hrasnitsa. The name of the latter will be remembered in connection with the rather sensational incident of last March, when M. Protitch invited the Narodny Club to join with the Radicals, and they nominated Dr. Hrasnitsa to a portfolio. But he lost the appointment within an hour, when it was announced that he was on the list of "wanted" for atrocities committed in Serbia during the Austrian occupation, when he, as an Austrian officer, held a judicial post at Kragujevats. Only in the confusion of present affairs could he come into prominence as a politician in the new kingdom. His party are prepared to join the Coalition on the following grounds:—That the agrarian question in Bosnia and Herzegovina be settled on the same lines as in the rest of the kingdom, and not in a special manner; and that the new constitution be passed by a two-thirds, and not an absolute, majority

of the Assembly. It seems that M. Pashitch has gone a long way to meet their views, but that the final decision has not yet been taken.

Conversations are still being continued between the Radicals and the Democrats, but the chances of an understanding, unfortunately, appear to be getting fainter. Among the Radicals themselves there is a difference of opinion. The milder members, or more elastic ones, who follow M. Pashitch and M. Vesnitch, are in favour of an understanding with the Democrats, while the intransigents under M. Protitch are opposed to it. Finally, M. Ljuba Yovanovitch, who was Minister of the Interior at Salonika, is endeavouring to find some middle course. It is very much to be hoped that these two dominant parties will come to a firm and definite understanding.

The parties are slowly grouping themselves, however, and now it looks as though the Extreme Right will be occupied by the Narodny Club, Mohammedans, Clericals, and Bunjevists; the Centre by the Democrats, National Socialists, Social Democrats, and Peasants; while the Communists will take the Extreme Left.

The New Assembly.

One of the most noticeable features of the new Assembly will be the absence of experienced politicians, for the mass of the members are not only new to Parliament, but new to politics. Many familiar faces will be absent, and there will be a dearth of good debaters like Yasha Prodanovitch. Ministers of Food and Reconstruction seem to have been very unpopular at the polling booths, as three of them—Stanishitch, Bukshag the Socialist, and Yoyitch the Montenegrin—have all been rejected; also other ex-Ministers, as Dr. Poljak, who migrated at the last minute from the Democrats to the Peasants, but without result, and Koratch the Socialist. The Communists are weakest of all in this respect. One of their most prominent speakers, Dr. Sima Markovitch, is said to be a *kum* of M. Pashitch himself, but got the worst of it in a passage of arms with that veteran at the first session, nor did he fare much better at the experienced hands of M. Vesnitch.

The stumbling-block in the house seems to be the rules of procedure drafted by the Vesnitch Cabinet, to which all parties seem to be hostile. It will probably be thrown overboard.

But the greatest interest is taken in the attitude of Stjepan Raditch and his fifty henchmen. A party of his delegates has arrived at Zemun, on the invitation of several parties, and had conferences with the leaders of all the chief clubs, but retain a puzzling silence. It is stated that they are prepared to come to Belgrade to participate in the sessions of the Assembly provided that the rules of procedure be amended completely, that the Assembly proclaim itself sovereign and all-puissant, that the oath be taken after the alteration of the rules, and that the constitution be passed by general agreement and not by bare majority. The opinion is gaining ground that the party will eventually join the Assembly, and, possibly, accept a portfolio.

The latest news is that a hitch has arisen owing to the unbending attitude of M. Protitch. It appears that the committee of hearing election petitions has accepted the protest of the Communists against the election of a Turk in the Bregalnitsa district (famous for the desperate fighting between Serbs and Bulgars in 1913, when the latter got severe punishment for making a surprise attack upon their allies a few hours after the Bulgar officers had left a Serbian dinner party), who joined the Radicals. M. Protitch cannot bear the thought of losing one of his members, and is said to be trying to obstruct the work of the committee by directing the Radical members to refuse to sign. This has led to another conflict between Radicals and Democrats, which is much to be regretted.

The Peasants Party.

The combined Peasants Party appear to have no desire for the glories of office. They will loyally support any Coalition or other Government which will work for unity, and, above all, for the advancement of the landworkers' interests. They propose a more thorough agrarian reform than the Radicals, or even than the

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Democrats, advocate. They demand the sub-division of lands held by the church by *spahis*, *begs*, or other big holders, for the benefit of the peasant, always, however, assuring to the original owners sufficient land to enable them to support their families. Their principle is that the land should belong to the man who works it, and that no man should have more than he can work, no more than is necessary to support his family. This ideal was virtually attained in Serbia three generations ago, but the reform was easier when it was merely a question of dispossessing a defeated and expelled foreign tyrant. The party is prepared to accept Raditch and his Croats into the fold if he will accept their programme, but will not associate themselves with his demagogic methods. From this it will be judged that the Peasants Party, which really represents the vast mass of the population, although it is but in its infancy, has patriotic and sane ideas.

The Pension of ex-King Nicholas.

The Government has voted an appanage of 300,000 francs a year to ex-King Nicholas of Montenegro and Queen Milena. The most vigorous opposition was raised by M. Risto Yoyitch, Minister of Food and Reconstruction, himself a Montenegrin deputy, on the grounds that the ex-King, during his fifty years' reign, had opportunities enough to enrich himself, and that he did not fail to make use of them, and that he has all the wealth he wants for himself and family. Be it noted that the opposition did not come from a Serbianata. In fact, the whole Montenegrin colony in Belgrade is up in arms against the proposal, at least until Nicholas formally renounces all his claims for himself and his descendants.

A Waiters' Strike.

The waiters at the Café Corso in Zagreb have been striking, claiming a fixed salary instead of tips. It is now announced that they have gained their point, and the proprietor will pay them a wage of 4,000 kruna per month, and tips will be abolished. Presumably prices will be raised accordingly, but customers have so far noticed no change. But the Communists of Zagreb are up in arms to support the waiters, and have invented an original method of doing so. Large parties of them suddenly appear in the café, occupy as many seats as possible, light their own cigarettes, and drink water. They are a mixed lot, consisting mostly of boys and young men of the labouring class, among whom there is the usual blend of fairly intelligent fellows with real boors, who look half stupid, and a few weak faces, who could be easily led into rash action. But their leader seems to mean business. He maintains good discipline, and they behave perfectly well. They press the customers to buy the *Red Flag* and the *New World*, which is the organ of the Belgrade Communists, both of which are full of trash. Most of them seem to treat the thing as a huge joke, and nearly all wear a self-conscious smile, as they find themselves in unfamiliar surroundings. They fill the galleries and make speeches about the "Soviet Republic and its Significance," but the public seem more amused than alarmed, though the proprietor is naturally furious at these obstructionist tactics.

General News.

The weather for the past month has been an unspeakable mixture of snow, sleet, and fine rain, but in the higher altitudes there has been greater severity. News comes from Dolenski in Slovenia that bears and wolves have come down the mountains and are a source of danger, not only to live stock, but even to human beings. In the severe weather, wolves come quite close to Belgrade, and last year were reported from Topchider. When the wolves are hungry after a prolonged snow, it is dangerous to walk on the roads at night, for they will stalk a man, and at a favourable moment spring upon him, and the attack of a wolf is a fearful thing. A certain number of peasants, especially in the hilly countries, lose their lives in this manner every winter.

Refugees from the districts occupied by Italy have requested the Government that their representatives, Biankini, Yagitch, and Subotitch, be allowed to

represent them in the Constituent Assembly until the evacuation by the Italians. The matter has been referred to the Assembly itself for decision.

The well-known Frankist, Dr. Shustershitch, has been denying that he is in connection with the ex-Emperor Karl or intriguing for the return of the Hapsburgs. While he states categorically that he has never spoken to the ex-Emperor, the newspapers equally emphatically affirm that this is untrue, as in the old days he was often received in audience. The point of the matter is that he is alleged to be in close touch with Dr. Frank and Dr. Sachs, who are at Fiume busily intriguing for the separation of Croatia from Serbia, and there seems little doubt that they are all behind Raditch's movement, although how much influence they have with Raditch is not known. It surely depends on the amount of funds that they have available.

About ten thousand Russian refugees from the Crimea, including a number of General Wrangel's troops, are to be placed at the Bocche di Cattaro.

The racecourse at Chukaritsa, near Topchider, has been let to the Danube Racing Club rent free for 75 years. It is a pretty little course, and some quite good racing was seen there in the autumn. The Government's action will please all who are interested in racing and in horseflesh generally.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 13.

The Negotiations with Angora.

Before the official delegation left Constantinople for Angora, the Government assiduously tried to bluff the public into believing that it was receiving no communications from the Nationalists, and this policy is being maintained with regard to the official mission, from which it is pretended in official circles that no communication whatever has been received. The explanation, of course, is that the Government chooses to consider the communications that have been received as "private and unofficial." However, so far as can be ascertained, the delegation arrived safely at Angora, and was very cordially received; but naturally it is too early yet to speak about the negotiations which, if Izzet Pasha can have his own way, will commence at once. According to information from well-informed sources, the delegation was not only warmly received by the public at Angora, but also at Eski Shehir, and it is said that the population greeted the mission with cries of "Long live the Sultan!" Those who know how these things happen in Turkey will at once realise that, as with all public demonstrations, it is exceedingly probable that the reception accorded to the delegation was "to order." Hence it is fairly safe to conclude that the Nationalists are desirous, for reasons best known to themselves, of making a good impression upon the delegation in general, and upon Izzet Pasha in particular. One reason for this may be the undoubted prestige enjoyed by Izzet Pasha among all ranks of the army, and no small section of the general public. On the other hand, it is significant that on December 6, that is to say three days after the departure of the mission from Constantinople, Mustapha Kemal should have published a proclamation in which he not only denied that there was any misunderstanding between the Nationalists and the



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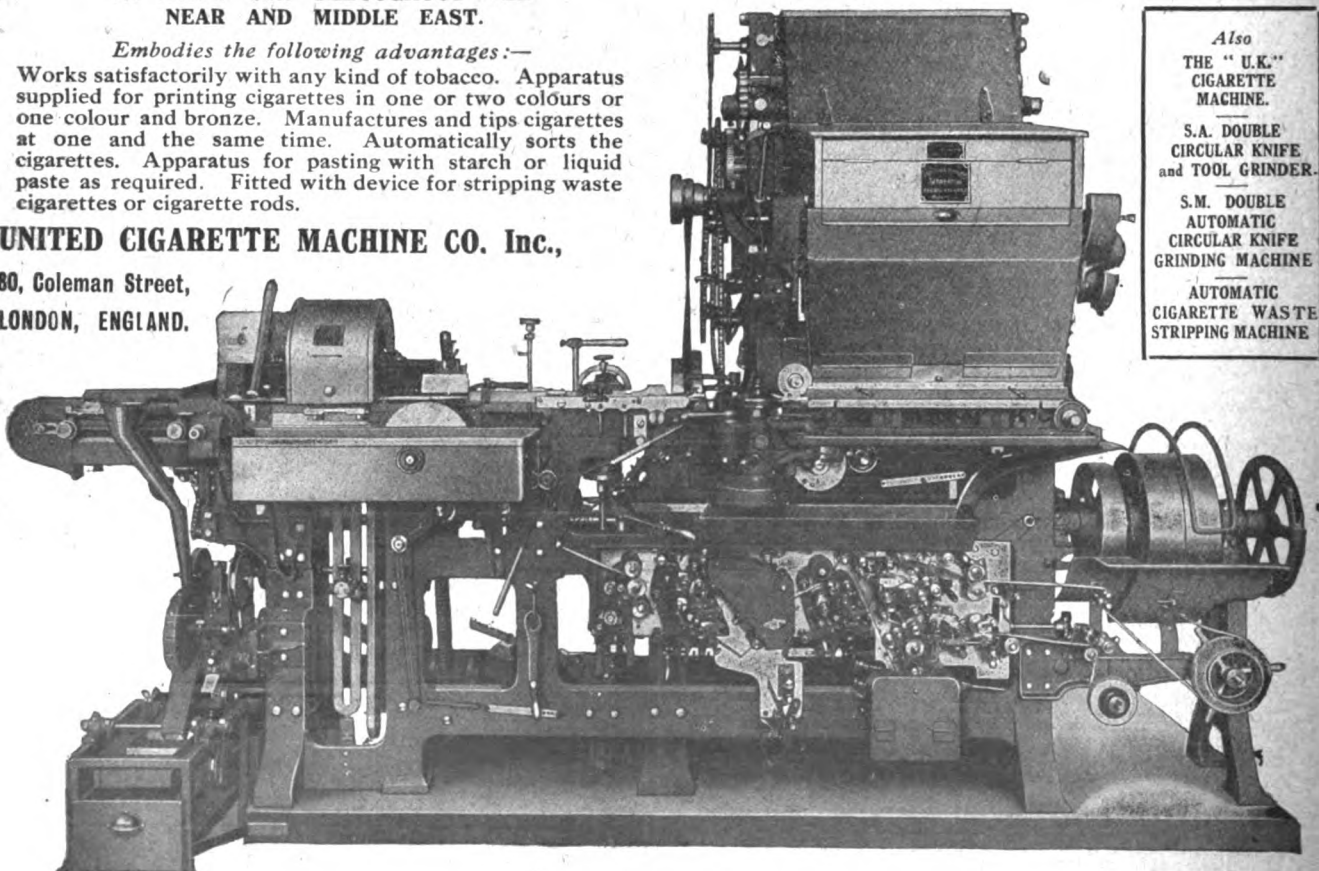
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Bolsheviks, but also repudiated any intention of coming to a friendly settlement with the Allies. The situation is so complicated that it is difficult to decide how far this announcement should be taken seriously.

The Situation of the Government.

Except that it has accomplished something definite, although as yet nothing decisive, with regard to the Anatolian problem, the situation of the present Government is no better than that of its predecessor. The Treasury still bears a distressing resemblance to Mother Hubbard's cupboard, and the non-payment of salaries is fast bringing about a situation that may add a spice of danger to the chronic crisis. Not only are there many thousands of reserve officers, employees, and others who are on the verge of starvation, but there are also something like a hundred and twenty thousand *muhajirin*, or Moslem refugees, from Anatolia and Thrace in Constantinople. Among these are some thousands of Moslems from the Crimea. These *muhajirin* are also in great distress; for although they have been provided with shelter in the mosques and *medressés* of Stamboul, they are insufficiently fed, and lack most other necessities of life. In addition to this mass seething with discontent, there are the Russians, who are now estimated to number about one hundred and fifty thousand, of whom a not inconsiderable number are undesirables from every point of view, and who undoubtedly count among their number not a few emissaries of the Moscow Government.

The Russian Refugees.

It is an unfortunate circumstance that many thousands of the refugees from the Crimea have been allowed to land and instal themselves in the city. Most of them are without any means of subsistence, and very few possess any qualifications for earning a living at a time when even the permanent population is having a very hard time. The result has been that there has been an alarming increase of violent crimes, many of them characterised by a horrible brutality hitherto rare in the history of crime in Constantinople. On the 10th inst. an unfortunate old lady was very foully murdered and robbed in a flat in one of the principal streets of Pera, through which the trams pass, in broad daylight. Not satisfied with having strangled the poor old soul with their hands, the inhuman brutes actually mutilated their victim. Three Russians were involved, and one was caught; so there is some hope of justice being done in this case; but there have been too many cases of outrage lately in which the criminals have escaped. It is certainly time that the Allied authorities took drastic steps to rid the city of a considerable number of Russians who are obviously wandering about with nothing to do, with no money in their pockets, and either incapable or unwilling to work for an honest living. According to Press reports, a certain number of the refugees have already been sent to Dalmatia and to various other places, and there is a movement on foot to assist others to emigrate to the colonies of the Entente Powers. The only objection to this scheme is that the British Empire no longer consists of many "colonies" but of Dominions which are rather particular with regard to the quality of the would-be immigrants. Furthermore, it is not the Russian who is ready and willing to proceed to "colonies," or any other place where he will have a chance to work and live in peace that is a dangerous nuisance. It is the idle vagabond who has succeeded in dodging the camp, and has become a pest in the city itself.

Anatolia and Armenia.

Reference has already been made to Mustapha Kemal's latest proclamation, but there still remains a certain measure of doubt with regard to the true attitude of the Nationalists towards the Bolsheviks. It seems certain that the Soviet Government did really intervene in the conflict with the Armenians; for the text of a communication from Chicherin to the Angora administration on November 22 has been published. In this note the Soviet Government offered its friendly "mediation," and the Nationalist "Commissioner" for Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Mukhtar, in his reply, tried to throw all the blame for the conflict upon the Armenians, who had the "audacity" to attack the

Turkish troops for the purpose of invading and seizing the eastern provinces of Turkey. Subsequently, it would appear, while the Turks were negotiating for peace with the Armenians, a Bolshevik army entered Armenia from the east, and the latest report is to the effect that a Russian Bolshevik has been appointed to the Central Council of Commissars in Erivan. It thus seems clear that the Bolsheviks do not intend to take any risks with regard to the possibility of a Turkish army pushing forward to the Azerbaijan frontier. According to further reports, the Armenians have signed a treaty of peace with the Nationalists, and there have been great rejoicings in consequence at Angora and elsewhere in Nationalistan. On the other hand, despite Mustapha Kemal's denial, it would certainly appear to be true that there has been a slight rift in the Turko-Bolshevik lute; for it has been found necessary to send a special emissary to Moscow in the person of Ali Fuad, hitherto commander of the western front, and quite an important person in Anatolia. Ali Fuad is said to have left Angora for Moscow on December 5, and to have been appointed "Ambassador." This, however, must be a mistake, for it is known that the former deputy for Constantinople, Bekir Sami, has been in Moscow since July in the capacity of Nationalist-Turkish "Ambassador," and there has been no announcement of his having left his post. There is thus every reason to believe that Moscow must have been sending several burning messages to Angora recently, and that Mustapha Kemal apparently "got the wind up."

From these considerations it may be deduced that there is one aspect of the situation with regard to the relations between Constantinople and Angora that must be taken into serious consideration, but to which practically no importance has been attached either here or in Europe: it is quite possible that Mustapha Kemal is so deeply involved that it will be almost impossible for him to extricate himself from the toils of the Soviet Government, even should he desire it. If the Allies desire peace in Anatolia they are likely to find that Moscow will echo the almost forgotten chorus that used to greet our ears from Berlin, "There shall be no settlements or arrangements in which our voice shall not be heard and taken into consideration."

CYPRUS.

December 6.

The Greek Community.

The Greek politicians who work for "union" have been taking counsel at various meetings, and the Press discusses the outlook and the duty of the people in view of the "unexpected" and disappointing decision of the British Government. The *Aletheia* (Truth) considers that a new plan of campaign should be developed on an entirely new basis. Hitherto the movement has been directed by a deputation of members of the Legislative Council, under

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the presidency of the Archbishop, and aided by a local committee at, Nicosia. A pan-Cypriot Committee should now be formed. To this end the deputation (which has failed to achieve success, but not through any fault of its own) should explain in detail its work of the last two years, and should then call upon the people, who are now quite ripe for the task, to decide what the new organisation should be, and provide the means of war, in order that this new representative body may follow the warpath which is to lead to final victory. At Limassol it has been decided that one of the members, Mr. N. Lanitis, a member of Council and of the deputation, should undertake a campaign in all the villages of the district, address the people, explain the situation, and concert measures for keeping the movement alive. He has already made a beginning at a village about three miles from Limassol, close to Polemidia Camp. He was introduced by the village schoolmaster. It is to the teacher, who moulds the mind of the youth, and sometimes also to the village priest, that the town leaders look chiefly for help in their propaganda. One of the objects of such meetings is to pave the way for another purely village gathering, at which a resolution is passed expressing the wishes of the people. This is then forwarded for transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It would, of course, be quite easy to obtain as many such resolutions as might be desired without any special campaign. But the leading spirits desire to show that they have no intention of abandoning the active prosecution of their aims.

As regards Hellenic politics, the town Greeks are divided in their opinions. Many deeply deplore the ostracism of M. Venizelos; but even in Cyprus there are anti-Venizelists, and some of these have been "demonstrating" in a manner that might lead to regrettable consequences. But the general sense is entirely in favour of peace and moderation, and a settling down to steady work for the good of the island.

A Helping Hand to Greece.

The Hellenic Government has, through the Colonial Secretary, asked the British Government to lend the services of the chief clerk of the Land Registry at Nicosia, M. Karajas, to reorganise the Land Registry offices in Thrace. This official being unable, for family and other reasons, to accept the offer, which has been made by the O.A.G., M. Tsepi, of the Department at Larnaca, has been recommended for this duty. This is not the first time that Athens has looked to Cyprus as a place where Greek-speaking officials have helped to grapple with a situation similar, no doubt, in many respects to that which confronts Greece in her newly acquired territories. The work of the Land Registry in Cyprus has been a conspicuous example of patient and methodical work, by which a somewhat slipshod system, with all its arrears and irregularities, has been brought into order. Greece realises that much might be learned in different departments of administration from this island.

Cypriots in New Greece.

Some of the many Cypriot schoolmasters who have gone to New Greece are relating their experiences for the benefit of their countrymen. One who writes to the *Phoné* says that only feelings of patriotism can attract or keep Cypriots in their new appointments. He is posted to Dumbia, in Chalcidice. His salary is 400 drachmæ a month, from which, however, 56 drachmæ are deducted on account of pension fund, income-tax, and other imposts. No doubt, he says, others who have been sent to other places in Macedonia and Thrace have similar experiences.

High Prices.

There is much grumbling over high prices of all commodities. It was hoped that they would have fallen in some cases, but they have, on the contrary, risen. White bread is sold at 1s. and 1s. 1d. the oke (2 4-5th lb.), but doubts are expressed whether analysis would show that it contains 50 per cent. of wheat flour, which an inferior kind professes to do. Profiteering continues everywhere, and only too many offenders escape the penalties of martial law.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

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

PERسيا. (December 18.) MESOPOTAMIA (OIL). PALESTINE. INDIA: Colonel Wedgwood, M.P. (Report of Speech). COTTON CROP. EGYPT. (December 20.) SUPPLY (Report, December 15). ARABIA. PERسيا. ARMENIA. BRITISH ARMY: Troops (Arabia).—Black Sea Army (Clerks).—Forces (Egypt).—Constantinople (Motor-cars).—PALESTINE. KENYA COLONY. INDIA. (December 21.)

MESOPOTAMIA. BURMA. PERسيا. AFGHANISTAN (MISSION). INDIA (AGRICULTURE). PEACE TREATIES: Vilayet of Smyrna. EGYPT. MESOPOTAMIA (ADMINISTRATION). NEAR EAST. (December 22.)

NEAR EAST. MUSTAPHA KEMAL. GREECE. INDIA: Montagu-Chelmsford Report.—Dyer and Jallianwalla Bagh Memorial Funds.—Army Officers (Home Leave).—Exchange. SMYRNA (GREEK TROOPS). (December 23.)

THE LATE MR. J. D. BOURCHIER.

It is with a sense of personal loss that we have to record the death of Mr. James David Bouchier, on December 30, at Sofia. In his capacity of correspondent of *The Times* in the Balkans since 1888, some thirty of the seventy years of his life had been associated with a part of the world with which THE NEAR EAST is particularly connected, and throughout the ten years of its existence this journal has been able to count upon his good will and co-operation. If towards the end of his life, as a result of the Second Balkan War, he seemed to have abandoned some of that catholicity of sympathy which had previously made him a welcome and greatly respected figure in every country in South-Eastern Europe, he was still actuated by the same desire as ourselves to see the Balkan Peninsula, as a whole, at peace with itself. To that end he had been instrumental in bringing about the League that broke the power of Turkey, and in part his championship of Bulgaria was prompted by the conviction that the harsh terms of the Treaty of Bucharest, 1913, and still more those of the Treaty of Neuilly, were obstacles in the way of a Balkan understanding. His first love among the Near Eastern countries, however, was Greece, to which his classical knowledge and artistic tastes particularly drew him. But Mr. Bouchier's devotion to the Balkans never destroyed his faculty for constructive criticism, and it was for this reason that he always had the ear of every Balkan Sovereign and politician, for although they recognised the advantage of placing their own views before him, they knew that his advice would be at once practical and disinterested, even if they had no intention of acting upon it.

With the death of Mr. Bouchier an "institution" passes from the Balkans, where his name was a household word in social as well as in political circles. His memory will long remain green with a host of friends who recall with something akin to affection the cheery, indefatigable, unconventional Irishman, with his fund of good stories, his profound knowledge of his subject, and his devotion to open-air life. His disappointment over the mistakes of Allied diplomacy during and since the war had created in him a desire to drop out of active journalism, and a few weeks ago he left for Bulgaria, where he intended to devote himself to compiling out of his abundant experience material for a work on the Balkans. His sudden death, it is to be feared, will have robbed the world of a contribution and the understanding of contemporary history which no one else can hope to supply. It is announced in *The Times* that a State funeral will be accorded him in Bulgaria—a worthy tribute to one who worked so hard in the interests of the country.

THE Y.M.C.A. IN ROUMANIA.

For the past year the Y.M.C.A. in Roumania has been carrying on a physical training programme of organised work in the Roumanian army, and is co-operating with the Government in its efforts to improve the general system of education for the soldiers. Lieut.-Colonel Badulescu, head of the Bureau of Physical Education, with the co-operation of the Y.M.C.A. Physical Director for Roumania, has framed a Bill which will be brought before Parliament this winter. There seems every indication that the Bill will be passed. The Bill outlines a practical method for physical training in the army, in the educational institutions throughout the kingdom, and among civilian organisations.

The programme for physical education, as demonstrated by the Y.M.C.A., has already been accepted by the army. The first school for officers and under-officers was held in Bucharest and the second at the Regiment Vanatori de Monte, Brasov. Courses were given in elementary physical education, hygiene, first aid to injured, field and track athletics, calisthenics, mass games, team games, boxing, football, and other games. Upon the completion of the four weeks' intensive training course each man was given a thorough examination.

Besides the ten army huts now being operated by the Y.M.C.A. at Czernovitz, Malmaison, Silistria, Constantza, Galatz, Craiova, Jassy, Oradea Mare, Targovista, and Arad, seven military schools have been equipped with athletic material. During the winter over 2,000 officers will receive thorough instruction in physical training. From this number 400 of the best will be selected for a more advanced training course, to be given next July and August. These men will become permanent physical directors in the Roumanian army.

The Serbo-Croat-Slovene Ministry of War is issuing an Albanian commemoration medal to the memory of the retreat of the Serbian army through Albania. This medal will be conferred upon all members of foreign Missions who actually made the retreat through Albania with the Serbian army in 1915. Persons who left their Mission before the retreat will not be included, even if this Mission retreated through Albania afterwards.

The work of the Graves Registration Unit on the Gallipoli Peninsula has now been practically completed. The work of identifying the dead as far as possible, collecting those buried in isolated places, concentrating small cemeteries into spacious burial-places, and in some cases removing the site of whole cemeteries has proved a difficult task. In many places the wooden crosses have been torn up and used for firewood by the Turks. Originally there were about seventy cemeteries, but this number has been reduced to about half. The number of dead is reckoned to be from 32,000 to about 36,000. There are about 16,000 buried on the peninsula, and only about 6,000 have been identified. In addition, there are some 12,000 buried on the Aegean Islands, and some at Alexandria and Malta and elsewhere.

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.

GEORGIA AND ITS GOVERNMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of December 23 you published a correspondence from Constantinople, dated December 6, in which it is stated that a new Cabinet had come into power in Tiflis. As this information is mistaken, may I request you to spare the space for the following statement?

The rumours about the Government crisis in Georgia that have been published in the European Press have no foundation whatsoever. It is true that the Minister of Agriculture, M. Khomeriki, has resigned, but it was on personal and family grounds. He has been replaced by M. Oniashvili, a Social-Democrat and member of the Agrarian Commission of the Constituent Assembly. At the same time the post of Minister of Ways and Communications has been filled by M. Ninidze. No other changes have taken place in the Government, at the head of which remains M. N. Jordania. The new appointments have a personal character, and in no way change or affect the policy or the party composition of the Government.

According to an official telegram, dated December 26, the political situation in Georgia is absolutely stable.—I am, etc.,

A. GUGUSHVILI.

Private Secretary to the Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs for Georgia.

32. Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

December 28. —

M. Gugushvili writes later that he has received from Tiflis the following telegram, dated December 28:—

Political situation in Georgia is absolutely stable. No Bolshevik attack, and no trouble whatever in Batoum or elsewhere. Only persons in Georgia who are leaving there are the profiteers, against whom the Government of Georgia has adopted very strong measures. News regarding the supposed measures taken by the Allies to help their subjects to leave Georgia is absolutely false.

THE "TIS-AS-IF-I-HAD-EATEN-IT" MOSQUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—It is fifty years and more that I have known the story of the mosque M.A.P. designates, in your number of November 11, as "Tis-as-if-I-had-eaten-it Mosque," but I must admit that, notwithstanding my extensive knowledge of the mosques of Constantinople, I have never had the fortune to catch sight of this particular one. That it exists is certain, or the story told of it would not be so widely and persistently spread, and in so many versions.

The best and most authentic story of this mosque is the following: A wealthy Turkish gentleman, fond of company and good living, kept open house for all who desired to partake of his evening meals, richly and plentifully spread upon his *sofra* (table). The attendance was always good, his praises were in the mouths of all, and he was held in great consideration. To meet the expense, his *vekilharch* (steward) received a purse daily. Illness came upon this pleasant gentleman, and the daily feasts were interrupted. The inquiries regarding his health by those who had been in the habit of sharing his meals were, during the first days of his illness, very anxious and urgent, but as it was prolonged these inquiries became rarer, and finally ceased. Meanwhile, the daily purse had been regularly issued and the *vekilharch* had amassed a considerable number. On the recovery of the gentleman, his *vekilharch* asked him what he was to do with the purses. "The daily purse will be issued to you as heretofore," was the answer. "Keep them with the others until I decide what to do with the money." Then he reflected on the weakness of man in going after things easy to get, and on his ingratitude, and next on his own folly in ministering to his wish to excite adulation; and he determined to renounce his meals to all comers, but to keep on issuing the daily purse until there would be sufficient to build a mosque. As he daily added purse to purses, he said to himself, *San-ki edim djamissi* ("Suppose that I have eaten mosque"). This was heard of by the neighbours, and further. When the mosque was finally built the name to be given to it was already in the minds of all the public acquainted with the circumstances. The mosque bears this name, *San-ki edim djamissi* to the present day.—I am, etc.,

Sofia, November 20.

P. M. MATTHEEFF.

An Order in Council, published in the *Gazette* of last week, extends to Austria the privileges of the Copyright Union. This is in accordance with the Treaty of Peace between Austria and Britain. Another Order admits Greece to the same privileges.

THE NEW JERUSALEM.

SPEECH BY MR. RONALD STORRS.

Mr. Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem, was the guest of the Overseas Club and Patriotic League at a luncheon given in his honour at the Connaught Rooms, London, on December 21. In the absence of Lord Northcliffe, owing to indisposition, Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, presided, and among those present were: The Duchess of Rutland, Lord Burnham, Lord Denman, Admiral the Hon. Sir E. R. Fremantle, Sir George Watson, Sir Charles Metcalf, Sir Owen Philipps, Sir George Perley, Sir Peter McBride, Lady Robson, the Rt. Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., the Rt. Hon. G. N. Barnes, M.P., Sir William Goode, and Sir Godfrey Lagden.

In the course of his speech, Mr. Storrs said:—

Jerusalem is a city unparalleled in the world, with an appeal to the imagination that no Rome nor even Athens can hope to rival. Even in its appearance, from whatever side approached, there is an impression of something strange and moving. The austere grey walls and battlements, stone-built on hills of stone, command and dominate the gaunt Judean plateau. You have passed by the way of the sea through the fragrant orange groves of Jaffa to a plain of waving corn and barley until you reach what the Arabs call The Door of the Valley. Henceforth, leaving behind material prosperity, the road winds upwards amid precipitous rocks until, in the remote distance, you may descry one of the towers of Jerusalem. No better idea of the scenery can be formed than by studying the backgrounds of the great Italian painters of holy pictures, notably those of the South, such as Antonello da Messina. Olive trees and cypresses spring seemingly from the solid rock, and the heights are crowned with clustering hamlets, mountain-built with peaceful citadel.

Finally, you will pass the ancient walls, whose stones were hewn from the quarries of Solomon, and climb the Mount of Olives, from whose summit you may look over the City, of which, while it is true that its towers, pinnacles and minarets are the work of more recent ages, it is no less certain that the general appearance is, and I hope will be allowed to remain, very much what it was 2,000 years ago. For the soil imposes its own conditions, and just as in Baghdad there is not one stone, so in Jerusalem, you would search in vain for bricks; and the solid walled houses with their domed and vaulted roofs represent and perpetuate immemorial tradition. You may face West as the sun sets over the city, and the warm orange of day fades from the walls which assume a colour of cold transparent aquamarine. But its last rays still strike across to the East over that scarred and pitted desert, for all the world like a map of the moon; over the Dead Sea, lying like a mirror of matrix turquoise, apparently at your feet, but really many miles away, and linger on the remoter mountains of Moab and of Gilead, floating like a violet scarf across the horizon and shutting off the uncharted vastnesses of Arabia.

The present extent of the Jerusalem district includes Jericho, Bethlehem and Hebron, and is exactly coincident with the Roman province of Judea under any predecessor, Pontius Pilate. This is no time for a detailed description of Jerusalem, but I would like to impress upon you one memory, and that is, that what remains, what you can see and examine, is very much more real than is usually believed. Visitors may, as a rule, be divided into two categories, the ecstatic, who are prepared to accept every site as authentic, even when there are two or more places shown for the same incident; and the super-intelligent, who come prepared to find Gethsemane macadamised, and Solomon's Temple built of steel joists and corrugated iron. The truth is that in Jerusalem, as in Rome and Athens, some sites can be proved genuine, others not; but the voice of uninterrupted and undisproved tradition is strong, and it may be taken generally that the places dearest and holiest to the three great religions are, on the whole, credibly established. Over the sacred tragic city, which has been brought low by no less than 41 known sieges, there seems to brood an atmosphere of expectation heightened into poignancy. Spiritual, theological, and even ceremonial differences, elsewhere overlaid by the press of other interests, assume an importance, an actuality that increases as one remains in their midst. What happens in Jerusalem seems somehow important as well as interesting, and I venture to say that it is important; for who is there that has, though perhaps almost subconsciously, no care for Jerusalem?

The association of England with the Holy Land does not date from December 9, 1917. King Richard the Lion-Hearted; Sir Sidney Smith, who ruined Napoleon in the East, as knights in battle; Condor, Warren, Gordon and Kitchener, as explorers and verifiers of antiquity; Dean Stanley and Sir Adam Smith, as luminous and inspiring writers, had long established our claim to most-favoured-nation treatment in any settlement of the country's destiny. But no name has shed more lustre on our relations with Palestine than that of the last of the Paladins—Field-Marshal Lord Allenby; and I cannot help thinking that it was on his liberation of Jerusalem that a still small voice began to whisper to friend, to foe and to neutral, that we were going to win the war. I sometimes hear the opinion expressed that Palestine under the Turks was really not so badly off; that these well-intentioned, if not particularly bright, perfect gentlemen, if they did not themselves sow at least allowed others to reap. Not in Palestine. There the hand of the Turk upon Jew, Moslem and Christian lay—not a mailed fist, not even a hand of steel, certainly not a velvet glove, but a dead hand.

and where it stretched all hope of development, moral or material, faded and withered away.

By the time our troops occupied Jerusalem the Turks had removed everything that could be of the smallest use to us—money, records, registers, assessment lists, much furniture, and all the food. The idea that we might have freed Jerusalem only to starve it was not agreeable, but the Commander-in-Chief, once apprised, acted swiftly and surely, and very soon enough wheat came into my hands to save us from that horrible nightmare. But what came had to be used with a painful economy. A food control was established; but it was still necessary to go down with a posse of police into the city, stand by the bakers' shops and see oneself that the children were served first, then the women, and, lastly, the men.

Sanitary conditions were impossible and indescribable, but with the help of the Army, seven Sanitary Sections patrolled the streets daily, and it was made, and still is, the duty of one man to cleanse the Via Dolorosa throughout the day and keep it free from stain.

Less serious, but if possible, almost more annoying was the result of Turkish and German unscrupulous distribution of the chairs, desks and tables of the various religious institutions. They would give 50 chairs belonging to the Franciscans to a Moslem Propaganda College; the college being hard up, would have sold them, so that during our first few weeks the original owners, imagining they could have their property back at once, would break into the houses of the last possessor and remove, or attempt to remove them by force.

It must be remembered that we were not then, nor for two and a-half years afterwards, a Government with power to enact laws, lay down a policy, or borrow money. We were a temporary provisional military administration bound to administer the country strictly according to the laws as we found them. This, to a certain extent, checked our activities, but, on the other hand, there was a compensating advantage of being able, as brutal and licentious soldiery, to give orders and see they were obeyed. And I cannot think it was altogether to the disadvantage of the country that we had the power and were not afraid to use it. We may from time to time have committed illegalities, but the advantage of being able to execute obviously necessary reforms which have to be observed, at all events for a time, and can later be abolished or amended, is very great.

Among other arbitrary acts of despotism was the prohibition of drink bars. This did not imply any embargo upon the consumption of liquor, and people were free at their meals or at tables to drink what they pleased, but a bar did seem so wholly out of keeping with the surroundings that I forbade them throughout the province of Judea, and the present High Commissioner has extended this prohibition to the whole of Palestine. It was likewise possible, and I may add, pleasurable, in dealing with a request for a concession to run trams to Bethlehem and the Mount of Olives, to reply that the first rail section would be laid over the dead body of the Military Governor. The Law Courts were set going, the taxes collected with about as much facility as they are anywhere, and the general machinery of government set in motion.

Over and above these normal official activities every effort was made to get into touch with the people and to give them interests and recreation tending to bring them into contact with each other and with the governing race.

I would like to take this opportunity of acknowledging gratefully the never-failing sympathy and support, in these and all other projects, of the High Commissioner for Palestine.

I found it necessary, quite early in the day, with the object of preserving intact the traditional appearance of the city, to forbid by proclamation the use of stucco and corrugated iron within the walls, as also the destruction or erection of any building without my permission in writing. This prohibition, and other like precautions, necessitated three things. First, a Technical Adviser to instruct me, and then, so to speak, carry out my instructions; secondly, the active co-operation of the various heads of the communities; and, thirdly, money. I therefore formed a society known as the Pro-Jerusalem Society, membership of which is open to all, and on whose council sit next to one another in friendly conclave the Grand Mufti, the Orthodox and Catholic Patriarchs, the Grand Rabbi, members of the Franciscan and Dominican Orders, French and Italian architects, members of the Zionist Commission, and the Mayor of Jerusalem, by whom all projects having to do with the welfare of the City are discussed. Many of the leading merchants, realising how much of the future prosperity of Jerusalem depends upon its preservation as it now is, subscribed liberally to the undertaking, and I have found in many countries persons sufficiently interested to become members of something closely connected with Jerusalem. With the money thus collected the weaving industry has been restarted, an old caravanserai sufficiently restored to house the weavers and the looms purchased and installed. The apprentices work on the mediæval guild system, and the first task of each is to weave the material for his own dress.

The famous Mosque of Omar, known by the Arabs as the Dome of the Rock, and built over the summit of Mount Moriah, is, as is generally known, covered largely with brilliantly coloured tiles whose date extends over many centuries. Neglect by the Turks and exceptionally severe winters have damaged these tiles so badly that one of the faces of the Mosque is now almost denuded. An Armenian expert was discovered in Damascus, who, coming down to Jerusalem, found near the Mosque itself the original ovens, deserted and buried for centuries, in which many of the tiles must have been fired. With money from the Society these kilns have been restored, and tiles are now being made in the ancient manner, which, so soon as they reach a sufficiently

high standard, will be used, with the consent and approval of the Moslem authorities, to cover the bare spaces on the Mosque. The work actually carried out by Pro-Jerusalem is of importance in itself. Still more so is the innovation that, round the same table, seated in a German hospice upon chairs stamped—or branded—with the crown and monogram of Wilhelm II., can be gathered the chiefs of various and opposing sects to sink their differences and work together for the good of Jerusalem.

If I may be allowed to generalise on the experience of eighteen years in the Near East, I would say that the writing on the wall during the last two years has been more than anything else a warning against over-government and over-efficiency. It is difficult enough in all conscience to govern or attempt to guide alien races, but the difficulties are infinitely increased if the officials employed concentrate themselves upon their technical work and so get out of touch with the people. In England, so far as I can gather from a perusal of the Press, the only opinion expressed about Government officials appears to be that they should be reduced, if not altogether abolished; anyhow, not paid; and that the less seen of them the better. It is not so in the East. The East has no use for the fugitive and cloistered functionary. He must also see the people in their homes and be seen by them in his. After all, the art of politics, especially in the East, consists not in hearing those who speak, but in hearing those who are silent, and in thus finding out what they really do want. It is for this reason that clubs, unless made and kept International and open in principle to all, may tend to become a curse rather than a blessing. There is a danger that the official proceeding from his work to his lunch, from his lunch to his sporting club, from his sporting club to his bridge club, and from his bridge club to dinner at home may end by growing so remote from the people to whom he is supposed to be, and in a way, is devoting his energies that all they will ever see of him is, for a stated number of hours, six days in the week, a set face glaring over an office-table. Let his house remain, to a certain extent, his castle, but let him beware of erecting social fortresses from which the inhabitants and owners of the country are rigidly excluded.

It is not many officials that are required. They should be, like the poems of Sappho, few indeed, but those, roses; and in order to exercise and return the abundant hospitality of the East they should be adequately paid. There is a danger, whenever we begin to work upon a country of an ancient civilisation, that we tend to improve everything except the life of the people. Let us face it. We make things sure, but dull. As the prophet Isaiah says: "Thou hast multiplied the harvest but not increased the joy."

All this may appear obvious and is easy to describe, but entails certain abstinences and renunciations, especially in territory but newly occupied by those who live in exile, especially if polo, tennis and shooting, which often abound, fail to fulfil their other needs. In Palestine, for instance, if you want to hear music, you must make it yourself; if you want to see pictures, you must paint them. There are no theatres; none of those amenities of a city, which, after all, go far to mitigate the routine of our lives. It is for that reason that any encouragement or appreciation received from those in a position to understand is priceless to us, and I would like to record my gratitude and that of my colleagues for the hospitality and interest of the Overseas Club.

You are not to infer that we are not fully aware of the privilege and honour we enjoy in serving in Palestine. In Jerusalem there meet, and have met for centuries, the highest interests of the three great religions of the world. From Jerusalem has gone forth at sundry times and in divers tones a God-gifted organ-voice which has thrilled and dominated the world. I do not dare to prophesy, for the East is a university in which the scholar never takes his degree, but I do dare to believe that what has happened before may happen again, and that if we can succeed in fulfilling with justice the task that has been imposed upon us by the will of the nations, and if we can reconcile or unite at the source the chiefs and the followers of those three mighty religions, there may sound once more for the healing of the nations a voice out of Zion. If that should ever be, not the least of England's achievements will have been her part therein.

Cholera has broken out among the Russian refugees encamped at Constantinople.

M. Stergiades, the Greek Harmost of Ionia appointed by M. Venizelos, has rallied to King Constantine.

Mohammed Tewfik Nassim Pasha, the Egyptian Prime Minister, has been made an honorary G.C.M.G.

Reports from Braila state that the ice on the Danube has partly broken away above Tulcea, releasing all the blocked steamers, which have proceeded to Sulina.

A Bucharest message states that a revolutionary organisation has been discovered by the Roumanian police at Temescara, in Transylvania, directed by the Abbot Tomeo.

Owing to the fall in the cost of living the Egyptian Government is considering the withdrawal of a part of the war bonus granted to officials in the Government service.

The Yugoslav Legation in London has issued a statement that all Serb-Croat-Slovene citizens residing in Great Britain must be registered at the Legation, 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

Greeks in Constantinople and other "unredeemed" areas have appealed, through the Allied Ministers in Athens, to the Entente Powers against any modification of the Treaty of Sevres.

The Ecumenical Patriarch has presented a copy of Justinian's Cross, which encloses a reliquary containing a piece of the True Cross, to M. Venizelos, in token of the approval of his work in liberating so much Greek territory.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"FOUR PILGRIMS." By William Boulting. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d.)

II.—"FESTIVAL STORIES OF CHILD LIFE IN A JEWISH COLONY IN PALESTINE." By Hannah Trager. With a Preface by the Very Rev. Dr. Hertz, Chief Rabbi. Illustrated. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 3s. net.)

"STORIES OF CHILD LIFE IN A JEWISH COLONY IN PALESTINE." By Hannah Trager. With a Preface by Dr. Israel Abrahams. Illustrated. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 3s.)

"PLAYMATES IN EGYPT AND OTHER STORIES." By Elma Ehrlich Levinger. (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America.)

III.—"POLISH FAIRY TALES." Translated from A. J. Glinaki, by Maude Ashurst Biggs. Illustrated by Cecile Walton. (London: John Lane. 16s. net.)

I.—ORIENTAL PILGRIMS.

When Trübner's Oriental Series presents the reading public with a popular rendering of the travels of Hiuen-Tsiang, Ibn Batuta, Ludovico Varthema, and our own Anglo-Saxon pilgrim, Saewulf, they may well expect a treat. The disappointment is all the greater when it is found that the work has been entrusted to unskilful and incompetent hands. The reader expects the rendering to have some real, though not too obtrusive, scholarship, and demands a style suited to the subject. Both these requirements are singularly absent from this book. The author tells us that the Sultan's secretary edited the book of Ibn Batuta's travels, "and thought to embellish a plain tale by overloading it with literary pinchbeck and dragging in irrelevant quotations from the poets." This is precisely what Mr. Boulting has done, and the reader rightly resents it. When it comes to using "veridical" for "true" and "controvertible" for "convertible" one is left aghast. Why should the author disguise the natural wish of a son to visit his father's grave by saying: "He made a filial visit to the place where earth that 'makes all sweet' had closed on his father's history"? Or why annoy us by: "His natural vigour remained such that he lived three years beyond the allotted span. The 'fitful fever' of his life ceased in the year 1377"? Again, why could our author not take the trouble to read his proofs and remove irritating typographical and other more important errors?

In spite of all these very serious defects, the matter of the book is such that it defies even Mr. Boulting's efforts to make it dull. The one exception is poor Saewulf, who is treated by his adaptor to many severe snubs for his simplicity, thus spoiling the very quality which makes his account of his pilgrimage good reading. Mr. Boulting is at his best in treating of Ludovico Varthema. Had he done as well by the others, we should have had less to say in disparagement of his work. A few maps would have been welcome.

C. S. W.

II.—CHILDREN IN PALESTINE.

Child life in Palestine, as portrayed by Mrs. Trager in these two little books, will doubtless make very interesting reading for children in English-speaking countries, as so few books of this description have been written. The stories in both volumes give us delightful pictures of the life of early settlers in the pioneer days of the Jewish colonists in Palestine. After having read the Festival stories, the children in which are so very like other children, young people in this part of the world are sure to find that the Jewish calendar has a deeper significance for them as the holidays come round, when they can picture their co-religionists in Palestine observing the same festivals. The Chief Rabbi has contributed a short preface to the Festival Stories volume.

The stories of everyday child life in Palestine in Mrs. Trager's second book will possibly prove even more welcome to young readers than those written solely round the Jewish calendar, but both books are interesting and well written. Professor Israel Abrahams has written a charming preface to this second volume, in which he states that "the Jewish child is sometimes graceless enough, but he never degenerates into a gutter snipe. The reason is to be found in the home life. Judaism is a home religion. . . . With all its severity and discipline, Judaism is a happy scheme." The children in these stories are very human; full of fun and mischief, but throughout the great influence which Judaism exerts in their lives is very apparent. The author's young readers over here will wish they could share the jolly times enjoyed by the characters in these two books on their farm colony in Palestine.

"Playmates in Egypt and Other Stories" is also written mainly for children, and, as in the first of the two books

mentioned above, the stories centre round the Jewish calendar, each chapter being devoted to one or other of the festival days. But in this volume the tales and characters, with the exception of two stories, "The Borrowed Garment" and "The Lad who brought no Offering," follow so closely the Bible narrative that the book will not find such a warm appreciation among the young children as will the colonist stories. The ten tales which make up this volume first appeared in various American publications.

III.—POLISH FAIRY TALES.

These tales, originally related to Glinski by peasants of Eastern Poland and White Russia, have been admirably rendered into English. The language of folk-lore is much the same all down the ages and the world over, so we have here seven new tales, fascinating in their subject-matter, duly conventional in their phraseology, but free from the usual defects of translation. In the illustrations, Mrs. Walton has hit upon a distinctive and happy blend of the fairy and mystical with the national type. The volume, thanks in no small measure to the publisher's art, forms a delightful gift-book. In a few pithy notes at the end of the book, the author points the moral and certainly adorns the tale.

NEAR EASTERN HANDBOOKS.

An invaluable series of Handbooks is being issued by Government Departments dealing with Near Eastern as well as Far Eastern countries. A list of the books or pamphlets that have reached us has already been given in these columns, and here there is little need to do more than to call attention to their general excellence. Prepared under the direction of the Historical Section of the Foreign Office, there are a number of smaller publications in paper covers devoted to the different provinces of the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, i.e., "Croatia-Slavonia and Fiume" (2s. net), "Bosnia and Herzegovina" (2s. net), "The Slovenes" (6d. net), and "The Yugoslav Movement" (1s. net); another pamphlet deals with "Slovakia" (1s. net). In one bound volume are included four similar pamphlets covering the Balkan States, entitled respectively "The Eastern Question," "Turkey in Europe," "Albania and Greece (with Cyclades and Northern Sporades)."

These publications were compiled in 1917 with a view to preparing for the work of the Peace Conference. They comprise in a convenient form a mass of information—geographical, economic, historical, social, religious and political—regarding the different countries. That they are issued under the general editorship of Sir George Prothero is a sufficient guarantee that the subjects have been accurately and dispassionately treated. Perhaps the only matter for regret in connection with them is that obviously they remained unread by those who were responsible for the terms of the Peace Treaties.

A more ambitious book is "A Handbook of Roumania" (5s. net), prepared by the Geographical Section of the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, Admiralty. This is a comprehensive record of Roumania, giving, in addition to a description of the country and a summary of its history, chapters on the people, the administration, its resources, trade and finance. Not the least valuable feature of these publications is their impartiality, an attribute not invariably shared by the works of all writers on Near Eastern affairs.

A further Handbook of "Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, and Adjacent Parts of Greece," deals with the region lying south of the Danube for the most part topographically. A large number of itineraries are described in detail, and there is a general introduction on the physical conditions and on the peoples and territories in question. The book includes also useful vocabularies and phrases in English, Italian, Ghag, Tosk, Chimariot, and Serbian. All the bound volumes are carefully indexed.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Macedonia: A Plea for the Primitive." By A. Goff and H. A. Fawcett. (London: The Bodley Head. £1 1s. net.)

"A Handbook of Syria (including Palestine)." Prepared by the Geographical Section of the Naval Intelligence Division, Naval Staff, Admiralty. (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 10s. net.)

"The Secret Rose Garden of Sa'd ud Din Mahmud Shabistari." Rendered from the Persian, with an introduction. By Florence Lederer. (London: John Murray. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Present Political and Economic Conditions in Central Europe." By A. Central European. (London: The Twentieth Century Press (1912). Ltd. 6d. net.)

"In Search of a Peaceful World: The Practical Views of a Leader of Industry." By Sir Charles W. Macara, Bart. (Manchester: Sherratt and Hughes. 6s. net.)

"Austria and the Peace Treaty of St. Germain." By Dr. Franz Klein. (Vienna: Frisch and Co.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

January 6, 1921 (New Style).
December 24, 1920 (Old Style).
Rabia II. 27, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem calendar.
Tibet 26, 5681, of the Jewish calendar.

Viscountess Ridley has left for India, and will be abroad for some months.

M. Frederic Nano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London for Berlin on December 23.

M. Matila Costiesco Ghyka, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London last week from Bucharest.

The Marquess and Marchioness of Titchfield have left London for the Sudan. They will remain abroad for about three months.

Count Manconi, the new Italian Minister to Belgrade, presented his credentials to the Prince Regent of Yugoslavia last week.

Sir M. M. Bhownagree left for Paris last week, and is embarking at Marseilles in the mail steamer *Kaisar-i-Hind* for a visit to India.

M. Hotowetz, Czecho-Slovak Minister of Commerce, left Prague for London last week in connection with the projected Anglo-Czech commercial treaty.

Mr. Hamilton Fish Armstrong (formerly Military Attaché at the American Legation, Belgrade) has joined the editorial staff of the *New York Evening Post*.

M. Jan Masaryk, son of the President of Czecho-Slovakia, will arrive in London early this month to take up his appointment as Counsellor to the Czecho-Slovak Legation.

Captain Neville Hobson will give a lecture on Viscount Allenby's campaign in Palestine on January 15, at the headquarters of the 19th London Regiment, High Street, Camden Town.

Sir Percy Loraine, who has been appointed a Counsellor of Embassy, is just forty years old and has served sixteen years in the diplomatic service. He has served in Turkey, Persia, Italy, and China.

Mr. W. F. A. Rattigan, who has been appointed a Counsellor of Embassy, is an exceptional Arabic scholar. He has seen much service in Tangier and in Cairo, and was in Berlin when war broke out.

Sir Alfred Mond is about to visit Palestine, accompanied by Dr. Ch. Weizman (the Zionist leader) and Mr. Albert I. Belisha. They will confer with Sir Herbert Samuel concerning the details of the forthcoming Palestinian loan.

The marriage of Crown Prince Carol of Roumania and Princess Helen of Greece and that of Crown Prince George of Greece and Princess Elizabeth of Roumania will take place simultaneously at Bucharest shortly after the Christmas festivities (Old Style).

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, proposes to start on an extensive tour of the Sudan on January 8. After visiting Kosti, his Excellency will proceed to the Nuér district, and after traversing Mongalla Province will reach the White Nile at Lado, whence he will return to Khartoum on February 13.

The marriage of Major Sophokles Venizelos (the son of the eminent Greek statesman) and Mademoiselle Catherine Zervoudachi took place on December 27 at Nice. There was a very large company present, including M. Venizelos and several ex-Greek Ministers, Sir Francis Elliot (late British Minister in Athens) and Lady Elliot, and several other British friends of M. Venizelos.

The Secretary of State for India announces that a message to the following effect has been received from H.M.S. *Malaya*: "The Duke of Connaught has been suffering from an acute attack of bronchitis since leaving Port Said, but is now convalescent. His Royal Highness, acting on medical advice, has postponed his landing at Aden until the return journey, but the Resident and Arab chiefs are to be received by the Duke on board ship at Aden on January 1."

Among the passengers on the P. and O. s.s. "*Karmala*" on Christmas Day, to India from Marseilles, was Major C. A. M. van Millingen, M.C., late of the Rifle Brigade (elder son of the late Professor Alexander van Millingen, M.A., D.D., the Byzantine archaeologist and writer), who is going to Calcutta to take up a civil appointment. Major van Millingen is a great-nephew of a distinguished Mutiny veteran, Colonel Sir Alfred R. D. Mackenzie, K.C.B., of Kenilworth, Mashobra, near Simla, late commanding 3rd Bengal Cavalry.

The lectures for the next session of the Central Asian Society are as follow:—January 20, Captain P. D. Acland, on "Communications in the East; their Expansion by Means of Aircraft"; February 17, Mr. R. Scotland Liddell, on "Transcaucasia"; March 17, Mr. M. S. Briggs, F.R.I.B.A., on "Saracenic Architecture and the Crusaders"; April 21, Mr. Robert Wilton, on "The Siberian Outlook"; and May 19, Sir Charles Greenway, Bart., on "The Oil Resources of Mesopotamia and Persia." All the meetings are held at 74, Grosvenor Square, W.1.

Referring to the retirement of Mr. J. R. Holmes, late President of the District Court of Nicosia, Cyprus, *United Empire*, says:—"Before leaving Cyprus, Mr. J. R. Holmes, who has occupied important positions as District Judge in that island for the past quarter of a century, was entertained by the members of the English Club at Nicosia, his Excellency the Officer Administering the Government and the representatives of many English and Greek families being present. This was followed by a meeting three days later at the District Court, when, on the invitation of the King's Advocate (Mr. Russell), there was a gathering of the Judges, the Bar, and many others to bid Mr. Holmes farewell. Eloquent speeches were delivered by the Crown Advocate, Mr. Paschal Constantinides (doyen of the Bar of Nicosia), Mr. Artemis and Mr. Dimitriu (one of Mr. Holmes's colleagues on the Bench), who also bore testimony to his personal kindness and zeal for work."

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Fathollah Khan Noury, Second Secretary to the Persian Legation, has been promoted to First Secretary.

Mr. Peter Augustus Jay, Counsellor of the United States Embassy at Rome, has been nominated United States Minister to Roumania.

Sir William Brunyate has accepted the post of Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong in succession to Sir Charles Eliot. The new Vice-Chancellor was Judicial Adviser in Egypt from 1916 to 1919, and Acting Financial Adviser from 1917 to 1919.

The King has been graciously pleased to appoint Sir Milne Cheetham, K.C.M.G., to be His Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary in Paris. Sir Milne Cheetham has had a varied experience, having served in Madrid, Paris, Tokyo, Berlin, Rome, Rio de Janeiro, and Cairo.

Sir Henry Ledgard, of Cawnpore, has been appointed a member of the Committee of Inquiry into Indian Railways, as the representative of European commercial interest in India, instead of Mr. B. A. White, of Calcutta, who is unable to serve owing to illness.

Earl Curzon of Kedleston, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has appointed Mr. Robert Gilbert Vansittart, C.M.G., M.V.O., his Principal Private Secretary. Mr. Alexander Wigram Allen Leeper, C.B.E., Assistant Private Secretary, and Mr. Adrian Wentworth Keith-Falconer his Personal Private Secretary, in succession to Mr. George Cunningham, C.B., who has resigned.

The King has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr. William Grenfell Max Muller, C.B., M.V.O., to be His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Polish Republic. Mr. Max Muller, who is the son of the late Professor Max Muller, was born in 1867. He joined the Diplomatic Service in 1892, and has served at Constantinople, The Hague, Washington, Madrid, Mexico, Christiania, and Peking.

The King has approved the reconstitution of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bombay with the following re-appointments and appointments, which took effect on January 3 on the application of the Government of India Act, 1919, to the Bombay Presidency: Governor, Sir George Lloyd, G.C.I.E., D.S.O.; Mr. G. S. Curtis, C.S.I., I.C.S. (first assumed office April, 1916); Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla, C.I.E. (first assumed office March, 1918); Mr. M. H. W. Hayward, I.C.S.; and Sir Chimanlal Setalvad.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Standish O'Grady, M.B., R.A.M.C., has died at Malta.

The death has occurred of Dr. Robert Slater Mair, who was born in Paisley in 1826. Immediately after obtaining his medical degrees in Edinburgh he went out to India, and for seventeen years practised in Madras, where he also held the post of coroner and was medical officer in the local Volunteer corps.

The death took place at Edinburgh in Christmas week of the Rev. James Robertson, Emeritus Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Languages at Glasgow University. Professor Robertson spent the first thirteen years of his ministerial career in Syria and Constantinople, where he laid the foundation of his Oriental scholarship. He was appointed to the Chair of Hebrew at Glasgow in 1877, and held it for thirty years.

Rear-Admiral Edmond St. John Garforth, C.B., died last week at his residence at St. Leonards-on-Sea in his eighty-fifth year. Admiral Garforth, who had seen a good deal of active service, was present at the siege of Sebastopol. He afterwards commanded the expedition against the Masnaah Forts in the Persian Gulf, receiving the thanks of the Indian Government for his services. He subsequently saw service in the Egyptian War.

The death took place last week of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Adelbert Cecil Talbot, K.C.I.E., in his seventy-sixth year. He joined the Royal Artillery as a lieutenant in 1867, and two years later went to the Indian Staff Corps. He had risen to the rank of lieutenant-colonel in 1891, when he was appointed Resident in the Persian Gulf. In 1894 he became Deputy-Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department for two years, during which he accompanied the Shahzadah Nasrullah Khan of Afghanistan to England as interpreter. On his return Sir Adelbert Talbot was appointed Resident in Kashmir, where he remained until he was placed on the supernumerary list in 1900. He was created a C.I.E. in 1885 and promoted to a knighthood of the Order in 1895.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The action for criminal libel against Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Kennedy will be heard in the British Consular Court, Cairo, on January 24.

According to a Paris report, the British Chief of Police in Baghdad was assassinated in the street on Christmas night by Arabs, who escaped arrest.

Prince Habib Lotfallah died in Cairo last week after a protracted illness. He was the father of Prince Lotfallah, who was recently in London as the envoy of the King of the Hejaz.

Bulgaria declares all willingness to restore all rolling stock and other material captured from Serbia during the war, and has asked that traffic which has been suspended recently shall be resumed.

A Reuter Belgrade telegram says that a decree was signed by the Prince Regent on January 1 constituting the new Cabinet. M. Pashitch is Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Wednesday, December 29, being the Feast of St. Eleutherios in the Orthodox Kalendar, was celebrated in Smyrna as the "name-day" of M. Venizelos, and all Greek shops were closed in his honour.

Parties are divided in the new Greek Chamber as follows:—Followers of M. Rallis, 25; Gounarists, 75; Dragoumists, 30; Independents, 69; followers of M. Stratos, 62; Liberals (Venizelists), 110.

It is understood in Malta that the War Office has decided to disband the King's Own Malta Regiment, a Militia regiment which did garrison duty during the war and also furnished detachments for Cyprus.

An escape of gas in a room in the basement of Lord Lamington's house in Wilton Crescent, Belgrave Square, S.W., caused a fire on Christmas morning. The fire brigade, who were quickly on the spot, extinguished the flames before very serious damage was done.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

DEATH.

DRAKEFORD.—On November 4, 1920, in Constantinople, of diphtheria, Phyllis Joan, beloved daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Drakeford, aged 8.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1921.

BRITAIN AND FRANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

By an agreement signed in Paris on December 23 the Sykes-Picot Treaty of 1916 was formally superseded, and Anglo-French relations in the Middle East henceforth rest on a less arbitrary basis. The new treaty lays down the frontier line which is to divide Syria under a French mandate from Palestine and Mesopotamia under British mandates. Starting from Ras el-Nakura, approximately half way between Haifa and El Sur (Tyre), the new boundary runs in an easterly direction for some twenty miles, then turns north for an equal distance until it reaches El Mutalla, where it bears once more to the east to Baniyas, to drop west by south to El Kuneitra. Thence following the course of the Wady Jeraba it crosses Lake Tiberias to Semakh, and keeping south of the River Yarmuk takes a course due east once more until the Damascus-Hejaz Railway is reached. The two stations, Dera'a and Nasib, are left in the French sphere, and from the latter town the boundary is traced in a north-easterly direction, crossing the Euphrates at Abu Kemal, and continuing in a more northerly direction past Rumalan-Keui, until it comes to the Tigris, which it follows up to Jeziret-ibn Omar. At this point it links up with the southern boundary of Turkey, which has been drawn with slight modifications due east and west from the Persian frontier to the Gulf of Alexandretta. Other clauses in the agreement provide for a working arrangement to be arrived at in connection with the joint use of the railway between Lake Tiberias and Nasib, and of the waters of the Yarmuk and the upper reaches of the Jordan. The undertaking entered into at San Remo between Great Britain and France in regard to Mesopotamian oil is confirmed, and Great Britain has agreed not to cede Cyprus to another Power without the previous consent of France.

To understand the new agreement it is necessary to recall the fact that the Sykes-Picot Treaty gave to France as the southern border of her sphere of influence a line that ran south-east from Acre, and, passing across the Arabian Desert, cut the Euphrates at Anah and the Tigris at a point well to the south of Mosul, before finishing at the Persian frontier. Its northern border extended as far north as Sivas, in Anatolia. At the time when this egregious arrangement was made the French also contemplated that Palestine would be placed under an international régime, which would give them a voice in the destiny of that country equal to that of any other Power. The complete separation of Palestine from Syria, and the placing of the two countries under different mandates entailed a more accurate demarcation of interests than the Sykes-Picot Treaty had attempted. It was agreed, therefore, that the historic frontiers of Palestine—from Dan to Beersheba—should be perpetuated as far as possible. Accordingly the new boundary makes a large bend to the north, so as, while skirting the Lebanon, to include in Palestine Tell-el-Kadi, the reputed site of Dan, which lies between El Mutalla and Baniyas, and at the

same time to prevent the transfer of a number of Jewish colonies to French jurisdiction. The proposal to place Mosul within the French sphere has been abandoned, but a large extent of territory has been brought within France's mandate, where her writ has little chance of running. Practical considerations prompted the Zionist organisation to urge that Palestine should be given access to the head waters of the Jordan as well as to the River Litani. To this suggestion the French Government would not consent.

As in the case of most compromises the new agreement can be attacked by both parties. Certainly, if it were supposed in France that the Sykes-Picot Treaty could ever have been carried into effect, our Allies will have reason to feel disappointed at having to surrender so much. Public opinion in Great Britain, on the other hand, regards the 1916 arrangement as an immoral document to which neither party ought to have affixed its signature, and it will not easily reconcile itself to a compromise that harks back to that agreement, rather than to the spirit of the joint British and French pledges in regard to Syria. For the moment, however, a settlement has been drafted, and, as far as Great Britain and France are concerned, provides a working agreement. It leaves unsettled the future relations between the French and the Arabs, towards whom the former are inclined to adopt an attitude wholly inconsistent with the principles underlying the League of Nations. In this matter France refuses to listen to disinterested advice, and it must be left to the future to determine how long the policy that has proved successful in France's colonial empire can continue to be enforced upon a people far more advanced in civilisation and political capacity.

THE ADRIATIC CALM.

In the interval that has elapsed since the last issue of THE NEAR EAST the curtain has been rung down on the tragi-comedy of Fiume. A few shots from the Italian Fleet sufficed to bring Signor D'Annunzio to an appreciation of the realities that he had so long ignored; he laid down his dictatorship, the Town Council assumed responsibility, and negotiations were opened with the Italian Government. The two parties are primarily concerned to effect a peaceful transition from the arbitrary rule of the Jingo poet and his legionaries to the ordered existence of a democratic community. It has been necessary to draft troops into the town for the collection of arms and to ensure order; but no one will think of doubting the intention of the Italian Government to conform with the spirit of the Treaty of Rapallo and to leave the inhabitants free to draft their own Constitution. It remains to be seen whether the elimination of d'Annunzio marks the final settlement of the Adriatic question, which does not depend upon Italy alone. The Yugoslav Government, which maintained such an exemplary attitude in the face of the provocation from Fiume and to which belongs the credit for the Treaty of Rapallo, has given place to a Cabinet under the veteran Radical, M. Pashitch. The new Prime Minister has in the past been associated with a certain aggressiveness in Serbian policy that has contrasted unfavourably with the spirit required for the successful direction of the Yugoslav State in the way of peaceful development; but with international complications removed, his appointment would seem to be more closely connected with internal politics than to be intended to have any relation to foreign affairs. The elections have left no single party in a position to form an independent Government, and the prestige and vigour of M. Pashitch promised the greater measure of stability in a manifestly unstable position. It is to be hoped that his influence will be devoted to increasing the solidarity of the new State, rather than to offering his compatriots distraction from home affairs in an attempt to revive international questions of which the Balkan world is heartily tired.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF MESOPOTAMIA.

The recently-issued "Review of the Civil Administration of Mesopotamia" is a notable production in many ways. The fact that it has been prepared by Miss Gertrude Lowthian Bell accounts for its possessing literary attractions and a human interest that are seldom found in Government publications, and the provision of a serviceable index calls for grateful recognition. But its great merit lies in the fact that it gives, for the first time, a connected authorised account of British administration in the country from the end of 1914 up to the latter part of last summer; and, hereafter, we may hope that criticism of our work in that part of the world will be better informed than much of it has been hitherto. For it must be admitted that after reading this Review we feel that what may be called the defence of those who have been responsible for law and order in the historic land since its rescue from the Turks, has never before been satisfactorily set out. Naturally, many facts were not available at the time that one crisis or another had to be dealt with, and consequently the men on the spot were blamed unfairly, because the reports that reached us were incomplete. The Review now before us sheds fresh light on many puzzling incidents, and makes us realise that on the whole our countrymen in Mesopotamia have done far better than the public had been led to believe. There were mistakes, of course, but many of them were not so bad as they were represented.

It is undoubtedly the last chapter of the Review, which deals with "The Nationalist Movement," that will be read with the greatest interest, and, we may add, with the greatest relief and satisfaction, by most Englishmen. For it shows very clearly that, whatever may have been the case elsewhere, in Mesopotamia the responsible Power has always been mindful of its expressed intention to establish a national government and to help the Arabs to recover the position they occupied before the Mongol tide flooded Irak-el-Arabi. The failure to set the Arab machine running earlier was due chiefly to that lack of cohesion which is the greatest obstacle in the way of the creation of a strong Arab kingdom. The details given in this report of the attempts to secure the views of the local population on the creation of a new State and the form of its rulership should suffice to convince anybody but the most fanatical Anglophobe that the failure was due to no fault of ours. How far it should be attributed to self-seeking on the part of members of the 'Ahd al Iraki (or Mesopotamian

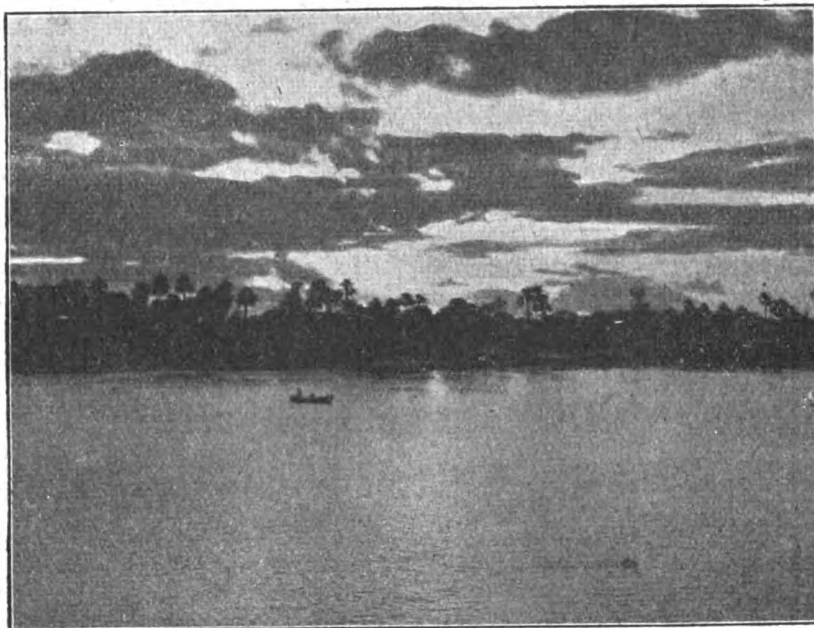
League) or to the intrigues of religious fanatics, we are not yet in a position to judge; but there can be no manner of doubt that both causes contributed largely to the "unrest" of the past year. Another factor of importance was the uncertainty regarding frontiers—as at Deir; and, most important of all, perhaps, the delay in drawing up the Treaty, brought about by our long waiting on the United States.

Indeed, in view of the interest America is taking just now in Mesopotamian oil, it may not be out of place to point out that in regard to Irak, at any rate, we owe little but our misfortunes to our Allies. Apart from the delay over the Treaty, it is evident from a study of the report that the publication of President Wilson's "fourteen points" provided agitators in Mesopotamia—as elsewhere—with a most convenient tool for their own purposes. The "points," it seems, were unknown in Irak until October, 1919. Before that the people had been resigned to the prospect of our administration; and many of them were more than resigned, "looking forward with satisfaction to a future

in which they would be able to pursue commerce and agriculture in profitable security with a strong central authority preserving peace and order."

The publication of the Anglo-French declaration followed on November 8. Of this, the Review says that though "it did little but reiterate the intentions which had already been announced on the occupation of Baghdad . . . it differed from the former pronouncement in one important particular, namely, that whereas the Bag-

dad proclamation had been issued while the upshot of the war was still extremely doubtful, and for that reason had been regarded as mainly a war expedient, the Anglo-French declaration was published after the victory of the Allies had been achieved and commanded belief." The Declaration opened out fresh possibilities, "the nature of which was not clearly understood, nor indeed was it likely to be understood, by the people to whom the declaration was addressed." Some of these people even wondered whether it foreshadowed a handing back of the country to Turkish rule, and, regarding the prospect with mixed feelings, began to hedge. Others regarded it as indicating the Allies' belief that the Arabs were quite fit for self-government without help or check, and their wish to set up that government forthwith. In Baghdad, the most politically developed centre in the country, the idea of an Arab Emir was eagerly discussed; but "there was no consensus of opinion as to the person who should be selected to fill the post." The idea of a Republic was mooted, but found no favour with the Moslems. "Debate in the town," says the Review, "took almost



On the Tigris, near Baghdad.



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at once a sharply controversial colour." The Jews and the Christians of Baghdad took alarm at the manifestations of "political development," and the former community sent in a unanimous petition, asking to be allowed to become British subjects if Mesopotamia were placed under an Arab Government. The picture presented is exactly what would be expected by anybody acquainted with the country.

Despite the alarm of the Jews and Christians, the situation was not really serious, and probably it would never have become so but for the agitators and place-seekers. But there is bound to be some trouble when



Two Arabs of Mesopotamia.

new wine is put into old bottles; and the effort to ascertain officially what the people really wanted caused a good deal of heartburning, and gave rise to intrigues and manœuvres of a truly Oriental character. The Acting Civil Commissioner was instructed by His Majesty's Government to ascertain the views of the local population in the areas affected upon the following points:—

(1) Whether they were in favour of a single Arab State under British tutelage extending from the northern boundary of the Mosul vilayet to the Persian Gulf?

(2) If so, whether they considered that the new State should be placed under an Arab Emir?

(3) And in that case whom would they suggest?

The task was no easy one, however it might be viewed:—

The bulk of the people to whom the questions were addressed had no definite opinion and were not in a position to form one. It was clearly impracticable to pursue the inquiry among the rank and file of the tribesmen, the shepherds, marsh dwellers, rice, barley and date cultivators of the Euphrates and Tigris, whose experience of statecraft was confined to speculations as to the performances of their next-door neighbours. They would, in any case, have done no more than re-echo by command the formula prescribed by their immediate chiefs, and it was just as profitable, besides being more expeditious, to refer the questions to the chiefs only. Accordingly, in the country districts and provincial towns it was the sheikhs and men of a certain importance who were asked for their views.

The method followed may shock certain people in this country who hold that a counting of noses is a cure for every political ill, and who approve of giving young boys the power to cripple the country's industry; but it will be recognised as right by everybody who knows Mesopotamia and its people. The inquiry produced one astonishing result: "On one point there was unanimity." True, it was only that the voters all considered that the Mosul vilayet should be united to those of Baghdad and Busreh, but it was something. On the other points there were—not unnaturally, perhaps—considerable differences of opinion. Hillah and six other divisions asked for British administration without any Emir; five other divisions regarded an Emir as the ideal to aim at in the near future, but being unable to fix on one then, asked for British administration meanwhile; Nejef and the Shamiyeh Division wobbled sadly, but on the whole favoured a Moslem Emir under British protection; while in Kerbella and Kadhimain the *mujtahids'* interference rendered the inquiries valueless. In Baghdad religious pressure was brought

to bear, with the result that a packed assembly asked for "an Arab State headed by a Mohammedan king who should be one of the sons of the Shereef. Nothing was said about foreign protection, but it was known that the extremists desired to exclude it." It is necessary to emphasise the fact that not only the Jews and Christians but also the leading Moslem families and merchants had refused to take part in the assembly which expressed these views; and that they subsequently presented petitions asking for British administration. As the Review puts it:—

The extremists had, in fact, overshot the mark. Men who had at first welcomed the idea of an Arab Emir were alarmed by the wild talk and the excitement which had been aroused, and rejected an alternative the mere discussion of which had given rein to passions dangerous to the political stability of the country.

Thus, the attempt to gather public opinion was not entirely successful; but on the other hand it served to show that instructed opinion in Irak-el-Arabi could not be entirely stampeded by the political agitator even when he made an appeal to religious fanaticism; and therein it was encouraging. Moreover, taken in conjunction with attempts—not always successful—to employ natives in positions of responsibility, it served to show those Arabs who were open to conviction that Great Britain had not forgotten her pledges, and meant to honour them. The new Provisional Government—regarding which Sir Percy Cox has just sent home an encouraging report—is a further proof of her honesty of purpose, but it is too recent to be covered in the Review. With the events that followed the attempt to collect views, and which are dealt with in the report, we hope to deal in another article.

Donations promised towards the Jewish War Memorial, as a result of the tour of the Dominions by the Chief Rabbi and Mr. Albert M. Woolf, at present amount to £25,000. The secretary's address is 22, Great St. Helen's, London, E.C.3.

The first instalment of a new issue of postage stamps for the Yugoslav Government has just been received, according to a report by Consul Patton, at Belgrade. This consignment consists of 500,000 stamps designed and engraved by an American company. The postal authorities are much pleased with the stamps and with the rapid execution of the contract.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Trade and the Exchanges.

It has for some time been increasingly obvious that further steps would have to be taken by the Government to overcome the handicap of the adverse exchanges if trade is to be resumed with Europe in any considerable volume. In recent weeks we have had abundant evidence of the consequences of trade stagnation arising from the lack of purchasing power of many of the Continental countries, in particular those in South-Eastern Europe, and unless measures can be contrived to counteract the absence of credits, it is to be feared that conditions can only become worse. The exports credits scheme was a move in the right direction, but it has proved inadequate to the needs of the moment, and a much more comprehensive policy is clearly required. Two new schemes are now under consideration, the one being a proposal to grant long term credits for foreign countries which need commodities, but are unable to pay for them, while the other is a scheme for the exchange of British for foreign goods. Of the two, the latter would seem to offer the most promise, for it is impossible to regard as wholly satisfactory a measure which represents merely the postponement of liabilities. Both schemes will probably be needed, however, since some of the countries in question have few commodities available for export, and there seems to be a very general feeling in the business world that the sooner they are put into operation the better.

Roumania's Transport Problem.

The contracts arranged by the Roumanian Government with English and French groups for the repair of railway rolling stock—details of which are given by our Bucharest correspondent this week—mark a significant stage in Roumania's reconstruction. All progress since the war has been held up because of the hopeless condition of the country's transport, and it has long been obvious that without external aid there could be little prospect of any material improvement in this respect within a reasonable space of time. Recognising this fact, the Roumanian Government has very wisely enlisted the services of a number of leading English and French firms in the work of reconstruction. The terms of the contracts indicate that the work will take a considerable period to complete; but within a very few months it may be assumed that a notable improvement will have been effected, and it is to that fact that I think we may attribute the recent appreciation in the Roumanian exchange.

A Case for Action.

Every decade or thereabouts the yield of olive oil in Asia Minor is far above the average. Messrs. Giraud, in their report which we give this week, state that the prospects for the present season are excellent, and that this promises to be the year for the bumper crop. In normal times an exceptional yield means much to the region, but at the present juncture its value should be literally enormous. Unfortunately, there is a considerable obstacle in the way of the realisation of the crop. At present the export of olive oil is prohibited, and it is believed that if the prohibition is not raised perhaps half of the crop will not be gathered, thereby entailing a loss of between one and two million sterling to the country. It is not surprising to learn that the continuance of the uncertain position should have given rise to widespread dissatisfaction, and one can only hope that the High Commissioners at Constantinople, with whom the decision lies, will be able to reach an agreement with the Greek authorities at Smyrna without delay as to the only policy that can meet the situation.

The Crisis at Constantinople.

In the last few weeks the serious economic crisis from which Constantinople has been suffering since she was cut off from Anatolia has become much more acute, and our correspondent, in a message which is given in another column, declares that a state of affairs has now been reached "which could hardly be worse." The main cause of the prevailing depression is, of course, the fact that exports have been practically a negligible quantity. For the whole of the past year, indeed, the exports only amounted to about one-thirteenth of the monthly exports of 1919. In the circumstances, it is not surprising that the

piastre should have risen to over 600 to the pound sterling. Naturally there is grave financial embarrassment, and it is to be feared that serious consequences will ensue should present conditions continue. The remedy is to be found in the reopening of communications with Anatolia, and until that happens it is scarcely possible to look for any improvement in the situation.

The Kassala Railway.

Conditions being what they are at the present time, I am not surprised that the Government has not been able to see its way to guarantee a loan for the proposed railway from Kassala to Thiamiam. When the Government is faced with the imperative necessity for curtailing expenditure, it is naturally not going to look with favour on any schemes which will increase its liabilities. Unfortunately the Sudan project may be postponed indefinitely by this decision, for without a guarantee by the Government it would be practically impossible to raise the money required on anything approaching satisfactory terms.

Urgent Need for the Scheme.

While the Government's decision is to be understood, it is not so easy to appreciate the argument put forward by the Prime Minister to the deputation, that the railway was not required, because the market is unable at the moment to absorb a certain quantity of Uganda cotton. With all deference to Mr. Lloyd George, that is beside the point. It is not a question of the immediate position, but of taking timely measures to meet a situation that will arise in the course of a few years. At present there is a large surplus of cotton, and this state of things will possibly obtain for some time to come. But when the world's markets are again bare of stocks, and when the countries at present out of the market are again in a position to purchase cotton, conditions will be very different. There will then be a very real danger that Lancashire may have to go short of supplies of cotton, unless in the meantime steps have been taken to promote cotton cultivation within the Empire. And of the various schemes for doing this, the Sudan project unquestionably offers the best prospects.

Cox's Bank.

The balance-sheet just issued by Messrs. Cox and Co., the Army bankers, for the year ended September 30, is in several respects a very notable document. It was to be anticipated that following the close of the war there would be a marked diminution in the bank's business, but so far from this being the case the present balance-sheet shows a record total, the figures being £24,317,401, as compared with £24,171,164 for the previous year. The bank has a reputation for the liquid character of its resources, and this feature is fully maintained, the ratio of cash to deposits being over one-third, while the strength of its position is considerably increased by a marked reduction in its investments. It is to be noted that the heading Bills of Exchange has disappeared from the balance-sheet, and has been replaced by Bills Receivable and Documentary Bills Negotiated, a change on which the directors are to be congratulated as marking a significant step in the direction of making balance-sheets more intelligible to the general public.

COMMENTATOR.

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(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, November 28.

Great Increase in Imports.

The customs statistics for the month of September reveal a swing-back in the favourable trade balance hitherto recorded. During the month imports totalled ££9,128,039 and exports ££2,513,485, as against ££3,976,349 and ££9,052,447 a year ago. Imports therefore increased by over ££5,000,000, and exports fell off by over ££6,500,000. As a result the total figures for the nine months for imports are: ££76,138,751 and for exports ££72,107,129, and during the three-quarters the former increased by ££45,319,958 and the latter by ££31,034,523, as compared with the situation at the end of September, 1919. Re-exports during the period fell off by about 50 per cent. to ££1,821,917, so that there is an adverse balance of about ££2,200,000 against the country. In view of the falling off in the demand for cotton and the drop in the price thereof it is to be anticipated that this adverse balance will go on increasing, for, although there is a local slump in Manchester goods, imports are still pouring in.

The principal imports during the nine months have been preserved meat and fish, ££767,374; wheat, ££2,321,468; wheat and maize flour, ££6,063,078; raw sugar, ££2,075,974; coffee, ££965,165; petroleum, ££1,490,622; boots and shoes, ££507,710; construction wood, ££1,640,327; oil fuel, ££939,051; coal, ££5,277,726; chemical manures, ££1,727,127; household soap, ££501,410; cotton yarn, ££1,087,809; cotton textiles, ££15,439,834; woollen textiles, ££2,318,266; silk textiles, ££1,528,236; sacks, ££1,018,961; manufactured iron and steel, ££3,417,246; tobacco, ££2,488,846. The most important increases were in wheat and wheat flour, of which 217,000 tons were imported, as against only 14,000 tons last year; raw sugar, of which 29,000 tons against 12,000; coal, of which 617,000 as against 445,000 tons; and cotton textiles, of which 7,000 more tons and 11,000 more metres were imported.

Under exports the chief items were eggs, ££285,968; hides and skins, ££369,219; cotton seed, ££2,500,390; cotton cake, ££432,731; onions, ££533,291; sugar, ££981,733; phosphates, ££382,962; raw cotton, ££63,913,013; cigarettes, ££745,112. The enormous rise in prices is apparent from the figures for cotton, which increased by nearly ££30,000,000 in value and fell off by 30 per cent. in volume, and for cotton seed, which increased by ££1,000,000 in value and of which 140,000 ardebs less were exported.

The share of the imports falling to the United Kingdom was 38 per cent., compared with 44 per cent. last year, and under exports 40 per cent. as compared with 56 per cent. The countries which increased their sales to Egypt were France, Italy, and United States, the latter of whom jumped from ££1,935,000 to ££7,388,000; while under exports the most noteworthy increase was in the case of the United States, whose share rose from ££5,658,000 to ££25,345,000, and who took a larger share of the cotton crop than the United Kingdom. An interesting reappearance in the customs statistics is Germany, her activities being directed to glass and chinaware, toys, beer, synthetic indigo, machinery, and textiles.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan during the nine months has improved, imports into Egypt increasing from ££1,265,093 to ££1,819,952 and exports from ££2,106,216 to ££2,957,129. The chief imports from the Sudan have been cattle, ££677,218 (142,858 head); sesame, ££336,612; hides and skins, ££102,020; cereals and agricultural produce, ££344,753; and exports to the Sudan, wheat and maize flour, ££97,618; refined sugar ££874,004; coffee, ££165,760; cotton textiles, ££693,971; sacks, ££103,750; and tobacco, ££180,633.

CAIRO, December 13.

Limitation of Cotton Area.

A decree has now been issued limiting cotton cultivation in 1921. The prohibition follows exactly on the lines of that edicted for the 1918 crop—viz., the cultivation of cotton is entirely prohibited in the Upper Egypt basins, except where irrigation is carried out with Nile water, and no landowner may sow more than one-third of his holding with cotton.

The decision has been generally well received, for the Provincial Councils were unanimous in their opinion as to the desire for a restriction of the area, though they were not quite agreed as to the extent to which the restriction should be carried out. In a great many cases the opinion is held that it would have been better to have decreed the restriction for a period of three years, so as to give the land rest and be fair to everyone. It is also pointed out

that this restriction may have an adverse effect on the wheat area, in that holders of more than one plot, who had decided to devote whole areas to either wheat or cotton, are being tempted by the prohibition of putting more than one-third of any one holding under cotton to plough up part of their wheat-land in order to adjust the proportion, but, owing to the lateness, will not be able to put a corresponding portion of their cotton-land under wheat. Such cases as these are, of course, to be expected in the case of legislation which has to be introduced in a hurry, and no doubt the competent authorities will in due course take the necessary steps to remedy this.

Lancashire's Attitude.

Meanwhile Reuter informs us that the Manchester Cotton Association has intimated that the reduction in the area will inflict grievous injury on the cotton trade, and that it has decided to ask the British Government to endeavour to induce the Egyptian Government to change this policy. This piece of news has created no little amusement, for the Manchester Cotton Association can scarcely expect the fellahin to grow cotton solely for the benefit of Lancashire, when its cultivation at present prices is not remunerative. Instead of urging the British Government to take the very impolitic step of persuading the Egyptian Government to change its policy, when that policy is based on the expressed wish of the Egyptian nation, as presented by the decision of the Provincial Councils, the Manchester Cotton Association would do well to take counsel amongst its members as to the best means of raising the price, for after all the growth of cotton in Egypt is a commercial enterprise; just as the spinning of cotton is in Lancashire, and if Manchester is not prepared to pay a price which makes it worth the while of the Egyptian fellah to grow the special qualities which the Association say are of such value to Lancashire, they must expect the supply to fall off. Coming at the present juncture the attitude of Lancashire in this matter as expressed by the report published by Reuter is particularly unfortunate.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 20.

Grave Economic Crisis.

The crisis which was caused by the interruption of communications between the capital and Anatolia last spring has been steadily increasing in gravity, until a state of affairs has been reached which could hardly be worse. The rate of exchange for the pound sterling has risen to about 600 piastres, which is almost as high as the highest figure for the gold lira during the war. On the 15th inst. the directors of the principal banks in Constantinople held a meeting to consider the situation and concert measures to deal with it, but it would appear that no actual decisions were taken.

The principal reason for the crisis will readily be understood when it is realised that the value of the monthly exports during the autumn of 1919 was about four million Turkish pounds, whilst this year the exports from Constantinople have hardly reached three hundred thousand Turkish pounds. The exports from Smyrna have also been of a negligible quantity. There is no need to dwell upon the effect upon foreign exchange of an absence of exports. Constantinople is, from the point of view of production, nothing but an enormous parasite, dependent for its existence and economic prosperity upon the industry, mostly of an agricultural nature, of Anatolia. The complete cessation of all commercial relations with Anatolia through the capital has necessitated the importation of certain principal necessities from Europe, for which credits to the amount of nearly £1,000,000 sterling monthly are required, against which practically nothing is available for export.

The situation is considerably aggravated by the gambling mania which has infected the public here as elsewhere throughout the world, and there seems to be no real remedy for this evil. The banks have, indeed, decided to refuse to accept such transactions unless there is proof of sound commercial necessities on the part of the dealer in foreign values, but this measure has been tried before during the war and had practically no effect.

During the past week there have been one or two exciting days on the bourse, and there have also been quite a number of bankruptcies, involving total liabilities of very nearly a million sterling. As the director of one of the most important banks in Turkey stated, the only remedy by which general bankruptcy can be avoided is by re-establishing commercial relations with Anatolia. Constan-

tinople is suffering from a commercial blockade which is in its way as fatal as the British blockade was to Germany during the war. Until it is removed Constantinople will continue to languish, and there can be no talk of business. It would be as well to remember that British interests in this part of the world are by no means inconsiderable. Further, since British traders have been strongly encouraged by the British Government to extend their enterprise to Turkey, they have surely a right to demand that their interests should be considered.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, December 12.

Prices Increased.

Despite rumours that prices have dropped considerably abroad, here they are not only maintained but have increased, owing to the unfavourable exchange and the transport difficulty. Nevertheless, by next spring a drop is expected. Merchants are, therefore, cautious, and are generally showing themselves very reserved, but not to the extent which is reported to be taking place abroad, especially in America.

Cotton yarns are still maintaining the price of 600-620 lei per bundle. American cabot is about 17-20 lei per yard, according to quality. A local factory in Arad has begun to manufacture American cabot, width 80-90 cms., varying from 16-20 lei per metre. This factory will be able to hold its own with foreign competition to a certain extent. It has 25,000 spindles and 750 looms, worked by about 4,000 millhands, and can produce about 8,000 metres per day. It is well supplied with cotton from America. For the moment it only manufactures American cabot, and has already taken orders from Bucharest to the extent of two million lei. Next month it intends starting the manufacture of chiffon shirting, and later on of zephyrs and other textiles.

Flannelette 70 cms. wide has dropped from 26 lei to 24, and can even be found at 22.50 retail; but large quantities are not in demand. There is a scarcity of cotton thread. There is also a marked scarcity of lace, and prices have gone up 20-30 per cent. Germany is already making her appearance in textiles. She has sent a large quantity of cheap quality socks into the country at 8-10 lei per pair, competing in price with all other foreign makes. Therefore, the prices of socks are tending to fall, and Roumanian socks from the factory in Transylvania have been offered at 100 lei per dozen, and 120 lei for ladies' stockings. Suitings are still arriving from abroad: for better quality high prices are still maintained. The prohibition of luxury goods has not yet influenced the prices of such goods as there are large stocks still existing.

Business in colonial goods has been more lively during the week, but prices have not hardened under the influence of the greater demand, with the exception of olive oil and sardines. Olive oil is sold at 45 lei per kilo. Sugar is offered c.i.f. Galatz at 16 lei per kilo. In Bucharest retail prices are still very high, round about 30 lei. This difference in price is due to the transport difficulty between Galatz and Bucharest, and only small quantities can be got through. There was a shortage of rice, but large quantities have arrived, and prices are reduced. Better quality rice has dropped from 20 to 18 lei per kilo.

As mentioned in my last report, this is the dead season of the metal trade, with the exception of sheeting and copper articles. Numerous offers have come from Germany for manufactured and semi-manufactured iron goods. The loss in prices owing to the rate of exchange puts Germany in a position to compete with England and America, and it is thought here that she will soon regain her position in the metal trade. Many merchants are preparing to go to Germany next month to make their purchases.

Miscellaneous.

The Department of State Monopoly has appointed a delegation to proceed to Germany in order to negotiate the sale of Roumanian tobacco of inferior quality, of which there is a surplus stock.

In accordance with the prohibition of the importation of luxury goods, the Government have removed the prohibition of cocoa in the form of beans and powder.

In view of the connection which will be established between Roumania and Hungary, the Hungarians have decided to repair the bridge over the Tisza at Solnoc. This bridge was blown up by the Hungarians in 1919 to arrest the advance of the Roumanian troops.

The Government is negotiating for the loan of 500 million lei needed for the repair of the railways. Local banks are disposed to help in this matter, as they realise it is of paramount importance to keep the railways in working order.

The Railway Workshops.

It is reported that the Government have decided to send 1,800 locomotives to Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, and Germany

to be repaired. There are current repairs, however, which must be done on the spot in the workshops, and it is understood that in view of the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in them at present, the Government are now negotiating with a local company, the "Vulcan," who are backed by two of the largest engineering works in France, for one portion of the workshops, whilst for the remaining portion they are negotiating with an English group. It is strongly emphasised that it is not a question of concession, but that the workshops will remain the property of the State, who will pay for the material and the labour. The private concerns merely contract to execute the repairs of a number of local locomotives and trucks, and the contract will expire on the day of completion of the repairs.

Aerial Transport.

A contract has been made between the Roumanian Government and a Franco-Roumanian Aerial Navigation Company. The Government grants to the company for a period of twenty years the concession of the international transport services of passengers and goods which will run from Paris via Strasbourg, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Bucharest, to Constantinople. The Government further hands over the monopoly of the international services of letters, telegrams, etc., within its boundaries, and will reserve its right to the services within its boundaries from here to the aerial stations of neighbouring countries like Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Turkey.

Purchase of Forest Land.

The Ministry of Agriculture has prepared a Bill limiting the maximum of forest land that can be purchased by any concern to 3,000 hectares. Any purchase made above this figure will be considered void, and offenders will be fined from 1,000 to 50,000 lei for the first offence, and for every subsequent offence the penalty will be imprisonment up to three months. Land up to 5,000 hectares may be acquired in exceptional cases, and with the approval of the Minister of Agriculture.

BUCHAREST, December 19.

The Railway Contracts.

Further details are given in the official Press regarding the contracts which will be closed with the French and English groups entrusted with the repairs of the Roumanian State Railway rolling stock.

The first contract, which has been made with the French group, is divided among the following companies: The Roumanian Iron Workshops "Vulcan," the Société de Construction de Batignolles, Etablissement Schneider and Co., and the Société de Construction "Dyle et Bacalan." These companies are to repair within seven years 2,500 locomotives, 1,500 passenger coaches, and 15,000 trucks, and to place them within the shortest time in perfect working order.

For this purpose the Government has put at their disposal the railway workshops at Temesvar, Simeidia-Piski, Cluj, and Brasov, together with all the appendages and offices for their exclusive use. All the machine tools and installations will be handed over to the companies mentioned, with a detailed inventory, which, on the expiration of the contract, they will be obliged to return in good condition, as well as machine tools and buildings which may be added meanwhile. The Government, on the other hand, will pay for the repairs.

The locomotives once repaired will make a trial trip of 100 kilometres, and the "Vulcan" Group will remain responsible for six months after delivery of the locomotives, etc., for all defective repairs that may occur within the period. The group binds itself to keep the present personnel, but reserves the right to transfer them elsewhere, if necessary. The group further undertakes to have on their staff

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Roumanian engineers and foremen in a proportion of at least 50 per cent. of every category. With regard to the workmen, they will be employed as heretofore, maintaining the positions which they have held up to now as State employees, with all rights to pensions, housing indemnities, etc. The workshops and material will be placed at the disposal of the companies at the very latest within three months from the day when the contract comes into force.

The contract grants to the group the right of priority when transporting rolling stock which is to be repaired. The State will be called upon on the 15th of every month to approve any changes they think necessary in the plan of the repair work and the price for the ensuing month. All expenses of salaries, material, etc., which will be made will be previously checked and approved by the State. For the maintenance of order in the workshops, the companies have the right to dismiss any member of the staff who might try to provoke disorder or strikes. All the machinery and material imported in 1921 will be paid for by the "Vulcan" group for the account of the Government. The group will receive in exchange Treasury Bonds payable in one year with 6 per cent. interest. The above companies will receive 15 per cent. on the cost of the repairs, which percentage will constitute their profit.

An identical contract has been closed with an English group, which will take over the workshops at Bucharest, T-Severin-Cernauti, Pascani, Jassy, Galatz, Bender, and Constanza, for the same period, and undertakes on the same terms to repair 2,500 locomotives, 1,500 passenger coaches, and 15,000 trucks.

Germany's Financial Obligations.

According to the Peace Treaty, Germany is under an obligation to Roumania to withdraw all the Banca Generala notes which she issued during the occupation. The total value of these amounts to over three milliard lei, and until they are withdrawn Germany will be obliged to pay to the Roumanian State 5 per cent. interest. Another debt which Germany has to pay to Roumania is the sum of 70 million marks in gold, which formed a security for the National Bank of Roumania, constituted at Berlin by the Germans whilst Roumania was still neutral, to guarantee the amounts paid by the National Bank to Roumanian farmers for cereals exported to Germany.

As Germany knows she will have to meet these obligations sooner or later, she has sent a delegate to commence negotiations with the Roumanian Government with a view to settling these debts, which will amount to a total of about five milliard lei. Germany proposes to settle by offering Roumania any kind of goods which she needs to the equivalent value of her debt. The Government seems well disposed towards this offer, although the National Bank would prefer the 70 million marks in gold, with the object of strengthening its paper currency.

Depreciation of the Leu.

The news of the sudden drop of the leu to 18 centimes in Paris has produced a wave of consternation throughout the country. This is the lowest rate ever recorded for Roumania. Local bankers consider this abnormal decline unjustified, and imagine that public opinion abroad has probably been misled by false alarms of Bolshevik attacks, and possibly even the Senate outrage has been greatly misinterpreted and exaggerated. Besides, what is even stranger, this depreciation has taken place at the time when M. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance, had succeeded in raising a loan of 200 million francs to pay the coupons in arrears on the Roumanian National Debt.

Cheaper Imports.

The fall in prices in foreign markets has now resulted in numerous offers of goods from foreign firms at very reduced rates, without, however, bringing about any notable transactions, as buyers, being overstocked, are holding back. Merchants, who last autumn begged foreign firms to take into consideration their orders without discussing the prices, have now received offers from English, French, and Italian firms on terms of six to twelve months' credit with 7 to 8 per cent. interest, and in some cases bank guarantees have been renounced. German and Austrian exporters, who are again taking up their old agents in Roumania, are even sending goods on consignment in order to regain the market they lost during the war.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, December 19.

Miscellaneous.

On the grounds that Bulgaria has failed to fulfil its obligations under the Peace Treaty, railway communication beyond Pirot is suspended both for passengers and goods traffic, with the exception of the Orient Express.

It is reported that Germany is about to deliver to Yugoslavia material for thirty-five bridges and a large quantity of plant, machinery, and constructional material.

OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

BOLSHEVIST OIL PRODUCTION.—II.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The data supplied by Soviet papers enable us to summarise the results of the Baku oil campaign, to which the Bolsheviks attached such importance. According to the plan of the Bolsheviks, during the navigation of 1920 the transport of oil from Baku up the Volga should have amounted to 169.9 million poods, of which 22.2 millions were to be delivered at Astrakhan, and 147.7 were to be sent up the Volga. By October 1, 116.2 million poods (70 per cent.) reached Astrakhan, and the Bolsheviks reckon on transporting 40,000,000 poods more. As regards transport up the Volga, by October 1, two weeks before the navigation stopped, 84.4 million poods (57 per cent.) were delivered.

The aggregate deliveries up to September 15 (i.e., a month before navigation stopped) amounted to 38,300,000 poods—that is to say, in the four months when the Volga is navigable, about 27 per cent. of the proposed quantity of oil was delivered. The amount of oil which the Bolsheviks sent off during the last month is unknown, but the *Economicheskaya Zhizn* shows that by the end of the navigation there were about 17 or 18 million poods of petroleum and mazout at the various Volga wharves.

The oil which had already been transported up the Volga is apparently quite exhausted. The paper quoted above says:—"The six months' consumption of the railways alone is estimated at 25,000,000 poods. The stock of oil for railways amounts to 9,000,000 poods, leaving a shortage of 16,000,000 poods." Up to October 1 (i.e., the end of the navigation) water-transport had obtained only 7,300,000 poods of oil, instead of the 26,300,000 poods required. The journal adds:—"Industrial and local consumption and the first run on the opening of navigation will require approximately 14,000,000 poods of oil. Thus the Fuel Committee will need 30,000,000 poods by May 1. In connection with this, measures have been taken to revise the demand and reduce the amount to be supplied."

When there is a shortage of anything, it is a favourite trick of the Bolsheviks to cut down consumption. For instance, at first it was decided to give Petrograd 7,000,000 poods of oil, then this figure was reduced to 4,500,000 poods, but of this by September 15 (the busiest season) Petrograd had received only 1,244,000 poods by water and 600,000 poods by rail.

Even supposing that Baku supplied all the oil exported from Russia, it still used to send up to 420,000,000 poods to Russia, and at least two-thirds of this was brought up the Volga. That is to say, in normal times, no less than 280,000,000 poods of oil used to be transported up the Volga, whereas the Bolsheviks, by their confession, sent off (but did not deliver) only 84,000,000 poods, and even this figure is greatly exaggerated, judging by Bolshevik statistics of the amount of oil at the various Volga wharves.

Besides Baku petroleum the Bolsheviks get oil from Grozny. From April to October the exports amounted to about 22,200,000 poods (according to the *Economicheskaya Zhizn*), but for some reason or other the Grozny exports fell rapidly. In the same number of this paper we find the following figures of the exports of oil from Grozny:—July, 1912 tank-cars; September, 674; and October (20 days), 134, or 204 for the full thirty days. Thus the results obtained by the "Petroleum Committee" in the current year, when the Bolsheviks were full masters, are far from consoling. The Bolsheviks have not even been able to carry out their own "famine rations scheme" of supplying one-fourth of the pre-revolutionary per head ration. There is no doubt that the cause of this breakdown lies in the general methods of the Bolshevik economic system. The whole petroleum industry, like all others, has been centralised.

While notice is being sent to the Central Petroleum Board in Moscow that at Baku the workmen have dispersed owing to food restrictions, and while the necessary measures are being taken to increase the workers' bread rations, no oil is being produced, and more than half the workmen have left. It was the same on the Volga: there would be some irregularity in the navigation, due to some improper general regulations affecting some detail of shipment, and while they were being cancelled the Volga would get shallow by the end of summer, and the vessels could not be fully laden.

Moreover, in all this great undertaking, beginning with boring wells and ending with the delivery of the oil at the storage tanks in Petrograd, there was not a single man personally interested in the business. Even if there were any Communists who did their work "not for wrath but for conscience sake," it is hardly likely that such Communists were specialists in the petroleum industry.

IRRIGATION WORK IN EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.—I.

NILE PROJECTS COMMISSION REPORT.

In January last the Egyptian Government appointed the Nile Projects Commission to give its opinion on the projects prepared by the Ministry of Public Works with a view to the further regulation of the Nile supply, for the benefit of Egypt and the Sudan, and in particular to examine the report upon the physical data on which the projects are based, to report upon the propriety of the manner in which, as a result of these projects, the increased supply of available water provided by them will be allocated at each stage of development between Egypt and the Sudan, and to advise as to the apportionment of the cost of the proposed works and this inquiry as between Egypt and the Sudan.

It will be remembered that an interim report was submitted in June last, when the Commission stated that, "after careful consideration of all the evidence, we are of opinion that there has been no falsification or intentional suppression of records nor any fraudulent or intentional manipulation of data or gauges by Sir Murdoch MacDonald or by anyone else. We have studied the projects as described in 'Nile Control,' and have considered the criticisms of these which have been submitted, and we recommend that, considered from a strictly engineering point of view, the White Nile Dam, the Gezira Irrigation Scheme, and the Blue Nile (Sennar) Dam, and the Nag Hamadi Barrage should be carried out at once."

The Commission has now published its final report, which deals in detail with the terms of reference, and also with all the works included in the projects described in "Nile Control." The members of the Commission were Mr. F. St. J. Gebbie, chief engineer, Bombay (chairman), Dr. G. C. Simpson, meteorologist at Simla, and Mr. H. T. Cory (members), with Mr. J. L. Capes, of the Egyptian Ministry of Education, as secretary; and to them was added a judicial member (Judge Booth, of the Mixed Courts) for the purpose of conducting the inquiry and taking evidence on oath.

The report, which deals exhaustively with all the questions, consists of four chapters and an appendix. Chapter I., which contains the report and opinion of Judge Booth on matters dealt with at the public sittings for the hearing of evidence on oath; Chapter II., which deals with the charges brought by Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Kennedy against the reliability of data; and Chapter III., which deals with the projects from an engineering point of view, are all unanimously approved by the Commission; Chapter IV. is in two sections, dealing mainly with the future allocation of water; but as with regard to this the Commission is not unanimous, separate reports have been written, one by Mr. Cory and the other by Mr. Gebbie and Dr. Simpson. The Appendix contains the criticisms on the data, as presented in the form of charges by Sir William Willcocks and Col. Kennedy, and the technical criticisms presented by a committee of Egyptian engineers.

Judge Booth, in his report, which is endorsed by the three members of the Commission, deals with the various charges, and his finding on four of them is summarised as follows:—

"My conclusion is that the copy of page 2 of the 'Blue Nile Memorandum' itself, if it stood uncontradicted, would afford no sufficient proof of the true official Sennar gauge readings at the beginning of 1914; *a fortiori*, it must be ignored when contradicted by a body of sworn testimony."

"The mention in Col. Kennedy's note of the reading 10.10 for the Sennar gauge on January 24 must be taken to be a mistake. The reading he obtained was in reality that of January 31."—"I accept without hesitation the evidence of the witnesses called, nor have I any doubt that the books and documents proved by them contained the readings of the Sennar gauge as recorded and reported at the material time."—"In the teeth of the sworn testimony of a number of witnesses, no weight at all can be given to Sir William Willcocks' argument as to the Sennar discharge curve."—"There was never any thought of showing exaggerated discharges by means of the falsification of gauge readings. The sequence of documents I have quoted, obviously genuine, are, in my opinion, the strongest possible testimony to the good faith of the Department."—"On the documents put in there is no reason whatever for supposing that Sir Murdoch MacDonald's opinion was not honestly given."—"The good faith of the explanation of the Public Works Ministry receives strong confirmation from the explanation which Sir Murdoch MacDonald is able to give as to the non-publication of the Inspectors-General's Report for 1912, and also from the fact that it is not suggested that any particular use has even been made of the erroneous figures, nor has any motive for the non-publication of this particular error been suggested."

The findings of the Commission on the charges brought against reliability of data are that:—"In the opinion of the Commission, the 'bump' on the Sennar gauge curve and the abnormal shape of the discharge curve are both due to the same cause—namely, the alteration in the arrangement of the sandbanks and channels in the river."—"There is no other conclusion to be drawn than that Sir William Willcocks' calculated discharges were absolutely valueless."—"The Commissioners are satisfied that there has been absolutely no exaggeration of the discharges—on the contrary, they are convinced that there is no other river in the world comparable with the Nile whose discharge is so accurately determined as is that of the Nile during the low stages of 1916."—"The Commissioners strongly object to the whole method (employed by Sir William Willcocks), and they are not prepared to admit that any conclusion reached by such a method is worthy of consideration."—"The results Sir William Willcocks obtained do not prove falsification or even bad work; they simply prove that the method itself is imperfect."—"On the general question of current meters the Commission is satisfied that Egypt is now employing the method which is employed by irrigation engineers all over the world, and a return to measurements by means of floats would be a serious retrograde step."—"The Commission has decided that the Sennar gauge was not altered in 1916."—"In the absence of any amplification of Colonel Kennedy's charge which would give an idea of the grounds on which he based it, the Commission can do no more than state . . . that they can find no evidence of any falsification or desire to mislead."—"Colonel Kennedy knew that Sir Murdoch MacDonald had no original records of the Khartoum gauge, the original notebook being in Colonel Kennedy's own charge, and Colonel Kennedy had not explained to Sir Murdoch MacDonald how the gauge was in error. It is, therefore, clear that Colonel Kennedy knew quite well that Sir Murdoch MacDonald could not have deliberately published false readings."

Messrs. Fraunhofer and Kucsera, of V. Vadasz u. 37, Budapest, whose advertisement appeared in THE NEAR EAST of December 9, point out that, owing to a clerical error, the toys that they export were represented as being mechanical. The toys in question are not mechanical, but are made of artistic designs in papier-mâché, clay, wood, and lead.

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Messrs. FRATELLI ALIOTTI - - SMYRNA.

and for Wax and Candles, to:

Mr. FREDERICK ROSE - - - PIRÆUS.

ENGINEERING.

Driving Rolling Mills.

To those of us who are old enough to remember the fierce controversy which raged over the question as to whether the electric motor could ever be suitable as a means of driving iron and steel rolling mills, it will come almost as a surprise to be told on the authority of a writer who presumably has expert knowledge of the subject that "electricity can now be considered as the accepted form of motive power for rolling mills." It is one of these things of which we have become conscious almost without knowing about it, so to speak; something we have known all the time and yet which gives us something of a shock when put into words.

There is no doubt as to the truth of the statement. An analysis of the available figures shows that over half a million of electrical horse-power are used in driving rolling mills in this country. These are big figures; sixteen or eighteen years ago we should not have believed them possible. Yet even then we had the knowledge; we understood the principles. We have learned little since then, simply because we understood thoroughly the main principles governing the correct choice of a motor: since the day when the first electric motor was designed for rolling mill use no radical improvements in either design, material or construction have been made. It speaks well for the knowledge of the pioneers of the movement that no serious modifications have been made to the earliest designs.

As has been pointed out, one of the most noticeable features of the present-day drive is the size of the motor adopted, the modern demand for continually increasing the output requiring corresponding increase in the size of the driving motor. One alteration must be mentioned, as it has had a marked effect on the size of motor required. This is the adoption of what are known as "continuous" mills, where large outputs of one class of work are required. In this type of mill a series of rolls are set closely, one in front of the other, and the ingot or billet enters at one end and passes once through each of the succeeding rolls, leaving them as a semi-finished or finished product. The rolls are in very close proximity, and in consequence of this the metal is actually passing through the entire series at one time in its journey, i.e., the period when the forward end of the billet has reached the last roll, whilst the following or other end has not completely passed through the first roll. Naturally, the drive in a rolling mill of this type is much more even and steady than that in a mill of the ordinary kind, and as the motor used is of such large size it is evident that it can be operated at a higher efficiency. It is said that in the United States at the present time about 80,000 horse-power of motor drive is being used in rolling mills of the continuous type.

Factory Extension.

I hear that by reason of the rapid growth of their lighting business the British-Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., decided some time ago to extend their Rugby factory, where the lamps and fittings, amongst other products, are made. I was in that neighbourhood recently, trying out a new motorcycle, of which more may be heard in the new year, and noticed that the new workshops are nearing completion. I hear that up-to-date machinery is being installed, and that the company hope very shortly to be able to manufacture and deliver fittings and reflectors in sufficient quantities to meet the remarkable demand which has sprung up recently. One of the principal products of the Rugby works is the Mazdalux reflectors for industrial lighting, and I am informed that the company hope to treble, or even quadruple, their output of these. They are also planning to increase considerably their production of "Eye-rest" indirect, semi-direct, and ordinary fittings and shades.

Motor Taxation.

The Automobile Association has received a number of applications from members for its booklet summarising in handy form the various points arising out of the new scheme of motor taxation, as affecting the owners of private cars and motor cycles. The booklet is being issued free to members upon application by postcard, and those who may desire additional copies of the association's "Handbook" are notified that a number are available for distribution. They will be sent upon application, post free, for 2s. 6d., together with a copy of the association's taxation booklet.

To meet the convenience of motorists desirous of becoming members of the Automobile Association whilst on the road, its road patrols have been authorised to enrol new members. The patrols are provided with a special receipt for members' subscriptions, which, upon production to other patrols, will entitle them to roadside assistance, and in the event of summonses or contraventions of the Motor Car Act, will entitle them to free legal defence. Such new members will receive their badges with the least possible delay from the head office or the nearest A.A. Area Office.

Tractor Changes.

It is gradually becoming recognised, even outside the engineering world, that the tractor—by which is meant more particularly that type which is designed chiefly with a view to carrying out agricultural and kindred work, is destined to be of considerable importance in national industry. It is really curious that agricultural machinery should have remained for so many years practically where it was until the conditions brought about by the war gave rise to the production of the tractor on a large scale. Now engineers all over the globe have turned their attention to the design and production of cultivating machinery, but amongst all the big firms concerned there is no doubt that the Austin Motor Co., Ltd., are maintaining their lead—a lead which they have established by sheer merit.

Incidentally, I note that in my recent remarks regarding the "Austin Twenty," the name given to the 20-h.p. motor-car manufactured by the same firm, I omitted to mention that some slight modifications in the position and fitting of certain items have been made in the 1921 model. For instance, the electric starter is now placed more conveniently at the side of the gear box, making the already accessible engine more accessible still. Trouble due to the fan belt stretching has been eradicated by providing a direct drive by help from the cam shaft to the fan pulley, whilst the dynamo is now also directly driven from the crankshaft by another belt. Adjustment of the tension of the fan driving belt has been made quicker and easier by a slight alteration of the locking arrangement, while the tension of the dynamo driving belt is altered by sliding the machine bodily in its mounting, a course which is the most approved engineering practice. Further, the packing of the water pump can be adjusted without any necessity for removal or dismantling.

"Smith" Service.

I am informed by my old friend, Mr. Walter Dandie, who is so well known in connection with Messrs. S. Smith and Sons (M.A.), Ltd., of 179-185, Great Portland Street, London, that his firm have inaugurated a "service" scheme which strikes me as being quite the best I have yet come across. I understand that it was thought out some months ago, but that the keen demand for the firm's products and the consequent abnormal business has prevented it being put into operation at an earlier date.

Under the scheme every Smith (M.A.) product by which the firm mean goods of their own manufacture, such as speedometers, watches, instruments, carburettors, lighting and starting sets, mechanical horns, and other goods for which they have sole selling rights, is backed by a twelve-months' guarantee, covered by the usual "wear and tear" clause. Should any article fail through defective material, whether it be a speedometer, watch, dynamo, self-starter, or any component coming under the above heading, it will be replaced by a similar article within twenty-four hours of receipt by the firm at their head office address. The only stipulation they make is that the accessory must be of post-war design, and not have been manufactured earlier than 1920.

I am informed that the firm intend to offer similar service from their Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester and Belfast depôts in the very near future. Eventually, I believe, the idea is to extend this Smith service to the firm's overseas depôts in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Bangkok.

Side Lamps.

There has been an increasing tendency for some time to mount the side-lamps on the wing of the car in order to define the width as required by the Lighting Regulations. Messrs. C. A. Vandervell and Co. have for some time marketed a very neat wing-lamp of true stream-line form, fitted with a bull's-eye lens, but owing to the restricted beam this did not meet the requirements of all users, as it is desirable with a side lamp to have a wide angle beam in addition, to define the edge of the road. This difficulty has now been surmounted by substituting a hollow glass for the bull's-eye lens and fitting a small reflector which throws a beam some distance ahead. The reflector is of composite form, and in addition to the parabolic silvered back portion it has a cylindrical extension, white enamelled inside. This has the effect of giving a wide angle illumination of soft diffused light and entirely gets over all the objections which have hitherto been inseparable from the ordinary bull's-eye type of lamp. Other improvements have also been incorporated, the wiring for instance being carried, through the foot of the lamp, and therefore entirely concealed without any projections on the inside of the mud wing, all the electrical portion being inside the body of the lamp and entirely protected from wet. In view of the prevalent fashion for switching off head-lamps in town or when meeting other traffic, a side-lamp, with which it is possible to drive at quite respectable speed without any appreciable dazzling effect, is therefore a valuable acquisition in the electric lighting of motor vehicles.

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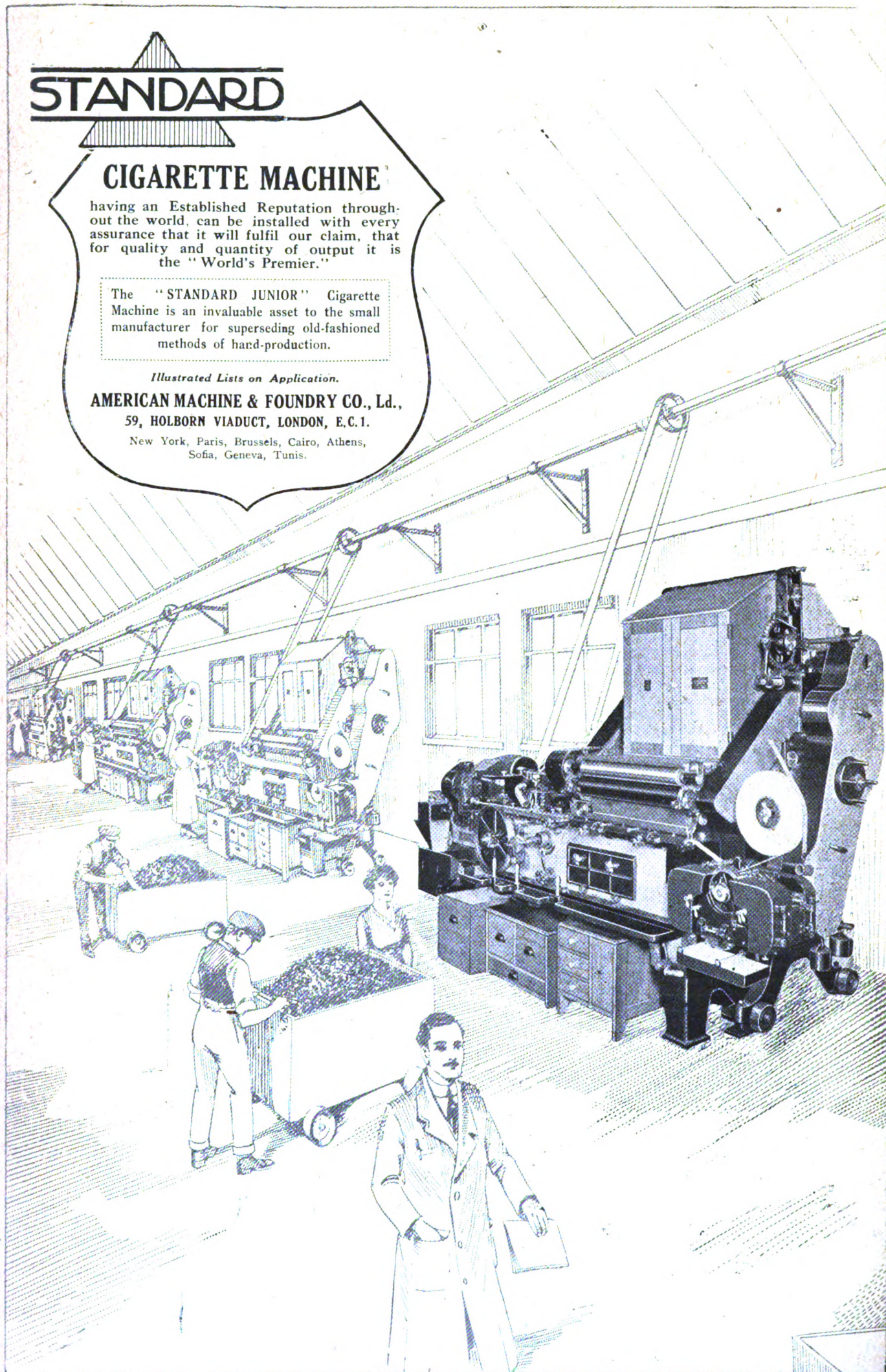
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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

SMYRNA OLIVE OIL.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, have issued the following report, dated November 30:—

Prospects for this winter's production of olive oil in Asia Minor are exceptionally satisfactory. The trees generally yield a biennial crop, and once in ten or twelve years the result is generally above the average or a bumper production, which promises to be the case this year.

The estimates at present stand as follows (the figures representing Turkish kintals):—Smyrna and environs, 50,000; Aidin, 150,000; Baidir and Odemish, 100,000; Sokia, Tchina, and Sobouje, 100,000; Kulluk, 50,000; Axar, Kirkagatch, Magnisia, Menemen, Fokia, 50,000; Aivaly district, 200,000; Adramyt, 250,000; total, 950,000 kintals, or 55,000 tons.

There is, however, a serious crisis facing farmers. Owing to short crops during the past two years, and to the impossibility consequent on the events of last year of collecting the fruit in the interior, exports of olive oil were prohibited, and the prohibition still continues.

The mills are now commencing work, and very shortly abundant supplies will begin reaching markets. The storage capacity in the country has been very much reduced, and if prohibition is not removed so as to permit the sale and export of a good portion of the production, it is absolutely certain that farmers will not be able to face the expense of collecting all their produce, and that a very heavy proportion of the olives will not be worth gathering and there will be a risk of the oil being lost. The Greek authorities are aware of the situation, the more so that deputations have been coming in from various parts of the country pointing out the extent of the crop and the absolute necessity of allowing freedom of exports, failing which, half the crop of oil will probably be sacrificed.

On the other hand, all decisions taken with regard to restrictions on exports of certain products of this province are taken by the High Commissioners in Constantinople, and apparently no consideration has as yet been given to the question of olive oil.

It is more than likely that the farmers, especially in the Adramyt and Aivaly district, will give serious trouble to the authorities. These districts are mainly dependent on the olive crop, and the population which has been returning from Greece now finds itself unable to finance the collection and milling of their produce. Steps are being taken to bring to the notice of the authorities the necessity of raising the prohibition, and there is no doubt that in due course all restrictions will be removed.

The requirements for local consumption over the next twelve months for the whole of Asia Minor, including Constantinople, can be estimated at a maximum at 20,000 tons. This is on the basis of the consumption previous to 1914. In view, however, of the fact that the interior is entirely cut off from the seaboard, and that the soap industry is hardly likely to consume anywhere near the quantity required in pre-war days, it can be safely reckoned that the consumption will certainly not reach this figure.

So far as exports go, the most optimistic estimates for the next six months hardly exceed the figure of five or six thousand tons. There is, consequently, not only sufficient oil to meet all requirements both for local consumption and for export, but also to allow of a very large stock of the liquid remaining in the country for the coming year.

Owing to the existing prohibition of exports, business is absolutely at a standstill. Foreign shippers have no inducement to risk purchases until they are absolutely assured that they will be able to ship off any oil they may secure. Meanwhile farmers have been unable to dispose of any portion of their crop for forward delivery in order to raise sufficient funds to meet the expenses of gathering and milling of their olives, and are compelled either to borrow money from native dealers at very high rates of interest or to sell a portion of their produce at ruinously low prices to speculative buyers. As a result the gathering of the fruit is being greatly handicapped.

As we have stated above, it is generally feared that as a result of this uncertain situation a good deal of fruit will be allowed to rot on the ground, thereby lessening the quantities of oil that should have been available over the next few months. If no remedy is brought about and export facilities are not granted, the prejudice caused to the country will certainly be great, and will continue to intensify the dissatisfaction generally prevailing among the population.

Meanwhile the olive oil crops in all countries give promise of excellent results. Reports from Greece, Italy, France, Spain, and Northern Africa are satisfactory, and so far as Greece goes, all export restrictions hitherto prevailing have been entirely removed. Prices on all markets for the liquid are declining, and whereas twelve months ago olive oil was

hard to obtain at under £200 to £240 per ton, prices this season are now ruling at about £130 to £150 per ton, according to quality, and are likely to drop to a still lower level.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

Gum.

The C.E.B. report for October states that the exports via Port Sudan were 57,212 kilos of bleached of the value of ££3,284, 1,242,645 kilos of hashab of the value of ££58,911, and 193,048 kilos of talh of the value of ££4,627.

Cotton.

Berber Province.—At Kitiab pumping station the earlier cotton on sakia land near the pump was good in parts, and bolls were just forming. Later cotton on Karu Land was not so advanced, but of a low habit and branching nicely. At Zeidab the native cotton was mostly fairly good. The company had picked 2,500 kantars to date, and their cotton is above the average.

Khartoum Province.—Planting of the American cotton at the Gobel Bowser Scheme commenced, but there are considerable difficulties in erecting the pump owing to the slow fall of the river. The first pickings from American cotton, issued at Geili on June 25, were brought to Geili on October 6. This cotton has done very well, and seems most suitable for sagias.

Nuba Mountains Province.—The Government experimental cotton at Talodi ripened towards the end of the month, and is being picked daily.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar.—The cotton on the eastern side is reported to be very good. Rain is required for the less heavily watered areas near the town.

Dura.

Berber Province.—Seifi dura below Garb Village was giving a second growth by percolation without further watering.

Khartoum Province.—A curious new method of growing dura, made possible by the circumstances of this year, has been observed. Some Sagias in Gereif has grown a summer crop of dura, which was out just before the rains. The rains were so good that it was possible to grow a rain "butouk," or after-growth crop, from the same roots without further watering.

Kassala Province.—The price of dura at Kassala is PT.219, and at Gedaref PT.132 the ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

Sesame.

Sennar Province.—Sesame is being steadily dealt in, but at considerably lower prices than last year. The market opened at ££2,500 and upwards per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos), but soon dropped to ££2,400, about which it has since remained. This time last year the price was between ££3,500 and ££4 per ardeb.

Dates.

Halfa Province.—September.—Dates are being picked, and prospective buyers are arriving. It is anticipated that the quantity will be small, but quality good, and prices likely to be high.

Livestock, Hides and Skins.

Berber Province.—259 cattle, 7,831 sheep and goats were sold in Damer Market. Cattle averaged ££8 per head and sheep ££2.

Kassala Province.—Eighty-nine cattle and 1,194 sheep were exported from Kassala to the interior of the Sudan.

Red Sea Province.—256 sheep, 2 goats, and 83 head of cattle were exported via Port Sudan during the month.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended December 11:—The sales this week on our market amount to forty cases of soft and druggist's manufacturing qualities at prices more or less equivalent to those of last week, viz., 19s. to 20s. per lb. for soft Yerli, and 14s. to 17s. 6d. for the manufacturing descriptions. Owing, however, to the financial crisis that we are going through and to larger arrivals of the drug on this market this week, we have strong reasons to hope that with business in hand sellers may be disposed to sell at 5d. to 6d. per lb. lower than what we quote above. The arrivals to date are 806 cases, against 1,210 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second hands is now 822 cases. The exchange is to-day 500 piastres per pound sterling for cheque and 0.69 dollar for one Turkish paper pound.

For the week ended Dec. 18, Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows:—The sales this week on our market amount to 24 cases of soft and druggist's manufacturing qualities, at prices varying from 16s. to 17s. per lb. for soft and 13s. 6d. to 15s. per lb. for manufacturing descriptions. This decline is due to favourable exchange fluctuations, also to holders being more disposed to sell owing to the difficulty of raising money on their stocks. The arrivals to date are 851 cases, against 1,250 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second-hands is now 833 cases. The exchange is to-day piastres 590 per pound sterling for cheque and 0.62 dollars for one Turkish paper pound or piastres 100).

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

New or enlarged advertisements in this issue include those of Messrs. Edgar Allen and Co., Ltd. (p. iii.), the Bank of Athens (p. vi.), Messrs. Strick, Scott and Co., Ltd., and The Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

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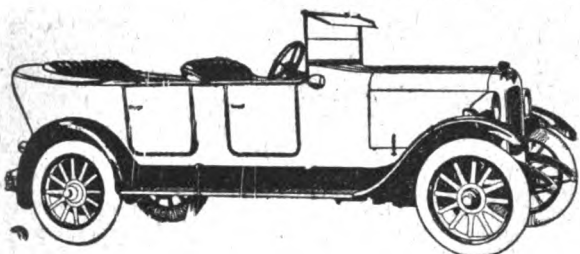
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SUCCESSFUL.

Miss A. BEATTIE-CROZIER ... 2599 Votes.

UNSUCCESSFUL.

Miss	Votes.	Miss	Votes.
J. V. A. Adye ..	2174	R. I. Y. L. Henry ..	86
K. E. A. S. Chapman ..	1360	K. M. Ussher ..	76
J. D. Chamier ..	1314	D. V. Goodwin ..	62
M. J. J. Cameron ..	1188	E. M. Sanders ..	15
P. E. Yule ..	1141	L. A. Gardner ..	14
C. E. Lewin ..	945	E. M. Rumsey ..	10
K. G. Stoker ..	860	P. C. M. H. Drayton ..	6
E. F. Wellings ..	856	G. M. Smith ..	6
M. I. Howard ..	672	Z. C. M. Iredell ..	1
M. Church ..	509	E. M. Wellings ..	1
V. I. Stansfeld ..	482	P. E. G. Stoker ..	—
S. K. R. McEntire ..	440		

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F. W. T. ATTREE,

Col. late R. E., Secretary.

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Manufacturers and Merchants may address their enquiries to the Head Office for Trade Lists of Importers and Exporters.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

The Decline Continues.

Dried Fruit.—Business has been unusually brisk this week. Currants have been in strong request, and it is evident that stocks in the country have been largely depleted as a result of the seasonable demand. There has been little alteration in the position as regards sultanas. Inquiry is somewhat restricted, but the demand remains steady. So far there have been no indications of the development of any extensive demand for figs.

Sugar.—Prices have declined. West Indian crystallised is again lower at 60-63s., and white Mauritius is lower at 71s. Home refined met with a good demand at the official prices.

Coffee.—There is no material change to report. Costa Rica has been done at 120s., Indian at 110s., and Mocha at 160s. The futures market has been inactive. Quotations are:—March, 46s. 6d.; July, 48s.; September, 41s. 6d.

Oilcakes.—Prices are unaltered in most cases. Linseed cake has been done at 18s., while cottonseed cake is 2s. lower at 10s. and arachis cake is unchanged at 13s.

Oilseeds.—The tone has been dull. Indian linseed is 1s. down at 22s. 6d., while La Plata is the same at 19s. 6d. Rapeseed has been inactive, with Toria at 22s. 6d. and bold Ferozepore at 21s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Prices are still declining. Linseed oil has come to business at 36s.-38s., a decline of 4s. Turpentine has remained the same at 100s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 215s. 3d. cwt.; butter, 335s. cwt.; cheese, 161s. cwt.; chillies, 130s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 112s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 106s. cwt.; East Indian bold, 115s. cwt.; Mocha long-berry, 132s. cwt.; eggs, 45s. 8d. per 120; ginger (washed Cochin), 47s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 220s. cwt.; lard, 167s. 9d. cwt.; nutmegs, 1s. 0½d. per 110's to 180's; pepper (Singapore, black), 3½d. lb.; Muntok white, 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 152s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 145s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 95s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 80s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 84s. cwt.; Mauritius, 78s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 24s. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 25s. cwt.; bran, Rangoon, 27 10s. cwt.; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 7d. lb.; Java, 4½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 109s. 3d. qr.; English white, 82s. 6d. qr.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer: First 90 lbs. and up, 7½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7¼d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6¾d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb. Cows (first): 60 lbs. and up, 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb. Cows (second): 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb. Bulls (first), 5d. lb.; bulls (second), 4d. lb. Kips (first), 6d. lb.; kips (second), 5d. lb.; kips (third), 4d. lb. Horse hides: 8s. to 29s. each.

Metals.—Aluminium, £165 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £73 2s. 6d. ton; copper (electro-wire bars), £84 10s. ton; gold bars, 116s. 6½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 225s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 260s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £22 7s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 2s. 6d. unit; molybdenite, 55s. unit; nickel, £215 ton; platinum, 470s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £14 bottle; silver bars, 41d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £24 5s. ton; tin (standard), £202 15s. ton; wolfram, 18s. 9d. unit; tin plates (20 by 14), £33 box; zinc sheets, £47 ton.

Chemicals.—Acids: boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 6½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 10½d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £24 8s. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 6½d. gallon; arsenic (white powdered), £74 10s. ton; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £21 ton; borax crystals, 41s. cwt.; cream of tartar, 217s. 6d. cwt. Potassium: bichromate, 1s. 3½d. lb.; chlorate, 7½d. lb.; caustic, £76 ton; nitrate, £60 ton; permanganate, 2s. 9d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £27 15s. ton; prussiate yellow, 1s. 7½d. lb. Sodium: crystals, 150s. ton; bicarbonate, £10 15s. ton; bichromate, 11½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £10 15s. ton; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £27 ton; nitrate, £22 15s. ton; hyposulphate, £28 ton; prussiate, 1s. 0½d. lb.; sulphate copper, £39 10s. ton; sulphate iron, 150s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial 125 per cent.), £155 ton; lead (red), £46 5s. ton; lead (white dry), £53 ton; lead (white ground), £62 17s. 6d. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 11.30d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian, Sakellaris), 22.00d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £19 ton; rape (Toria), £23 10s. ton; soya beans, £15 10s. ton; palm kernels, £26 17s. 6d. ton. Oils: linseed, £40 10s. ton; soya, £45 ton; cotton (crude), £43 10s. ton; olive, £1 gallon; ground nut, £46 ton; palm, £46 5s. ton; rape (crude), £71 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3d. gallon; turpentine, 100s. cwt. Rubber: plantation (No. 1 crêpe), 10½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 9½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 1½d. lb.

British Burmah Petroleum.—Balance dividend for the year to July 31 last of 1s. per share, free of tax, payable February 28 next to holders on the books on January 17, making 20 per cent., free of tax, for the year.

Reuter's Rome correspondent. in a message dated December 23, says: A semi-official statement issued here to-day denied the report that either the Italian Government or certain Italian banks had floated a loan to Yugoslavia.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ended December 30, state:—Owing to the Christmas holidays there have only been three business days since our last report, and it is hardly surprising, therefore, that the turnover has been small, particularly when present conditions are considered. Spot business, in fact, has been reduced to a minimum in all departments, with a further downward tendency. The official reports from the Liverpool Cotton Association to-day intimated that "Egyptian was pressed for sale," a phrase rarely used officially, but one which aptly sums up the depressing situation here. The enquiry, such as it was, rather favoured Sakellaris, and about one hundred bales of Sudan cotton changed hands at approximately 16.00d. Cotton is freely offered at fully 2d. per lb. below official quotations. Manchester reports show no sign of improvement and c.i.f. business has been practically at a standstill. Everyone looks to the New Year to bring an improvement, but we fear there is but little cause for doing so at the moment, as the old year closes with the Big Three—i.e., Adverse Rates of Exchange, Unsettled Political Conditions, and Financial Stringency, still as formidable as ever. Quotations of Upper are reduced 100 points; those of Brown, 50 points; whilst Sakellaris has been reduced 200 points, with the exception of Fair quality, which is 100 points lower since our last. Total sales (three days), 450, which includes 100 bales Sudan. Fully good fair Sakellaris 23.00d.

DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co. Liverpool, in a report dated December 21, state:—

Currants.—Demand has continued decidedly slow, and scarcely any business is passing, so that, all things considered, prices are holding up remarkably well. Stocks remaining in Greece are estimated at 20,000 tons, against 80,000 tons at this date last year, and this healthy statistical position, combined with the strength of the Greek market, are important factors of encouragement for the future. It is reasonable, therefore, to look for an improvement on prices now ruling as soon as any buying activity is evidenced in the New Year. The Government has made further concessions in disposing of old stocks held, sales taking place at reduced figures. Quotations are:—New fruit, Pyrgos, 70s. to 72s.; Amalfas, 75s. to 76s.; Patras, 76s. to 80s.; Gulf and Panaritii, 82s. to 90s.; Zante, 80s. to 85s.; Vostizza, 90s. to 102s. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date, 15,000 tons.

Valencia Raisins.—The remaining stock of seedless is moving slowly at 118s. to 120s.

Sultanas, at their reduced level, are selling better. The Belgravian brought some parcels of choice quality, of which the market was bare, and these have realised 153s. Quotations are:—Smyrna ordinary to fair, 130s. to 134s.; good to fine, 142s. to 153s.; Greeks, 136s. to 142s.; Afghans yellow, 115s. to 127s. 6d.; red, 100s.

Figs.—The Belgravian's fresh supplies of skeleton cases sold from 120s. to 140s. Locoums neglected. Bags of Naturals, sales range from 40s. to 58s.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended December 18 amounted to £8,776.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended December 10 amounted to £E14,620, making the total for the year £E352,154. For the corresponding periods of last year the receipts amounted to £E19,545 and £E248,153 respectively.

Banque Franco-Serbe

Capital - Frs. 20,000,000.

London Office:—

30, COLEMAN STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones: LONDON WALL 8934, 8935.

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Manager - H. E. EVITT.

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The London Office collects Drafts and Documents; issues Cheques and effects Mail and Telegraphic Transfers; accepts Bills; opens Documentary Credits; issues Letters of Credit and conducts all operations of Foreign Banking. Insurances effected through the Bank's Brokers.

Applications for Terms invited.

BANCA NAȚIUNEI

Capital and Reserve Fund: 85,000,000 LEI.

BUCHAREST: Calea Victoriei 98 (Piata Palatului Regal).

Chairman:—N. D. GHICA. Deputy-Chairman:—MIHAIL D. STURDZA. General Manager:—ION G. STOIAN.

EVERY KIND OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

The following Companies have been established by the BANCA NAȚIUNEI:—

S.T.A.R. Societatea de Tractiune Automobila din Romania.—
Capital, 10,000,000 Lei
Gospodăria Taranesti.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei
S.R.C. Societatea Rom. de Combustibil.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei
Industria Forestiera din Transilvania.—Capital, 12,000,000 Lei
Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei

Tipografia Gutenberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei
Gazeta Populara.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei
Crucea Societate pentru comerțul și industria de vestimenta și odore
bisericești.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei
Minele de Aur din Romania.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei
S.A.R.D.A. Societate Anonima Romana de Aprovizionare.—Capital, 2,000,000 Lei

BANQUE MARMOROSCH, BLANK & CO.

(Joint Stock Company).

HEAD OFFICE : BUCHAREST (Roumania).

Capital : 125,000,000 Lei.

Reserves : 140,000,000 Lei.

BUCHAREST, CONSTANTINOPLE, PARIS, NEW YORK

AND

Branches in all the Principal Towns of Great Roumania.

ROUMANIA.

AREA (after Peace Treaties of 1919) 122,282 sq. miles.

In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Colesco) 34,475,750 acres; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

POPULATION. About 17,400,000.

IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.

United Kingdom, £348,997; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182; Belgium, £43,230; Germany, £3,575,159; France, £660,287; Turkey, £558,238; Italy, £762,023.

EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.

United Kingdom, £2,238; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255; Belgium, £2,343; Germany, £7,044,803; Turkey, £443,325; Italy, £37,838.

[NOTE.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

BANQUE DE CREDIT ROUMAIN

(Joint Stock Company)

FULLY PAID-UP CAPITAL AND RESERVES:

110,000,000 LEI.

BUCHAREST.

BRAILA.

GALATZ.

CONSTANZA.

The BANK opens current accounts, collects and discounts bills, &c., on Roumania and other countries. Collects dividends, makes advances on shares and other securities, and upon merchandise, and carries on all usual banking transactions. Receives cereals on consignment and undertakes their sale.

BANCA ROMANEASCA.

Established 1911.

Authorised Capital, 160,000,000 Lei. Capital Paid Up, 100,000,000 Lei. Reserve Fund, 38,936,306 Lei.

Head Office in BUCAREST, 5, Strada Smardan.

Branches in BAZARGIC, BRAILA, CONSTANTZA, CZERNOWITZ (Bucovina), GALATZ, KISHINEFF (Bessarabia), SILISTRIA, TULCEA, TEMESVAR.

Council of Administration:—President, G. N. BAGDAT, former President of the High Court of Justice and Cour de Cassation. Vice-President, G. I. STOICESCO, former Vice-President of the Senate, Professor of the University.

Board of Directors and Members:—C. G. COCIASU, Barrister, former Vice-President of the Senate; V. BRATIANU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie, former Minister; D. D. BRAGADIRU, Merchant and Manufacturer; A. F. BADESCU, Engineer, General Manager of the Societe de Tramways de Bucarest; G. CORBESCU, Barrister; I. G. DUCA, former Minister; I. I. STANCULEANU, Barrister, former Member of Parliament; A. N. STEFANESCU, former Manager of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie.

Auditors:—D. MATAK, Engineer, Manufacturer; H. FULGA, retired, former Bank Manager; V. V. STEFAN, former General Manager of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; Em. DAN, former General Manager in the Ministry.

General Manager:—N. P. STEFANESCU, Engineer, Inspector-General, former General Manager of the Navigation Fluviale du Danube.

Manager:—I. SAVESCU. Sub-Managers:—N. BANULESCO, C. T. TEODORESCO, Ion C. PILIDI, S. HENZEL, D. CONSTANTINESCU.

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LONDON AGENTS:

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COMPTOIR NATIONAL D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS.
BANQUE BELGE POUR L'ETRANGER.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ASSOCIATED COTTON GINNERS OF EGYPT.

The following is the report of the directors, with statement of accounts as at August 31, 1920, submitted to the shareholders at the fifteenth ordinary general meeting, held at Alexandria on December 9:—

We have pleasure in placing before the shareholders for their approval our fifteenth annual report, together with the audited accounts to August 31, 1920. The quantity of cotton ginned in our factories during the year 1919-20 was cantars 789,254.12, against cantars 700,821.47 in 1918-19, and steam-pressed cantars 97,454.24, against cantars 4,781.94 in 1918-19. The following are the results to August 31, 1920:—

	£E
Factory profits	78,258
Less Sundry repairs and renewals in the factories	2,862
	75,396
Less Expenses and Management at head office,	
Alexandria	£E 6,771
Interest on Debentures	£E 3,649
Less Interest earned	3,547
	102
Sundry expenses	1,804
Insurance premiums	2,134
Commissions	101
	10,912
	64,484
Less Depreciation on buildings and machinery ...	7,065
Depreciation on Mazout and hot-air installation	10,000
Depreciation Egyptian Unified Debt. 4 per cent. à 67	2,470
Special reserve for contingencies	2,500
	22,035
	42,449
Less Statutory reserve, 10 per cent.	4,245
Dividend, as per statutes, 6 per cent., to shareholders	21,060
	25,305
	17,144
Less 10 per cent. to the board of directors	1,714
	15,430
Leaving a balance of	54,323
We have therefore to deal with the following amounts:—	
Statutory dividend of 6 per cent.	21,060
Above-mentioned balance of	15,430
Amount brought forward from last year	17,838
	54,323
of which your board propose to distribute as dividend to the shareholders two shillings per share, making...	35,100
and to carry forward	19,228

Your board, having received favourable offers, has sold the following factories:—Ex. Bacos Zagazig, ex. Russe Zagazig, ex. Chorem Zagazig, ex. Antoniadis Mit-Yazid, and the land at Abousir, sales which have enabled the company to redeem all outstanding debentures. We regret to have to inform you of the resignation of our chairman, Mr. Percy W. Carver, who for long years has devoted his energy to the benefit of the company. In accordance with Article 102 of our articles of association, Mr. Herbert Benjamin Carver succeeded as director on the board. In consequence of the death of the late Mr. Michel-Sinadino, the remaining number of directors being insufficient for all statutory purposes, your board has nominated Mr. T. S. Richmond a director, and ask for your approval. Mr. Alex. Th. Kitroeff, who has held the position since the constitution of the company first of manager and then of managing director, has resigned his post; and your board has appointed Mr. A. H. Hornbostel general manager of the company, and has asked Mr. Alex. Th. Kitroeff to remain as director. You are now asked to approve and adopt the report and balance-sheet for the year ending August 31, 1920, as presented. You have also to appoint auditors for the ensuing year and to fix their fees. Messrs. Russell, Harris, and Co. offer themselves for re-election.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

The thirty-first ordinary general meeting of the members of the Imperial Bank of Persia was held on December 29 at the Cannon Street Hotel, Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., the chairman, presiding.

The Manager and Secretary (Mr. Sydney Rogers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' certificate,

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said:—Gentlemen, —The report and accounts have been in your hands for some days, and I assume it is your pleasure that we take them as read. They will not require much explanation. It is a source of satisfaction that for the first time for three years we are able to hold our annual meeting within the calendar year. We have only just succeeded in doing this, as the returns from Persia were rather delayed, and our thanks are due to the audi-

tors and to our London staff for the exertions they have made to complete the accounts in time for to-day's meeting.

I regret to say that the political situation in Persia has again been very unsettled during the past year. When I spoke to you last March at our annual meeting we were able to congratulate ourselves that at last, after the troubles of the war, Persia had for some months been enjoying a period of comparative peace and tranquillity, and I ventured to say that unless there were a renewal of the Bolshevik attacks from the north-west there was every reason to expect that the country would speedily recover from the effects of the war, especially if—as contemplated by the Anglo-Persian agreement—the work of financial reform were seriously taken in hand. Unfortunately, the hope that the Bolsheviks would abstain from further aggression has not been realised. In May last they attacked Enzeli by sea from Baku, seized the vessels which had been interned there after General Denikin's defeat, and took possession of the town. Later on they occupied Resht, from which you remember they had been ousted by General Dunsterville in the course of his brilliantly conducted expedition in the summer of 1918. The attack on Resht obliged us to close our branch there and to recall our staff. This was effected in good time without loss. The return of the Bolsheviks had the effect of encouraging Kuchik Khan and his Jangali followers in Mazandaran to renew their opposition to the Persian Government, and at one time there was some apprehension that Teheran might be attacked by these insurgents. They were, however, defeated by a force detached from the Persian Cossack Brigade, which, as you know, has for many years been maintained at Teheran under Russian officers. Later on the Cossacks, in their turn, met with a severe reverse in an attempt to capture Enzeli, and both that town and Resht are still in Bolshevik occupation. It is needless to remark that this invasion of Persian territory was entirely unjustified and unprovoked.

With regard to the balance-sheet, the totals on each side show some change from those of a year ago. Capital remains the same and needs no comment, but in view of the board's earnest desire to add year by year to the strength of the bank, we have again placed £30,000 to reserve account, bringing it up to its present amount—namely, £280,000—a record not reached before, and one your directors hope may be passed in the years to come. Notes in circulation are lower this year by £428,997—at £670,204. I do not view this fall with any dissatisfaction. In a country like Persia the fluctuations in circulation are often considerable and frequent, and this year the unsettled period through which Persia is now passing partly explains the reduction. Also, although we know that the popularity of our notes remains unimpaired, we think our chief manager is wise, at times like the present, to keep the circulation well under control, and limited to such a figure as is considered prudent. The closing of the Resht and Tabriz branches and the calling in of the issue of these two centres has also contributed to the decline now shown.

On the assets side of the account, cash stands at £3,339,574 as against the previous year's figures of £2,103,003, but if you will note that the million of Treasury Bills appearing in last year's account has been turned into cash, the total increase of some £1,236,571 is not remarkable. Investments and bills discounted, loans, and advances are both lower at £1,535,222 and £1,738,769 respectively. The decrease in the first item, investments, is brought about by the need for a liquid state of assets at the present time, when the holders of gilt-edged stocks have the rueful experience of watching their steady depreciation day by day.

With regard to the second item, bills discounted, loans, and advances, since the beginning of 1920, when it was becoming evident that the temporary boom in trade had reached its height, we endeavoured to keep abreast of the times by adopting a system of rationing our customers, both here and abroad, and we are in the happy position to-day of being able to show a very liquid balance-sheet. In addition to proportionately high cash resources we have in bills receivable at £1,591,989, as against £987,733 last year, an increase of £604,256 of easily marketable assets. As you will see from the short explanatory note printed in the balance-sheet, on the date to which our account was made up we had discounted of those bills £625,459, of which up to December 18 the contingent liability on £493,595 had run off. Bank premises, furniture, and stationery, I should like to say something more about than usual. This item, at £55,419, shows an increase of £42,360 on last year's figures. This is caused mainly by purchases of premises and other installation expenses of our newly opened agencies, all of which, you will admit, is nowadays an expensive business in comparison with a few years ago. In the future, as more settled conditions prevail in Persia, we shall have to add to this item, as many much-needed repairs and extensions of our properties have had to remain in abeyance during the past five or six years. You will, however, notice, if you refer to past balance-sheets, that during those years we have provided for this eventuality. In 1913 this item stood at £55,308, while up to September, 1919, we had steadily written this item down to £13,059.

The various items in profit and loss account speak for themselves; they show very little change from last year's figures. There is the usual payment to the Persian Government on account of royalty, the interim and final dividend, at the same rate as last year, the amounts placed to reserve and premises accounts, leaving us £29,051 to carry forward to next year's accounts, or £1,242 more than at this time last year.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, the retiring directors were re-elected, and the meeting terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and the staff.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 18.

The commercial market, the situation of which is so unsatisfactory owing to the stagnation and the fall in prices in Europe, has this week been affected by the rise in the exchange. The pound having passed above 600 piastres, and all the exchanges having risen in a more or less formidable proportion, merchants have found it impossible to take up the merchandise consigned to them. Prices of foodstuffs have risen to a certain extent as a result of the movement of the exchanges.

The market in manufactured goods continues to be adversely influenced by the lack of openings and the fall in prices in manufacturing centres.

Colonial Produce.

Sugar.—A new drop has to be recorded in American of one to two dollars. The arrivals of the week have only amounted to thirty wagons. The market is quiet, the exchange paralysing transactions. Quotations are: Java, prompt shipment from America, 13 dollars per 100 kilos; American sugar, 16 dollars. In this market the price is £60 per ton, and in Customs £T42 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—The fall in prices continues in centres of production, especially for futures, which points very plainly to a further fall. The effect of this fall has been lessened here by the movements of the exchange. Quotations (per oke) are: Rio No. 1 Ps. 45, second qualities Ps. 41-43, in Customs Ps. 50-64, according to quality.

Rice.—The fall continues in the price of this commodity. The arrivals of the week have been 15 wagons of Saigon and 10 wagons of American (Blue Rose), most of which has been warehoused for lack of buyers. Prices are:—Saigon No. 1 (immediate shipment from Marseilles) 135-140 francs per 100 kilos, in this market Ps. 20-21 per oke in transit, American Blue Rose (prompt shipment) 14-14½ dollars per 100 kilos.

Exports

Products for export are so neglected that, despite the rise in the exchange of about 20 per cent. in the course of a few days, the demand has been insignificant and prices show no improvement.

Mohair.—Arrivals, 400 bales; sales, 80 bales at Ps. 75 per oke. Quotations are: Ps. 75 extras, Ps. 60-65 1.

Wool.—Arrivals, 140 bales. Sales, nil. Prices are very low.

ALEXANDRETTA, Nov. 15.

The routes between Alexandretta and Aleppo and between Alexandretta and Antioch are now safe, so a fairly important movement of commodities has taken place. Unfortunately this market, which is concerned principally with the transit trade, has not benefited to any great extent.

HAIFA.

The report for November states:—The economic situation of this region, far from improving, is suffering from the monetary stringency and the prohibition of the export of the principal articles of agricultural produce such as wheat, barley, and maize, of which there are considerable stocks here and no purchasers.

Prices of cereals have fallen by 10, and even 20, per cent. for some commodities. The market is very quiet.

Reuter's Paris correspondent, in a message dated January 3, states that a correspondent of *The Chicago Tribune* in Athens reports that a British company has obtained oil concessions in Thrace from the Greek Government.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000

CONSTANTINOPLE.

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.

Lt.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. P. REDON
B. KERESTEDJIAN
J. UNGAR

} Directors.

DJEVAD BEY.
HAMID BEY.
NOURY BEY.

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Alexandria. Cairo.
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CYPRUS.

Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

ON 'CHANGE.**Tone More Cheerful.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday night.

A much better tone has been in evidence since I last wrote, and by the way in which markets have opened the New Year it would really appear as if the worst of the depression was over. The reasons for the changed outlook are several, the most important being the absence of adverse factors abroad coupled with a cessation of liquidation. When to that is added the development of a moderate amount of buying, it will be readily understood why prices in most markets have readily responded to the prevailing atmosphere.

Gilt-edged stocks generally have been specially good, and notable advances are to be recorded. Foreign bonds, while lacking the strength of the Home securities, have shown a fair degree of firmness, though in this direction there has been a certain amount of irregularity.

The other markets have in general shown marked improvement. Industrials, as a whole, have been more cheerful in the absence of the flood of selling that has so long been in evidence, and in a number of directions advances have taken place. There have, however, been a few weak spots. Oils have been very cheerful, the outstanding feature being Mexican Eagles, while Royal Dutch and Shells have been very strong. Rubbers, *mirabile dictu*, have made an effort to recover some of the lost ground, and there have been quite a number of small rises. The improvement in this market has been aided by a slight hardening in the raw material.

Near Eastern securities have been generally weak, with the exception of Greek issues, which have been rather firmer. In Government funds changes have, however, been insignificant. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are unchanged at 58, while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent., 1855, are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 65 $\frac{1}{2}$. Greek Guaranteed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., 1898, are the same at 54 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Turkish 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Egyptian Tribute Bonds are $\frac{1}{4}$ lower at 51 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Greek securities have shown improvement in a number of cases. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan and 5 per cent. 1884 issue remain at 40. The 5 per cent. 1890 Loan has gained a point at 40, while Fundings are the same at 40. The 1910 Loan has advanced a point at 31, and the 1914 Loan has gained a like amount at 39. The 1902 Loan is 2 points down at 33.

Banks have been variable. Agricultural 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Bonds at 55 and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds at 57 are unaltered. Imperial Ottoman Banks have shed $\frac{3}{4}$ at 7, and National Bank of Egypt at 16 are down $\frac{1}{2}$. Land Banks are unchanged at 4 $\frac{3}{8}$.

There have been a number of changes in Land shares, mostly in a downward direction. Beheras have dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ points to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the preference shares have declined $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 $\frac{3}{8}$. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments and Egyptian Consolidated Lands are unchanged at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1s. 3d. respectively. Delta Lands at 9s. and Gharbieh Lands at 1 11-16 have fallen 1s. and 1-16 respectively. New Egyptians have been done at 21s., a decline of 3s. 6d., while Union Foncières have shed $\frac{1}{2}$ point to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Sudan Plantations have been weak, and have dropped 9-16 to 3 7-16.

Oils have been dull with the exception of Anglo-Egyptians, which have risen 5-16 to 2 11-16. Phoenix are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 9s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Roumanian Consolidated at 10s. are 2s. 6d. down, but Steaua Romana remains unchanged at 18s.

Roumanian banks have granted important credits to the Bucharest Government to enable it to increase its orders for locomotives from abroad.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.**More Hopeful Mood.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, January 3.

At the time of writing traders in the market have scarcely got into their stride after the holidays, and certain firms will not reopen until to-morrow. There is not much ground for belief in an early improvement in trade, but producers and merchants are in a fairly hopeful mood, as it is held that conditions cannot get worse than during the last few weeks. Lancashire users of Egyptian cotton continue to purchase sparingly. There is no change in the outlook for supplies, but it is noted that the receipts at Alexandria are decidedly below last year. In Egyptian yarns only a hand-to-mouth business is being done, and buyers can purchase at figures which show a loss to producers. In cloth for Egypt a certain amount of inquiry is about, but most of this sort of thing is for stocktaking purposes and for the valuation of stocks bought a long time ago. No activity shows itself for the outlets of the Levant. Comparatively few bids are being met with for India. Our customers in China are anxious to keep in touch with Manchester rates, but definite offers are scarce. No demand worth mentioning has come through for South America. The position of manufacturers remains wretched, and there is a tendency in some districts for still more looms to stand idle. Quotations in American yarns continue very irregular. The offtake has again been poor. Only odd lots are being sold in shipping counts, but a little more inquiry is reported for the Continent.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian—Gemsah, week ended December 26, nil (last week nil); Hurgada, 3,295 tons (last week 3,359 tons).

The Bulgarian Government declares that it is willing to restore all rolling-stock and other material captured from Serbia during the war and hitherto retained, and has asked that traffic which has been suspended recently shall be resumed.

The Treasury have decided to exercise the option, under Clause 3 of Scheme B for the regulation of foreign exchanges, of returning Egyptian Government Three and a-Half per Cent. preference bonds on March 15, 1921, from which date the additional allowance will cease.

The India Office reports:—Treasury bills outstanding on March 31, 1920, Rs. 52,96,60,000; issued from April 1 to December 25, 1920, Rs. 97,80,20,000; total, Rs. 150,76,80,000; discharged from April 1 to December 25, 1920, Rs. 49,08,40,000; outstanding on December 25, 1920, Rs. 101,68,40,000.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	48'50-49'50
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	128-132
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1'5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bucharest	Lei to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	270-290
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1'5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	550-570
New York	Dollars to £	4'86 $\frac{3}{4}$	3'53 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3'54 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paris	Francs to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	60'00-60'60
Prague	Kronen to £	24'02	300-320
Rome	Lireto £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	102-104
Sofia	Levas to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	315
Teheran	Krans to £	50	36
Vienna	Kronen to £	24'02	1,450-1,700
Warsaw	Marks to £	20'43	2,100-2,300

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, January 8).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London January 7); s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 12); s.s. Mahratta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London January 18); s.s. Malakand for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 26); s.s. Maihar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London February 5); s.s. Stookwell for Calcutta (Glasgow, January 29, and Birkenhead, February 9).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 12); s.s. Leicestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 26).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Lord Broughton for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna and Constantza (Liverpool, January 15).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Lamont for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 13).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Sea Serpent for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople and Constantza (London, January 12); s.s. Brescia for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Glasgow, January 15, and Liverpool, January 22).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Destro for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, January 8).

Ellerman City Line.—S.s. City of Baroda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 19); s.s. City of Glasgow for Calcutta (January 31).

Ellerman Hall Line.—S.s. City of Alexandria for Karachi and the Punjab, Bombay and Malabar coast ports (Liverpool, January 12).

Glen Line.—S.s. Carnarvonshire for Port Said, etc. (London, January 20); s.s. Pembrokehire for Port Said, etc. (London, February 3); s.s. Gleniffer for Port Said, etc. (London, February 17).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Craftsman for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 18); s.s. Orator for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 31); s.s. Tactician for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 31).

Holt Line.—S.s. Atræus for Port Said, etc. (Glasgow, January 27); s.s. Hyson for Port Said, etc. (Glasgow, January 27).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Cundall for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna; Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna and Constantza (Liverpool, January 22). A steamer for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna and Constantza (Liverpool, January 22). A steamer for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, January 29).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Asturian for Algiers, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, January 15).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Malwa for Bombay (London, January 14); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 21); s.s. Dongola for Bombay (London, January 28); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, January 28).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Nowshera for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, January 15); s.s. Hatimwra for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 22); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 5); s.s. Tremere for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 5).

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

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

Photographic Material.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of photographic apparatus and materials (chemical, etc.) required for the year 1921-2. Tenders, which must be submitted by persons or firms residing or having a representative in Egypt, should be marked "Tender for the supply of Photographic Material," and addressed to The Director, Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, Egypt. January 31, 1921 (L.).

India.

Refuse Destructor.—The Municipality of Bombay invites tenders for the manufacture, erection, and equipment of a refuse destructor for 200 tons of refuse a day. (Spec., 5s., Sir John Wolfe Barry, Lyster, and Partners, 2, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.) March 4.

Pumping Plant.—The Municipal Committee, Simla, invite tenders for supplying, erecting, and running for one month a new pumping plant, consisting of three units and steel rising mains, etc., with all fittings for the water supply. The pump lift (excluding friction) is 3,939 ft. The Municipal Committee is prepared to consider alternative tenders for other forms of plant to do the duty required by the specification. (Specification, etc., Municipal Office, Simla, Rs.10.) March 28.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated December 20:—During the week ending December 11 crop prospects generally fair, but rain urgently required in the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Central Provinces, Bombay, Hyderabad, and parts of Central India, and Madras. Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomra March, Rs. 270. Piece goods market lifeless. Calcutta jute market dull, with no overseas enquiry, but local rates steady. Hessians dull, with declining prices. Heavy goods quiet, with easier rates. No change in bank rates.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge. Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

102. A stamp collector wishes to purchase used Austrian stamps prior to the 1882 issue. Stamp dealers in the liberated provinces of Austria are asked to send bulk packages of such stamps to the care of the Editor of THE NEAR EAST, with the price in kronen of each stamp or price per dozen, per 100, etc., of each kind. All stamps required will be paid for at the price indicated and the rest returned. Newspaper stamps are not required, but rare postmarks should be included.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

104. A Greek firm is establishing an electric light station in Macedonia, and wishes to get into touch with firms dealing in the necessary machinery.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

107. Old established Turkish firm handling general stores situated in Smyrna and having branches in the interior invites exporters to quote prices for groceries. The firm also acts as agents for articles of general consumption in Asia Minor.

108. Hemp manufacturer in Croatia wishes to get into touch with rope manufacturers who would purchase hemp.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The New Viceroy of India.

The prolonged uncertainty regarding Lord Chelmsford's successor has been terminated by the announcement that Lord Reading has been selected for what is, at the moment, the most anxious office in the British Empire. Lord Reading's career, as advocate, politician, and judge, is not of the kind associated in the past with the appointment. But the successful way in which he grappled with a large variety of very difficult and important international problems (more, indeed, than the public is generally aware of) connected with the war is of good augury at the present juncture. His main duty will be to see that the new provincial governments get fair play, unhampered by the interference of superior persons in Delhi or Whitehall, and at the same time supported in their struggle against the enemy within their gates. We do not regard the occasion as one for the offer of congratulation to Lord Reading, but we may be permitted to express with confidence the hope that the Viceroy-designate will maintain the great traditions of his office, and at the same time remould them so far as may be necessary to meet the requirements of the new era.

A Middle Eastern Department.

The prospect of changes in the Cabinet has given rise to a hope in some quarters that the Prime Minister will avail himself of the opportunity to create a Middle Eastern Department. It is an unfortunate moment for increasing the number of State Departments, and behind the proposal is merely the desire to see Middle Eastern affairs handled by the British Government with fuller knowledge and greater success. A question on which the British public has no means of forming an opinion is whether, given the most profound knowledge in the Foreign Office of the Near and Middle East, it would have had the least chance of finding expression in the decisions that have determined British policy under the present régime. A new Department in such circumstances might have equally little opportunity of making itself heard, and the remedy indicated is that the authority of the Cabinet as a whole or that of an Inner Cabinet should be restored with a view to relieving the Prime Minister of work with which he cannot possibly cope. If the claims of the Dominions for special consideration be met, there is much to be said for Mr. Ormsby-Gore's suggestion that the Colonial Office should become the Office for Imperial Administration, responsible for Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Terri-

tories. Such an arrangement would at least prevent the divided control which has proved so prejudicial in the past to British interests in the Middle East.

Greece in Transition.

The political changes in Greece have taken place, as far as can be judged, with a welcome absence of vendetta or excesses. This state of affairs, it is to be hoped, will continue, as it would certainly bring the Government and King Constantine's régime into the worst disrepute if the events of December, 1916, were re-enacted. Constantinople, unhappily, provides a hot-bed of Greek passion. The frenzied scenes that marked the celebration of M. Venizelos's name-day have been followed by a dastardly attempt to murder a Greek officer, Major Dragoumis, who would be known as a staunch supporter of King Constantine. Major Dragoumis, fortunately, escaped, though wounded. His family, among the best-known and most respected in Greece, lost the elder son only a few months ago, murdered by a party of soldiers in Athens. It would have been a particularly tragic fate if the second son, also a young man of considerable promise, had fallen as well a victim to a loyalty that was never other than constitutional.

The Palestine Frontier.

Relations between France and Great Britain, which were supposed to be slightly lacking in cordiality a little while ago, are to-day much more cordial again. The Near East, however, still presents a good many problems—some of them important—on which we do not see eye to eye with our Allies, and though it is to be hoped that we shall both be ready at all times to consider the other's point of view, it is equally to be hoped that we shall both endeavour to avoid any appearance of bargaining—not to say haggling—together. An excellent example of what to avoid in this direction was provided last week in an article on the Palestine-Syrian frontier agreement, contributed to *Le Matin* by M. André Fribourg, a member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the French Chamber. In effect this writer told his countrymen that they had made a fool's bargain, giving up something for nothing; and that if France's diplomatic victories continued in this fashion she would soon find that in place of the vast zone accorded to her by the agreements of 1916 she would own only enough territory to enable her to maintain sufficient troops to ensure the security of English zones further inland. This territory, he professes to think, France would be allowed to occupy until the disappearance of all danger from Mustapha Kemal's followers.

M. Fribourg appears to have a rather short memory, since he can write thus in face of the facts regarding the liberation of Syria and Palestine from the Turks and the manner in which the French and British respectively came into occupation of their "zones."

The Crown Prince of Turkey Interviewed.

The Crown Prince of Turkey has accorded two interviews to Western journalists since New Year's Day, the first to the Constantinople correspondent of the *Morning Post*, and the second to a representative of *Le Gaulois*. It has always been understood that His Royal Highness is well disposed to this country, and the first interview strengthens the impression. That was doubtless to be expected; for the Turk, whatever faults may be laid to his charge, has rarely shown ill-manners in dealing with foreigners, and has never been accused of not knowing how to use the phrase complimentary. But in this case we have more than compliments: there are practical proposals; and both interviews show that the Prince has not for one moment lost sight of the Allied point of view. The *Sèvres Treaty* he cannot regard as a masterpiece of modern diplomacy—a view which is shared by many people—and he would like it to be modified in some important respects; but others of equal importance he is ready to accept loyally, and he is confident that if his views were adopted by the Allies, he could secure their acceptance by the Nationalists, either with or without the approval of Mustapha Kemal.

His Point of View.

Smyrna is, of course, the point on which the Crown Prince expresses himself most emphatically, and, like other Turks, he shows that the real rub comes in handing it over to the Greeks. He would with a good grace see it in the occupation of the Allies for the five years stipulated for in the Treaty; and he hinted that recent events had renewed Turkish hopes in this direction. As to Thrace, he would not ask that it should be restored to Turkey "immediately," but suggests that it should be granted autonomy for twenty-five years, its administration being in Allied hands for that period; and as to the Straits and the Turkish debt, he would be ready to give any guarantees that the Allies might wish. To the *Morning Post* correspondent he expressed pleasure that Colonel Walter Guinness and General Townshend had spoken as they had in the House of Commons on Anglo-Turkish relations and the Treaty, and that Turkey still had friends in this country; and concluded by affirming his personal conviction that, whatever the state of world politics at present, a day would come when Great Britain would resume towards Turkey her friendly policy of the past. He had earlier been at pains to emphasise the services that Turkey could render to us in appeasing any disturbances that might arise in the Moslem world, and had referred to her value as a barrier against any extension of Bolshevism. It would be easier to make light of such arguments if our Moslem fellow-subjects were not at this very time showing many signs of restlessness, and if Bolshevism were as nearly dead as we were assured was the case two years ago.

News of Arabia.

It is now generally recognised that the War has given to Arabia and Arabian politics an importance which certainly did not attach to them before; and at this time developments in the Arabian Peninsula must have a peculiar interest for Great Britain. Yet in many ways the peninsula is much as it was before the war; we know practically nothing of what is going on in its interior; and even from the coastal and border regions news is meagre, and frequently contradictory. We know, for instance, very little regarding the actual state of affairs in the Yemen and Asir, and a question in Parliament on the subject put by Mr. Ormsby-Gore a few days before Christmas elicited no fresh information. Mr. Harmsworth took the opportunity to state that the Idrissi, who rules over Asir, is in cordial relationship with our Government, which is, of course, satisfactory as far as it goes; but regarding the Yemen he could, or would, say nothing new, though he would not admit that our attitude towards the Imam at Sanaa was a purely negative one. It is to be hoped that a more satisfactory state-

ment may be forthcoming shortly. At the end of last week it was announced that "local bands" had crossed into the territory of King Hussein of the Hejaz, and were moving against Tayef and threatening communications between that city and Medina. A later report, from Cairo, attributes the move to the Wahhabite followers of Ibn Saud, and states that the attack has been repulsed, with severe losses to the raiders.

The Indian Congress.

The information regarding the Indian Congress supplied to the public in this country has been far from complete owing to the habit, which seems to be growing upon the cable, of subordinating concrete facts to the impressions of unspecified and not always important individuals. So much, however, is plain that the anticipations of a "break-away" indulged in by some writers during December have not been realised: the Congress, or what was left of it after the withdrawal of the Moderate elements, adhered to its old traditions, and danced to the tune played by its self-chosen leaders, the familiar tune of jealousy and hatred. The resolutions were, as usual, characterised by careful ambiguity: the declared goal of *Swaraj*, or Home Rule, means just whatever anybody chooses; its realisation by all legitimate methods involves a determination of the criterion of legitimacy which does not appear to have been yet attempted; and the concrete decision to boycott the tax-collector at some date to be fixed later on leaves an obvious loophole for indefinite procrastination. But the plain fact remains that an important section of Indian life has reaffirmed its determination to wreck the new constitution in whatever way it can.

Extremist Reactionaries.

In the circumstances we cannot wonder that one at least of the Labour members present at the Congress should take a gloomy view of the future of Indian politics; Colonel Wedgwood had made a gallant effort to rally the apostles of non-co-operation to the constitution, and the failure of his appeal doubtless brought the facts home to him in the most effective manner possible. At any rate, he is certainly justified in describing the movement as directed against Western civilisation rather than Western rule: Mr. Gandhi and his associates stand for a return to the old India, the India of political tyranny and spiritual ascendancy; the new constitution is designed to bring about the ultimate elimination of those persistent ideals; and the issue is not one which admits of compromise. The proceedings of the Congress show that the issue is now definitely joined, and some at least of the speeches suggest that on the extremist side the campaign is to be conducted largely by appeals to the ignorant masses, who are still outside the constitution. Such appeals may well succeed, for the masses have no great cause to be content with their present position, and they have too little experience of affairs to realise that they are being called back to the darkness when they want to go forward towards the light.

The Constitution in Being.

Meanwhile, the new constitution is rapidly being brought into existence. The dyarchic executives have been appointed in the various provinces, the reconstitution of the Viceroy's Council is, we understand, practically complete, and the new legislatures have been elected, despite the opposition of the Extremist faction. Such details of the elections as have reached us are distinctly encouraging; it is true that in some urban constituencies the bulk of the voters preferred not to face the hostility which had been so carefully organised, but the country is more important than the towns, and when we read of fifty or sixty per cent. of votes recorded, and of majorities of from five to ten thousand, in some of the "backward" districts of Oudh, we realise that the country has taken its first lesson in practical democratic politics. Whether legislators who have secured so large a measure of popular support will be content to watch passively the destruction of their position by the efforts of the Extremists is a question which will probably answer itself in the course of the next few months.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

Reconstructing the Government.

The appointment of Lord Reading to India has been received here in the same spirit of unenthusiastic surprise that would have been shown had he been made Archbishop of Canterbury. His course will be closely watched by enemies as well as friends.

His departure will make a vacancy in the office of Lord Chief Justice, and that, as well as the fact that it is assumed that Mr. Montagu will leave the India Office, necessitates some reconstruction of the Government. Sir Gordon Hewart, the Attorney-General, is generally believed to desire to be the next Chief Justice, and he would fill the post with dignity and knowledge. As Attorney-General there is a kind of unwritten law that he can claim the post if he wishes; but he is so useful to the Government in the House of Commons—where, curiously enough, it is not overstocked with able political lawyers—that efforts may be made to waive his rights. As Chief Justice he could hold the post for the rest of his life, certainly for twenty years; as Attorney-General, of course, he comes and goes with the Government.

If Sir Gordon Hewart passes himself over, Mr. Shortt may go from the Home Office to the Bench. He is a capable administrator, but he has never played a conspicuous part in politics, and is little known outside Westminster. It is said, too, that Mr. Walter Long, who has been unwell for some time, may seize the occasion of a general post to leave the Admiralty; he is getting an oldish man, although his cheeks still have the peach-blossom hue of bashful seventeen. Those who want Mr. Chamberlain to leave the Exchequer are again reviving the story that he would do well to go to the India Office.

Lord Milner and the Colonial Office.

The retirement of Lord Milner from the Colonial Office is certain; he would have resigned his office some time ago, but stayed on at the direct request of the Prime Minister. Colonel Amery is mentioned as a possible successor; he has proved an ideal Under-Secretary. Lord Milner's post will be a difficult one to fill, for the time has come to rearrange the Colonial Office. The Dominions ought to be made a separate office altogether, their status being entirely different from that of the Crown Colonies.

In any event, the British Empire is a very different thing now from what it was in 1914; the status of various oversea territories has largely changed, and the political attitude of their people has changed, as has that of folks at home. In these circumstances it is clear that the status of the Colonial Office itself will have to be changed.

Maeterlinck at the Gaiety.

I remember as a boy hearing what seemed an incredibly aged man—he was then about forty—lamenting the decadence of the times and the downfall of the Gaiety Theatre, because it had given up burlesque for musical comedy. It has now made a still more amazing change; for the home of "The Shop Girl" and "The Spring Chicken" has taken to Maeterlinck and symbolism.

The new play, "The Betrothal," is a sequel to "The Blue Bird"; the woodcutter's boy has grown up, and chooses him a wife. He is shadowed by the spirits of his ancestors—one of the critics cruelly remarks that it is illogical to make all his ancestors males—and by Destiny, who becomes smaller and smaller in size as the play proceeds. Just what symbolic meaning attaches to this every spectator must decide for himself.

The play is exquisitely mounted, and will become the rage; it seems almost certain to last out the year. The critics are divided as to its merits, but most are agreed that it is not equal to "The Blue Bird"; but then they always say this about any sequel.

The most attractive figure, and the most singular, in the whole play is Miss Gladys Cooper as Joy. For several scenes she is veiled, and does not speak; even when unveiled—more symbolism—she says only a few words. It is a difficult part for so vivacious an actress, but her wonderful beauty, which is proverbial, carries

her through triumphantly. But somehow one fails to associate her with Joy. The restless, almost discontented look which is her natural attitude makes her the Monna Lisa of our times; it is hardly what one thinks of as Joy.

The Bank Returns.

It was unfortunate that, at a time when people are rather nervous about financial stability, the failure of Farrow's Bank should be followed by the suspension of Hannevig's Bank, which had recently assumed a more pretentious title. But Hannevig's was a small affair, and the word bank was rather a misnomer.

If the timid are really beginning to think they had better put their money in a stocking for safe keeping, the reports of the great joint-stock institutions issued this week should reassure them as to the stability of legitimate banking. Investments have been written down and reserves increased; the situation is absolutely sound.

The figures of the Clearing House returns show the extraordinary volume of business done. In 1916 the total turnover was 15½ thousand millions; in 1920 it was 39 thousand millions. But there are signs when the last year's figures are examined closely of the diminished spending power of the public. The total for the first six months was £20,175,000,000; for the second, £18,844,000,000.

These enormous figures remind me of a story I was told recently of an impecunious actor who approached his local bank manager for a small overdraft. The suburban representative of the Big Five was perfectly willing to allow the modest £25 advance, but he thought it proper to read the mummer a lecture on thrift first. After two or three well-phrased sentences, the actor interrupted him with a magnificent gesture: "Dear boy, if the bank hasn't got the money I will suffer, starve, and die, rather than embarrass them; I had no idea their poverty was greater than mine." He got the overdraft and escaped the lecture.

The Income Tax.

There seems to be a sudden outburst of wrath against the Income-Tax officials. A new system of assessment was introduced last year, and is now operative; it looks complicated, but in fact it is less difficult to understand than its predecessor. I am assured that it is also more difficult to evade; but being a journalist, and therefore a devotee of the goddess of Truth, I know nothing of evasion.

However, it appears that the income-tax people themselves have failed to understand the new system, and have grossly overcharged practically everybody. The complaints are numbered by thousands that abatements and allowances which should have been made have not been made, and the wicked have suggested that the Treasury has told its myrmidons to try it on, and see what happens. But it is highly improbable that the Treasury would do anything of the kind.

The story of over-assessment comes from various parts of the country, so there must be something in it; it has been hinted in defence that the officials are overworked and harassed, but that requires a good deal of believing. I am afraid, however, that the income-tax men take a very cynical view of the honesty of the public; I remember the dictum of an acquaintance who had spent his life in that occupation: "If every overcharge and underpayment of income tax were rigorously enquired into by

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an auditor at the Day of Judgment," he said, "you might find a dozen or so officials condemned to the nether regions for extortion, but you would certainly find the bulk of the public condemned for evasion."

He told me a story of a man who for years had returned his income at a precise figure—£998, £1,002, £975. For a long time they suspected nothing, the amounts seemed so carefully calculated, but after a while it dawned on them that the man was living at a far higher rate. To test him, they assessed him at £5,000. He had, of course, the right of appeal, but he paid without a murmur. The next year they took him to £7,500, and he paid without protest; the third year they tried him at £10,000. This time he rebelled, and they asked him to show his books. He kept no books, or said he did not, but he gave them a solemn assurance that his income was only £9,500, and offered to give a sum to any charitable institution they might name in order to avoid proceedings "which would hurt his reputation." A few days later the Chancellor of the Exchequer acknowledged an unusually large amount of conscience money.

Municipal Reform.

A general chorus of lamentation seems to be forthcoming from the county councils and municipalities on the question of the rates. They have been extravagant in the past, but, despite the heavy burdens they have imposed on the wretched householder, they are seriously overdrawn at the banks. A good many excellent schemes will have to be abandoned or postponed, for the public has rebelled against the burdens; and one fancies that a number of officials might be retrenched. Otherwise there may be a movement to reform the whole system of local government. The Labour candidates who, like Mr. Sidney Webb, believe in high rates, suffered a serious setback last November on that account, and they are now bewailing the tide of reaction and the short-sightedness of the public, which prefers to keep its money in its pocket.

January Sales.

The shopkeepers, who discovered last autumn that women had at last learnt economy, or had had it driven into them by callous husbands, have been advertising bargains more incredible than ever. They have even taken us into their confidence, and, with an engaging candour, told us that they want money, and are, therefore, sacrificing stock bought at a higher price for a mere song; the next lot of goods in the windows, they say, will be higher priced than ever, so that if we do not buy now we have only ourselves to blame. But one or two ladies have assured me that, except in the case of furs (which nobody wants this warm, wet January), the values are not really exceptional, and the reductions are certainly no greater than usual. These things are mysteries to the human male; if the reductions are real, I cannot understand why any woman buys except in January and July, and if they are not real, why she does not buy except in January and July.

Some of the drapers, however, are trying to popularise what they call a "man's sale." I should have thought they might as well have tried to sell a matron's meerschau pipe. The imagination boggles at what one's tailor would say if one asked for a reduction in lounge suits because the ladies' tailor over the road offered unique opportunities in coats and skirts.

Clerical Poverty.

The Bishop of Durham has published an outspoken New Year's letter, in which he refers to the consequences of clerical poverty as involving an increasing inefficiency which is like a growing paralysis. "Some of the clergy," he says, "are falling into debt, and a few—happily so far only a few—are sinking into private mendicancy. Poverty holds many a clergyman to his benefice when he could and should leave it, for he dare not accept preferment which implies the cost of removal and the necessity of facing at last the long postponed obligation of dilapidations. Clerical poverty has now reached the dimensions of a public scandal." The justice of this grave verdict can hardly be disputed.

Dr. Hensley Henson points out that the position is harmful in two different ways—it encourages pluralities

and it checks the entry of men of ability into holy orders, "for what parent or guardian responsible for guiding the choice of a promising boy will lightly encourage him to look to a profession in which actual indigence is a not improbable fortune?"

There can be little doubt that the whole question of Church finance will have to be reconsidered, and an attempt made to arrive at a lasting basis. Most religious denominations are faced with the same difficulty, but on a smaller scale; the Baptists recently raised a quarter of a million in a week by a special effort for their distressed ministers. The Anglican Church has been less fortunate. It inaugurated a five-million fund during the war, but the effort was too ambitious, and probably the times were then too bad; not a tenth of the sum required has been raised. There exists, of course, a Central Board of Finance for the Church, and this will probably have to inquire into the whole problem eventually.

The Week's Books.

In "Democracy and the British Empire" (Constable) Professor F. J. C. Hearnshaw remarks that "democracy having escaped the Scylla of Prussianism, has yet to steer clear of the Charybdis of Bolshevism"; and that "the Empire, having resisted attacks from without, has yet to avoid disintegration from within."

"J. Comyns Carr: Stray Memories by his Wife" (Macmillan) recalls one of the most delightful companions and story-tellers of late Victorian days. Many will remember the book he published twelve years ago, "Some Eminent Victorians," and wish that he had left more permanent work behind. But this book helps to supply the gap.

Students of biology, and also patriotic Scotsmen, will be greatly interested in "The Influence of Man on Animal Life in Scotland" (Cambridge University Press), by Dr. James Ritchie. It goes back to the day when "neolithic man founded his most northern settlements in the British Isles 9,000 or more years ago, in a country of swamps, low forests of birch, alder, and willow, fertile meadows and snow-capped mountains." The pictures illustrating the faunal evolution are often curious and instructive. OCELLUS.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Alexandria Horticultural Society are holding shows on April 22, 23, 24, and November 5 and 6.

It is officially notified that the parcel post to Roumania is suspended until further notice.

From January 1 a direct radio telegraphic communication has been established between Paris and Tiflis.

According to reports from Albania, the town of Elbassan has been much damaged by an earthquake, in which fourteen persons are said to have been killed and 300 injured.

It is reported from Vienna that a through train service between Vienna and Constantinople, via Budapest, will be inaugurated in February. Trains will run twice a week.

M. Streit and Lieutenant Paparigopoulos, who were both informed they must not return to Greece with King Constantine, have now been recalled, and have left Brindisi for Athens.

According to a Rome message, the Pope has appointed Mgr. Cassulo, Bishop of Fabriano, to be apostolic delegate in Egypt. The post became vacant by the resignation to Mgr. Briante.

The British Labour Delegation, which includes Mr. Adamson and Mr. J. H. Thomas, has arrived at Prague, on the invitation of the Czecho-Slovak Government, to investigate conditions in the country.

The Government of India report that the British Mission to Afghanistan under Sir Henry Dobbs crossed the frontier on its way to Kabul on January 5. Mr. S. E. Pears has been prevented, for reasons of health, from accompanying the Mission, and his place has been taken by Mr. P. J. G. Pipon, of the Indian Political Department.

The report of the Governing Body of the School of Oriental Studies, Finsbury Circus, states that during the eleven months ended July 31 539 students attended, of whom 394 were men and 145 women, as compared with 266 men and 116 women the year before. The Treasury made the school an additional grant of £3,000 for the years 1919-20 and 1920-21, and two new University readerships in Hindustani and Hindi and in Chinese had been instituted. As a result of the success of the school, the governing body had acquired for £36,000 an adjacent site on which to build additional class-rooms. Instruction had been given in thirty-one Oriental and African languages. The largest demand had been for Arabic, but the number of students of Chinese and Hindustani showed a marked increase.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, December 20.

Industrial Troubles.

Trouble has broken out again in the Cairo tramway service. This time it is not in the nature of a general strike, but has assumed a form which is certainly more difficult to deal with, and hence more serious. The plan of campaign of the strikers has been for the drivers to fuse the cars one by one. These have, of course, to be sent to the workshops, where the mechanics, in collusion with the traffic staff, tinker at them, but so arrange that the cars never reach a stage where they can be put into commission again. As a consequence of this, no less than two hundred cars are in the workshops under repair, and thus, without coming up against the civil authorities, the employees are able to attain their end of paralysing the tramway circulation, while at the same time continuing to draw their wages.

As is always the case with passive movements, the authorities are finding it exceedingly difficult to handle the question, but there is no doubt that if they were to deal with the legal element which has been pressing on behalf of the employees for an improvement in conditions, and which, having so far been unsuccessful, is most probably responsible for this astute manœuvre, they would soon be able to settle the difficulty. It is understood that the point at issue is not so much the terms of employment, which the company has latterly improved very much, but official recognition of the syndicate, which so far has been refused; and it is highly probable that the trouble has a political rather than an economic cause.

Racing at Gezira.

Racing continues to attract enormous crowds to Heliopolis and Gezira, and last Saturday's meeting held by the Gezira Sporting Club was by far the most successful we have had this season. It was a very fashionable affair, and marked the first appearance on the racecourse this season of the Sultan. The occasion attracted an enormous crowd, and the members' enclosure, in spite of the recent extension made, was almost too small to hold all the people. His Highness was accompanied by Said Pasha Zulfikar, his Grand Chamberlain, the Ministers, and Lewa Castle-Smith Pasha, his English Aide de Camp. He was received on arrival by the High Commissioner, who was accompanied by the whole of the Residency staff, in top-hat and morning coat, and Lady Allenby, and the stewards of the club, and held an informal reception during the afternoon in the pretty kiosk which had been specially constructed for the purpose. The Sultan, who is a warm patron of the turf and has an excellent stable, has been very successful of late, notably in the Heliopolis Derby, both divisions of which saw his colours carried to victory.

The Alexandria Municipality.

The Alexandria Municipality appears to be in a bad way, to judge from the statement of accounts issued and the discussions which have taken place at its last meetings. The budget was expected to prove insufficient for the current year's expenses, but it was anticipated that the savings made by the Municipality in the past would prove more than sufficient. This has, however, not been the case, and there is a deficit of about £E143,000, which will be an annually recurring item, and which the Municipality is at a loss to know how to meet. The amount of the deficit represents by a coincidence the sum which is due to the employees for war allowances during the year on the same basis as the Government is paying to its officials, and the suggestion has been made that this payment should be cancelled. But while the Municipality should undoubtedly be run for the benefit of the inhabitants of Alexandria as a whole, and the present relatively large percentage of its revenue should not be spent on its officials, it

scarcely seems fair that the latter, if their employment is necessary, should be made to suffer. Rather would it appear to be a case for the institution of a rigorous enquiry into the administration, with a view to reducing the personnel to the minimum, to eliminating unremunerative or unnecessary expenditure, to abolishing revenue sources the collection of which costs more than the receipts, or extending them so as to assure a surplus, and to creating new and remunerative sources of income.

At the meeting held last week it was suggested that the Government should be asked to give its assistance and extend the financial powers of the Municipality. Now, the latter has been a going concern for over a quarter of a century, and ought by now to be able to stand on its own feet. Either it has in the past not been accorded sufficient scope to enable it to build up its economic organisation on a sound working basis, in which case the Government is sorely to blame, or it has been run on extravagant, impractical lines, in which case the sooner the administration is drastically reorganised the better. Whatever it be, the cause should be searchingly investigated, and a remedy be provided. At a juncture when the country is standing on the threshold of what, it is hoped, will be an important development and extension of self-governing institutions, it is, to say the least, regrettable that one of the oldest and leading municipal bodies should after twenty-seven years be compelled to appeal to the Government for assistance to carry on.

CAIRO, December 27.

The Duke of Connaught.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught arrived at Port Said on the 23rd on board of s.s. Malaya. He was met on arrival by the High Commissioner and his staff, and after landing for a short time his Royal Highness gave a luncheon on board, his guests including the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby, Said Zulfikar Pasha, representing his Highness the Sultan, and Lieut.-General and Lady Congreve. The Malaya entered the Canal next morning and spent Christmas Day at Ismailia.

The Sultan.

The Sultan last Monday paid a visit to Shebin el Kom. He had a magnificent reception, and received a warm ovation whenever he appeared. His Highness has received numerous invitations to visit various towns in Upper Egypt during his forthcoming river trip, and it looks as if it will be as much as he will be able to do to fulfil all the engagements he has undertaken during the time at his disposal.

The Proposed Settlement.

The divers elements which go to make up Egypt's heterogeneous population have all been concerning themselves with the particular effect which the application of an agreement based on the proposals made by Lord Milner to Zaghloul Pasha may have on them. My letters have reported fairly fully the attitude of the purely Egyptian community, which appears to be somewhat divided on the question of the acceptability of the terms offered, though no doubt when it comes to the point the majority will be found to receive with approval the final proposals of the British Government.

The Foreign Communities.

One of the obstacles to the early conclusion of the negotiations which must precede a settlement of the Egyptian question will come, it is to be feared, from the side of the British and foreign communities. It is not that they do not sympathise with the aspirations of the Egyptians, or that they do not recognise that the time has come for the granting to the Egyptians of a much greater share in the administration of the country than has hitherto fallen to their lot. Far from that, but they one and all contemplate with no little uneasiness and anxiety the situation in which they will find

themselves if the proposals made by the Milner Mission go through in their entirety without any of the amendments which they, the British and the foreign communities, consider so essential to the general well-being of the country.

Space does not permit of my going fully into the points which are causing the British and foreign communities so much concern, but from what I have heard there seems little doubt that unless the British Government can produce some far more satisfactory guarantees as regards public security under the new regime than those offered in the Milner-Zaghloul Memorandum, it will experience considerable difficulty in getting the Powers interested to assent to the abolition of the Capitulations. Whatever the European Chancelleries may feel inclined to accept in return for favours elsewhere, they cannot afford to, and certainly will not, ignore the representations made by their subjects in Egypt, who, after all, cannot be blamed if they object to abandoning such privileges as they possess under the capitulatory regime in exchange for what they consider will place them in a far less satisfactory situation.

PORT SAID, December 21.

Heddaya Pasha's Departure.

Last month, Heddaya Pasha, late Governor of the Canal Zone, left here to take up his duties as Governor of Alexandria. His Excellency was extremely popular with all the better elements of the very mixed population here, and he carries with him the best wishes of the community. His last official act was the opening of the Cereals Bureau Depot in Port Said, where all the Government purchases of flour from abroad are stored, prior to distribution in the interior. This Government department, unlike most departments, has considerably reduced the cost of living in Egypt, especially for the poorer section of the population.

Bishop MacInnes and Bishop Gwynne have also visited Port Said, the former to say good-bye on his taking over the newly-created Bishopric of Palestine and Syria, and the latter to make officially the acquaintance of his new diocese, though Bishop Gwynne as Bishop of Khartoum was fairly well known to many in Port Said.

The Kantara Bridge.

Among those particularly concerned, the impending removal of the railway bridge across the Canal near Kantara is a subject of great interest. The Canal Company have requested the authorities to take away the present bridge, as it forms a hindrance and danger to navigation, and the paramount necessity for through railway communication during the war does not exist now. Merchants and traders are protesting, as it will considerably hamper goods traffic between Egypt and Palestine. However, this definite action of the Canal Company will probably hasten the construction of a permanent bridge, which will be able to carry all the necessary traffic, and not interfere with the transit of vessels, whatever their size.

PORT SAID, December 24.

Yesterday morning, on one of the nastiest and sandiest days that we have had this year, H.M.S. Malaya arrived with H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught on board. She was berthed in the harbour just opposite the Canal Company's offices, and shortly after Viscount Allenby went on board. The Duke then came ashore, accompanied by his staff, and several officials were presented to him, including the Governor of Port Said; El Miralai Grant Bey, Commandant of the Suez Canal Police; Mr. A. C. Were, the Acting British Consul; and Monsieur Chateauminois, the Chief of Transit of the Suez Canal Company at Port Said, in whose hands were the arrangements for the safe transit of the Malaya in the north end of the Canal.

Afterwards His Royal Highness drove to the British Hospital, where he was received by Dr. Kennard and the chairman and members of the committee. The Duke then returned on board to lunch, and among the guests invited were: Sir Said Zulfikar Pasha, Field Marshal and Viscountess Allenby, Lieutenant-General and Lady Congreve, Conte and Contess de Serionne, the Hon. C. S. Scott, Major-General Sir Foster Newland, Air-Marshal Sir G. and Lady Salmund, Ferih Shehata Pasha Kamel, Brig-General E. P. C. Kelly, Mahomed Sidky Mohamed Bey, Group Captain B. C. H. Drew, Col. H. F. Fraser, Captain W. J. C. Lake, R.N., Mr. C. A. Were (the Acting British Consul), El Miralai A. C. Grant Bey, Lieut.-Col. H. M. Rigg, and Major H. F. C. Hobbs.

Owing to a slight indisposition, His Highness did not come ashore again, and early this morning the Malaya left for Suez. She will stop the night in the Great Bitter Lake,

continuing on to Suez on Christmas morning. It was noticed that the Malaya was flying, as well as the Royal Standard, a flag which is not familiar in Port Said, namely, that which the Duke of Connaught is entitled to fly as Master of Trinity House.

The Malaya encountered very bad weather on the passage out, and lost overboard her wireless masts and aials. She has on board a most magnificent model of the ship, complete in every detail, which is being taken out for presentation to the peoples of the Malay States, as an acknowledgment of their splendid loyalty to the Empire. After the Duke of Connaught has disembarked at Madras, the Malaya will go for a cruise to the Malay States, before returning to Bombay, to convey His Royal Highness back to England. She is the largest ship in point of beam and draft that has passed through the Canal, and the Canal Company are to be congratulated on the success of the arrangements made for her transit.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, December 31.

Political Developments.

There has been a standstill in political matters over Christmas—the "Catholic Christmas" as it is called in Belgrade in contradistinction to the Orthodox Christmas, which comes a fortnight later. While this has the advantage of giving everybody a double holiday, it impedes both business and politics.

In connection with the formation of a Cabinet, the Regent has sent for M. Pashitch and Dr. Davidovitch, and it is believed that he has expressed the hope that the Radicals and Democrats, as the two strongest parties, will succeed in forming a coalition. M. Pashitch seems certainly anxious to do so, but M. Stoyan Protitch is intransigent. This has led to a marked division of opinion in the Radical party; but it is hardly likely to be strong enough to split the party. The Democrat Club has given its leaders a free hand to negotiate as they think fit, and it is believed that they will consent to sacrifice even the portfolio of Agrarian Reform for the sake of union and peace. At the same time there are signs of splitting within the Slovene Clericals. While it is generally recognised that Dr. Koroshets is a man of considerable ability and that the Slovenes are one of the most solid elements in the State, it must not be forgotten that his Clerical Party has no claim to be the spokesman of Slovenia, for he lost heavily in competition with Democrats and with Socialists at the elections. And now one of his own supporters, Dr. Kovachitch, has appeared with an article in a Maribor paper stating that he will not follow along a path which is dangerous to the State and to the Union. In other words, he is a good Yugoslav patriot.

The attitude of Raditch's Peasant Party is still undecided. His delegates have reported that as a result of their visit to Belgrade and conversations with the leaders of all the parties there, they have found points of contact with every one of them. It should, therefore, be not impossible to find a formula which will enable Raditch to save his face and his party to play its proper part in the Constituent Assembly. They have stated that the obstacles to their doing so are the following:—First, the draft Rules of Procedure must be amended, and to this all parties are now agreed. Secondly, they demand that no clause of the new Constitution may become law unless carried by a majority of all Serbs, all Croats, and all Slovenes, instead of by a bare majority of the House. The Radicals want a

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majority of three-fifths, and the Communists, Slovene Clericals and Republicans want two-thirds. Meanwhile, Dr. Trumbitch, the only Independent in the House, is in negotiation with Raditch, and if this stalwart champion of the Union succeeds in bringing the party into the fold, he will have added one other great service to his record. The separationist Frankovist Party, who are d'Annunzio's friends, are trying to provoke Raditch into some step which will make his inclusion impossible.

The Situation at Fiume.

As can be well imagined, events in Fiume are being followed with breathless interest. All sorts of rumours are in circulation, only to be contradicted the next minute. It is said that the Yugoslav authorities at Bakar offered their services and military aid to General Caviglia, who rejected the offer on the grounds that it was a purely domestic Italian question. It is also stated that the authorities informed the Italian Government that feeling was running so high that they would not be able much longer to restrain the Yugoslav Volunteers from attacking Fiume; and that it was this news which led the Rome Government to start energetic measures forthwith.

Communist Propaganda.

Some sensation has been caused by the announcement that the Soviet delegation in Vienna has received 50 million roubles in gold, of which half is destined for propaganda in Yugoslavia, and will be distributed to Zagreb, Serajevo, and Belgrade. The Communists certainly need the money if they want to carry on their foul work; for their party has been losing ground steadily as the people are beginning to understand them. At the recent elections they lost much ground in Croatia and the Voivodina, and probably a great number of peasants in Croatia had voted for the Communists originally, but transferred their support to Raditch as they learnt more. Communism seems a very exotic growth in Montenegro and Macedonia, where it is simply used as an anti-Serbian weapon. The Socialists of Serbia have declared war upon the Communists, both against their theories and their practice. They have, however, succeeded in making some show among the miners in Bosnia and perhaps in Slovenia, by carrying on agitation on the grounds of their not unreasonable complaints against the difficulty of living. But the miners' complaints are really economical, and they are meeting with little sympathy for their Communist claims. An avowed Communist can scarcely show his face in the streets of Serajevo, so they are turning their attention to the villages, where their apostles appear to be carrying on propaganda at the point of the bayonet. In the district of Tuzla a band of them opened fire on a party of twenty gendarmes, killing one and wounding one, but a few troops made short work of them, and the workmen angrily repudiated them. At the same time, the miners' strike seems to be approaching its end, and a number of men have returned to work. There has been a two days' sympathetic general strike in Zagreb by way of protest against the intention of the Government to mobilise the miners. It is to be hoped that the disorders caused by the strikers in Bosnia are over. More than a hundred were recently arrested, carrying papers which showed an organisation for propaganda in the villages. The strike leaders have been arrested too, and all are foreigners. The Serb and Mohammedan peasants arrested have declared that they were deceived and misled by the Communist agitators, and repudiate Communism.

Education.

Great efforts are being made to advance education in Serbia (old frontier) and in Montenegro. Statistics have been published which show that in Serbia there are 2,296 schools and 4,235 teachers of both sexes, while in Montenegro there are 495. These figures are very creditable when the small area and population of the old kingdom of Serbia are remembered, and also the extent to which the population was reduced by the war. Teachers in particular suffered, for they, with the priests, have always been the bearers of the tradition of patriotism and nationality, and, therefore, aroused the special enmity of the Turks and of the Bulgars. It will be remembered that the great Voivoda Babunski

began life as a teacher in Macedonia, out of sheer patriotic motives, and not from any love of teaching; but he took to the mountains at an early age.

The Priests' Dilemma.

Something like consternation has been caused among Orthodox clerical circles by the decision of the Church Council that second marriage is forbidden, and that such priests as have married a second time must be punished and their marriages annulled. This came like a thunderbolt, for a number of priests who were war-widowers have remarried, in rather a hurry, perhaps, without waiting for the decision. Consequently, the Head Committee of the Priests' Union has called for an expression of opinion from its members, and made a statement to the Press deprecating the decision. It does not consider the decision final, and has called an extraordinary general meeting of its members for February 2 to consider the matter. Pending this meeting, they have requested the Council to suspend action.

Russian Refugees.

It is not generally recognised how splendidly the Serbs have behaved towards the Russian refugees who have crowded into the country. With great areas of her own country in difficulties, her transport disorganised, and her finances in a wretched condition, Serbia did not hesitate to offer hospitality to the refugees from Denikin's army a year ago, and many thousands found a home, many without any means of sustenance. Now Wrangel's people are arriving in their thousands. In many parts of Dalmatia the Russians already outnumber the native population. Altogether over 150,000 Russian refugees have found a warm welcome and a home in Yugoslavia—striking evidence of the loyal feelings of gratitude which the Serbs entertain for their "Russian brothers," who have done so much for them in the past.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 20.

The Negotiations with Angora.

Very little progress has been made during the past week in the negotiations which the Government Delegation was to commence with the Nationalists at Angora. It is commonly reported that Salih Pasha will be returning to Constantinople very shortly with a preliminary report, but there is no authentic information on the turn of events. There are, indeed, indirect indications that the Nationalists are allowing it to be understood that they have no intention of deserting their Bolshevik "allies," but it is more than probable that this is intended to make a certain impression and induce the Allies to give generous concessions.

Armenia.

A traveller who recently arrived from Armenia has given some interesting information upon the course of events that gave rise to the establishment of a Soviet administration in Erivan. He described in somewhat bitter terms—and quite justifiably—the withholding of adequate assistance until it was too late, and the unfortunate Republican Government's quandary when faced by internal difficulties and a sudden onslaught from without. The administration of Vratzian was no more able to deal with the situation than its predecessor, and fell an easy victim to the Armenian Bolshevik forces that entered the country from Azerbaijan. With regard to the personalities of which the Soviet is composed, one is a Russian, Sillin, one is a Dashnak, and three others are Bolsheviks. It would appear that it was Sillin who announced the incorporation of the Zangazur and Karabagh districts with the Armenian "Soviet Republic," and also summoned the Turks and Georgians to evacuate Armenian territory. It is a singular circumstance, therefore, that in spite of this summons the Turkish Commander should have sent a message of congratulations to the new administration. True, the Turks have retired from Alexandropol, and to the west of the Arpa River, but there is no information to show that the Georgians have evacuated the Borchalu district. It would hardly be right to consider these circumstances in themselves as sufficient grounds for the belief that the Russian Commissar's action was nothing more than "poudre aux yeux," but the fact remains that the policy followed by Georgia during the last two months has been worth something to the Bolsheviks, and, in spite of all the rumours, the evidence supporting the theory of a very definite understanding between the Turks and the Bolsheviks is much stronger than all

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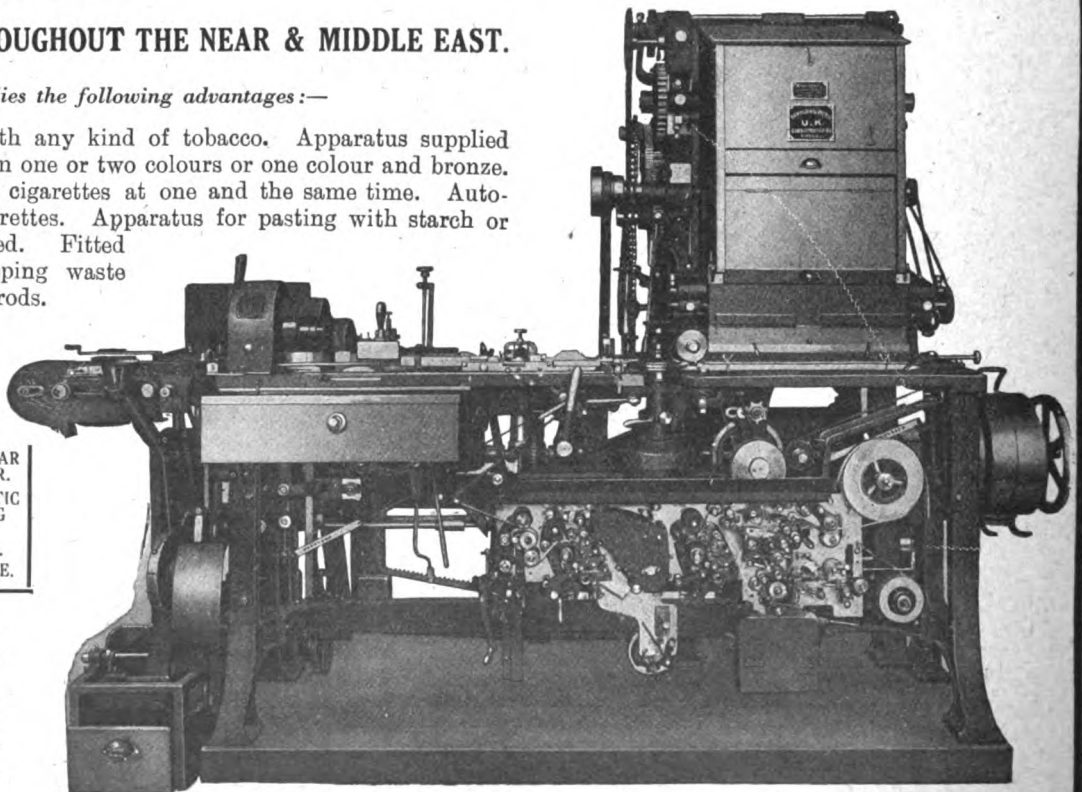
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indications of the existence of a misunderstanding. As to the recognition of Armenia's claim to the Zangazur and Karabagh districts, the Bolsheviks are merely transferring something from their right hand to their left, which can hardly be considered as a favour to anyone but themselves. Finally, the abrogation of the Peace Treaty signed by M. Khadissian at Alexandropol and the opening of fresh negotiations for the fixation of the frontiers of Armenia, are circumstances in harmony with the agreement between the Turks and the Bolsheviks embodied in the correspondence between Chitcherin and Mustapha Kemal as long ago as June. There is thus every reason to regard the downfall of Armenia as the result of plans executed by the Turks and the Bolsheviks in almost complete agreement.

The Latest Exploit of the Venizelists.

The partisans of M. Venizelos in Constantinople show no signs of returning to a calmer state of mind. On the evening of the 17th inst., a large crowd attacked the offices of the *Patris* newspaper, which is believed to be a Constantinist organ. The doors and windows of the offices were smashed, and the furniture and machines completely destroyed. One can only ask what the followers of M. Venizelos would have said if Constantinists had been guilty of similar behaviour.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 3.

The Return of the Government Mission.

In spite of the fact that the Government obstinately refuses to admit that it has received any information from Izzet Pasha with regard to the progress of the negotiations with the Nationalists, it is an open secret—that is to say, no secret at all—that the entire mission is on its way back to the capital. As to the result that has been obtained there is unfortunately very little room for optimism. Between the demands of the Nationalists and the limits of the power of the Sublime Porte there is a gulf which cannot possibly be bridged. The real issue is, of course, not so much between the Nationalists and the Sublime Porte as between the Nationalists and the Allies. So far as the Government is concerned the only issue with the Nationalists is of a purely domestic nature, and that could probably be settled in five minutes—always provided that the dynastic question is not raised. There is reason to believe that the Government has exhausted every possible means of cajoling the Nationalists to take up a more reasonable attitude, but it is certain that they have not changed their original demands to any extent. That is to say, their terms are the recognition of the complete independence of Turkey within what they consider to be the ethnographical frontiers of Turkey. "Complete independence" means freedom from such irksome curbs as financial control and military restrictions, while the ethnographical limits of Turkey are drawn by the Nationalists to include Eastern Thrace, the districts of Kars, Ardahan, and Batoum, as well as Smyrna, to say nothing of certain little bits of territory upon the borders of Syria and Mesopotamia. There can be no doubt that the turn of events in Greece has helped to make the Nationalists obstinate, but there is also very little doubt that the Bolsheviks have also helped to make them stiffen their attitude. The net result of the negotiations therefore appears to be that the mission is returning with a detailed account of the Nationalist terms, and it is for the Government to see whether the Allies are prepared to make an offer which will provide a basis for further discussion. If not, the Cabinet must either change its policy towards the Nationalists or resign. In the latter event it is difficult to foresee what Government could undertake the task of administration. The Treasury is absolutely bare, and there is a large army of officials and other functionaries to be paid. Income amounts to nil, and the most desperate efforts have failed to secure even a trifling loan. It is clear, therefore, that the final crisis which has been staved off hitherto cannot be very far off now.

Anatolia.

So far as can be judged from the Nationalist Press, the relations of the Angora Government with the Bolsheviks are of the happiest. The Angora administration is

busily introducing an improved Bolshevism of its own—in harmony with the peculiar traditions and requirements of the nation, as the official *Hakimet-i-Millî* would put it. Yonus Nadi, that quondam exponent of Pan-Turanianism who directs the *Yeni Dunya*, vigorously denies that the Nationalists are of such feeble intellect as to be obliged slavishly to imitate the Bolsheviks, much as he respects them, in running a revolution. The Nationalist revolution is to be distinguished for the quantity of oil in its composition, like the famous dish which Oriental epicures so deeply appreciate, *Imam Bayildi*. But will the Bolsheviks, whose dream it is to Bolshevise the entire world, appreciate the flavour of the Nationalist dish? First Azerbaijan, then Armenia, next Georgia, and the Caucasus will be rendered safe for the next move. Perhaps with the gambling spirit of the Committee of Union and Progress, the Nationalist Committee hopes that Bolshevism will crash before the inevitable issue is raised, but as matters are developing at present, it would seem that the time for settling accounts is nearer than is supposed at Angora. In any case, the fact remains that so convinced are the Nationalists that with Bolshevik help they will be able to attain far more than the Allies are prepared to grant, that they have thrown away a very favourable opportunity.

The departure of Ali Fuad Pasha, recently General Officer Commanding on the Western Front, for Moscow, as Nationalist Plenipotentiary to a conference of representatives of the Caucasian "Republics"—the Bolsheviks will have their little joke—is of particular significance in view of the fact that the Government Mission was in Angora at the time. "Whom the gods wish to destroy!"

A Cowardly Assault.

The dastardly attempt to murder Major Dragoumis in the Grande Rue de Péra on the evening of January 2, will certainly be deplored by M. Venizelos himself as deeply as he deplored the murder of the other son of the Greek statesman. Major Dragoumis was attacked by three men, one of whom was wearing the uniform of a Greek officer, and was shot through the upper jaw. There can be little doubt that the crime was actuated by political motives, but its sheer brutality and senselessness have disgusted many who have hitherto sympathised with the Venizelist party. Major Dragoumis, it is hoped, will recover, but the scar that he will bear throughout the rest of his life will not be a scar of shame—for him.

CYPRUS.

December 17.

Rebuilding of the Gymnasium.

The community is taking active steps towards the reconstruction of the Gymnasium at Nicosia, lately destroyed by fire. It is hoped that the work will be taken in hand very shortly, and that there will be little difficulty in raising a loan of at least £5,000 towards the sum required. In answer to the application to Government for a loan of £10,000, the Chief Secretary has replied that the Loan Commission has not that sum available, and that the application to hold a lottery will be submitted for consideration. Pulpit appeals for collections are being made in the churches, and all towns and villages are being asked to contribute, the schoolmasters being in most cases the agents.

The Hellenic Consulate.

Mr. Artemis, of Nicosia, who has continued for some time to act as Consul-General for Greece at the special request of the Hellenic Government, has asked that his resignation may be now accepted and a new Consul appointed, as his other duties do not permit him to remain in office.

Immodest Dress.

According to the *Ecclesiastical Herald* of Athens, the Orthodox Greek Church is to prohibit the entry into churches of women wearing some of the up-to-date styles of dress—bare necks and arms, and skirts all too short. It is suggested that Cyprus should follow the example, and that the Archbishop should similarly forbid unseemly dress to be worn, at any rate in places of divine worship. So rapidly has the wave of fashion spread that Cyprus shops and dressmakers are now quite ready to supply the requirements of all tastes.

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.

SOME INDIAN PROBLEMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—“Politically minded Indians,” to use an ugly but serviceable phrase, are much exercised just now on a momentous question, “Separation” or “Home Rule within the Empire.” You smile. If we are wise we shall not smile, but think. If there is such a thing as responsibility, if anywhere in the world one set of people are responsible for another set of people the British nation is responsible for the peoples of India. And yet we may be asked, very soon, perhaps this year, to ignore our responsibility, to pretend that we can hand it over to someone else, to make believe that the handful of clever children who pose as the political leaders of India are the statesmen of a nation eager to be free and ready for self-government.

It will be well to think beforehand. We may find ourselves up against some awkward problems, human sacrifices, for example. There were two in India in 1919, a boy and a girl. Suppose under the slack native rule—all Oriental Governments are slack, except the Japanese—the taste for human sacrifices grows, shall we be responsible? And then those widows. You remember, don't you? They used to burn them with their dead husbands; ten thousand every year, an old missionary says. Will that custom revive? If it does, what shall we do? Is the British Empire to sanction widow burning? Is a state where this abominable crime is tolerated to rank with Canada and Australia and New Zealand as one of the Dominions of the British Empire? The contingency is possible, remember. In India the status of women is very low; girls are betrothed in childhood, and if their boy husbands die they are doomed to perpetual widowhood; not even the humane rule of the British, not even the Christian zeal of missionaries, has prevailed yet to do away with the cruel doom that blights the life of thousands of Indian girls. So widow burning might easily become a British problem, an Imperial problem.

And so may irrigation which keeps at bay the famine and communications, and defence, and a dozen other questions. Has not the British public some solid thinking before it in 1921?—I am, etc.,

C. POYNTZ SANDERSON, Hon. C.F.

3, Clarence Parade, Southsea.
January 1, 1921.

THE EGYPTIAN SITUATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The December magazines contain three interesting articles on the Egyptian situation—one in the *Fortnightly*, by Sir Malcolm McLlwraith; another in the *Nineteenth Century*, by Mr. Ormsby Gore; and a third in the *Round Table*, anonymous. This latter contribution and the article by Mr. Ormsby Gore are, perhaps, the more interesting from an historical point of view; but the article in the *Fortnightly*, by Sir Malcolm McLlwraith, deserves special attention not only on account of Sir Malcolm's long experience as Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, but also because he is clearly opposed to the conclusions arrived at by both Mr. Ormsby Gore and the writer of the article in the *Round Table*. There is no question, moreover, that Sir Malcolm voices the apprehensions of many who have served in Egypt, and not a few of the British public; consequently the views expressed will, in all probability, have considerable weight with the Cabinet and the House of Commons when the Milner proposals are under discussion.

Sir Malcolm McLlwraith does not attempt any general analysis or criticism of the Commission's findings, and confines himself to the suggested abolition of the Capitulations; which, he considers, constitute the basis of the project, because the rights of the Capitulatory Powers are to be transferred to the British Government as the privileged Power under the new régime. Sir Malcolm argues that the Powers, notably France, Italy, and Belgium, will hesitate to forego their special rights under the Capitulations, seeing that the British Army of Occupation will, under the terms of the Milner proposals, be withdrawn and the British control and responsibility for the continuous stability of the internal administration will cease. In support of this contention Sir Malcolm McLlwraith points out that the late Lord Cromer, when dealing with the Capitulations in 1908-1909, found it necessary to assure the Powers that “there was no reason for allowing the proposal of any modification in that regime to be prejudiced by the existence of any doubt as to the continuance of the British occupation.” Further, Sir Malcolm McLlwraith seems to think that if the British Army be withdrawn, not only would the Powers be

justified in opposing the scheme, but the British community could not be expected to accept a proposal which might involve “their being tried for their lives by a court composed of three judges—two foreigners and one native, neither of the foreigners being necessarily English—sitting with the six foreign assessors, only three of whom would be British, administering Egyptian codes of penal law and procedure differing widely in principle and practice from the institutions of British law.”

From this it would appear that since Sir Malcolm McLlwraith left Egypt the judicial authorities have proposed the constitution of Mixed Criminal Courts and drafted a code of procedure which does not altogether meet with his approval. Whether his fears in this connection are or are not groundless I am not prepared to argue, as I have not had an opportunity of studying the codes as drafted; but I would observe that if the necessary safeguards have not been introduced, we are alone responsible. I do not mean to say that the Egyptians have not been consulted, but the draft actually approved was not the work of the Native Egyptian Minister or Legislative Council, but of a committee composed largely of English judges. In fact, I believe that I am correct in stating that the first Nationalist explosion occurred over the question of these codes, Zaghoul Pasha making a speech in which he entirely repudiated our right to make these laws. It may be remembered also that the abolition of the Capitulations was not originally one of the planks in the Nationalist platform. Zaghoul Pasha, appreciating the opposition he was likely to meet in this matter, was quite content to leave the Capitulations in their present very unsatisfactory condition. But the way the Capitulations are abused by certain of the Powers is so notorious that it is incomprehensible how anyone having the welfare of Egypt at heart can be found to defend them; neither do I imagine that Sir Malcolm McLlwraith has any intention of doing so; but he forgets that in supporting the British community in their opposition to the scheme he is also aiding and abetting the other Powers to create difficulties. Yet if the question is thoroughly gone into, the extension of the powers of the Mixed Tribunals and the bringing of all the various nationalities under the laws of Egypt is the only satisfactory solution.

When all is said and done, the British subjects residing in foreign countries do so of their own free will, and if they commit offences against the laws of that country they must take the consequences, even to the extent of “being tried for their lives.”

Until the terms of the Treaty which is to be made with the Egyptian Government have been published, it is premature to discuss to what extent the control to be exercised by the British Resident will safeguard European interests; and the Powers will probably be anxious to see this Treaty before relinquishing their existing rights. But what about the declaration of a Protectorate, and the acceptance of the same by the Powers at Versailles? Has not this Treaty cancelled all rights under the Capitulations? Anyhow, there should be no great difficulty in safeguarding European interests without the necessity of employing an army of civilians, and the constant interference in every detail of administration which has been so developed in recent years. Whether the Army of Occupation remains at Cairo or has its headquarters on the Canal is a detail as far as the European Powers are concerned, though the transfer from Cairo is probably the removal of one source of irritation to the Egyptians.

Sir Malcolm is afraid that, owing to the opposition of the Powers, the Milner scheme may fail to materialise, and the Egyptian feeling against us become more embittered than ever. This is surely all the more reason we should all do our best to assist Lord Milner in his endeavours to fulfil the pledges of evacuation which were made in 1882, and so often repeated since, whatever meaning may be attached to the paragraph of Lord Cromer's report quoted by Sir Malcolm McLlwraith. But, differing as I do profoundly with the general spirit of Sir Malcolm's article, I must nevertheless admit that if the question is re-opened, the abolition of the Capitulations is likely to meet with considerable opposition, and if the scheme is wrecked, it will, in all probability, be owing to this opposition; and there is no saying what “political expediency and diplomatic bargaining” will produce.

Mr. Ormsby Gore, who appears to have studied the Egyptian question to some advantage, considers that the difficulties would have been less if, instead of declaring a Protectorate, we had received Egypt into the British Commonwealth of Nations—I take it that a Protectorate means a Crown Colony. I do not see how during the war Egypt, which was occupied by us and not exercising free will of her own, could have been accepted as a self-governing Dependency such as Australia. But when we proceed by treaty, as the Milner scheme proposes, we can develop the self-government as we like and the Egyptians accept. We

start, in fact, from the Crown Colony basis. If this is so, and the Allies have by the Versailles Treaty accepted our Protectorate in Egypt, why should we now reopen the question by admitting that the Powers have all sorts of rights under the Capitulations? I have no authority to speak for the Egyptians; but possibly if the Nationalists in Egypt realise that by accepting the Protectorate they free themselves from the constant interference of the Powers, it is distinctly to their advantage to do so. If for the moment it is agreed that the powers as regards legislation which exist but are never exercised by a Governor in the colonies are exercised by the Sultan of Egypt under instructions of the Resident, this is a family arrangement which does not concern the Powers, who should look only to England as the protecting authority. I, however, quite agree with Mr. Ormsby Gore that as regards the internal administration our position should be clearly defined. It is very necessary, too, that the new organic law including provisions for the protection of Europeans, such as the creation of the Mixed Courts, should be agreed on and form part of the treaty between Great Britain and Egypt. My friends in Egypt do not like the word "Protectorate," and prefer an "Alliance" rather than an "Agreement." But let them accept the former and show themselves capable of self-government and the "Alliance" will soon follow, as in the case of our Crown colonies which now form a part of the British Commonwealth. If tutelage has to be exercised, it is far better that it should be exercised by one Power than that they should be exploited by all the Powers, which the continuation of the Capitulations implies.

One more word in conclusion. Are the Egyptians going to be allowed an unrestricted choice in their constitutional ruler, Sultan or Khedive, whatever name he may go by? We do not want a repetition of the King Constantine episode in Cairo; yet it is quite on the cards that a free election might bring back the ex-Khedive, his son, or, perhaps, even another member of Mohammed Ali family. Let our Government be prepared for such a contingency; and if certain members are absolutely not acceptable, let our Government say so, and not wait till the deed is done and then refuse recognition.—I am, etc., COLES PASHA.

THE FUTURE OF WESTERN THRACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—We, the undersigned, desire to urge that, in the interests of international peace, the question of the disposal of Western Thrace should be reconsidered. The cession of Western Thrace to Greece was unjust and unwise for two reasons:—

1. Two-thirds of the population were bitterly opposed to it. During the French occupation of this province they clearly expressed their views, and since the Greek occupation a large proportion of them have taken refuge in Bulgaria.

2. It cut off Bulgaria from her only territorial outlet to the Aegean Sea, without which her economic life cannot be fully developed, and this, although Bulgaria had signed the Peace Treaty on the strength of the understanding that this territory should be placed under International control. Without such access Bulgaria will be thrown back on the Central Powers for the provision of its economic needs.

A commercial outlet through Greek territory can never be satisfactory, owing to the intense hostility which has always prevailed, and which, unfortunately, still prevails, between Bulgarians and Greeks.

The present situation in Greece, and the widespread demand among our Allies for a revision of the Treaty of Sevres, appear to us to provide a favourable opportunity for making a fresh settlement in Thrace, and we respectfully urge upon H.M. Government and the League of Nations the desirability, in the interests of future peace, of satisfying the legitimate aspirations of the large non-Greek majority, both Christian and Moslem.

H. CONYERS SURTEES
(Major-General),

R. W. SETON-WATSON,
GEORGE YOUNG,

EDWARD GLEICHEN
(Major-General),

LEONARD WOOLF,
J. RAMSAY MACDONALD,

A. G. GARDINER,
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EDGAR G. LISTER,

V. DE BUNSEN,

H. M. WALLIS,

J. M. KENWORTHY
(Lt.-Commander R.N., M.P.)

HENRY W. NEVINSON,

M. E. DURHAM,

LELAND BUXTON,

H. N. BRAILSFORD.

THE PALESTINE MEMORIAL FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I recently appealed to the Press for further funds in aid of the memorial which it is proposed to erect on Mount Scopus, near Jerusalem, to the memory of those who fell in the Palestine campaign. It has been suggested that if there could be announced an address in Palestine to which donations might be sent it would be a convenience to local contributors.

I am happy to be able to announce that a local honorary treasurer has been found and an account opened with the Imperial Ottoman Bank. Subscriptions and donations in Egyptian, Turkish, or Syrian money will be gratefully received by: Miss F. E. Newton, F.R.G.S., Local Hon. Treasurer, Palestine Memorial Fund, P.O.B. 63, Haifa.—I am, etc.,

ALLENBY, F.M.

MUSICAL NOTES.

The Incorporated Society of Musicians.

The thirty-first annual conference of the Incorporated Society of Musicians was held from January 3 to January 7, and during that time indulgence was made in meetings, lectures, and concerts. It was stated (and obviously believed) by the Society that "the Musical Profession is to-day confronted with the greatest opportunity in its history," and that the complete education of the people, in which music was an essential factor, could be accomplished only in co-operation with other educationists. The music conference was, therefore, made part of a larger educational conference.

Now, I was able to go only to one lecture—that given by Sir Hugh Allen at the Mansion House on January 5—and to one concert—that provided by the English String Quartet and Miss Olga Haley at the Queen's Hall on the same day. But what I did hear made me wonder very seriously whether all this kind of thing will ever lead to any good, will make the ordinary person, that is, not only to enjoy music, but to judge of its worth. At the Mansion House, Sir Hugh Allen spoke well on the folly of giving musically educated people the opportunity of hearing "beastly tunes," but when he proceeded to claim for music the stimulating of intellect, the construction of character, one heavily sighed and feared the worst (which inevitably came in speeches made by various distinguished gentlemen after his lecture). If zealots would treat music for what it is, a purely æsthetic problem, there might be some hope of its solution; but when all sorts of moral and metaphysical virtues are claimed for it, hope may be abandoned. What, for instance, were the primary feelings of the audience at the excellent stuff which the English String Quartet and Miss Olga Haley played and sang? Did they swell with patriotic pride (they should have done had music been an integral part in the making of a nation) when Joseph Speaight's "Two Shakespearean Sketches" were done; or did they hang their heads in shame when Miss Olga Haley sang Joseph Holbrooke's "Come not when I am dead"; or were they at any time morally uplifted by the beautiful music that was performed at this concert? I doubt it.

Little good can be done by confusing the issues. It is true that more interest (by much too strong a word) appears to be taken in music now than at any time in history; but this increased indulgence is visible in many other things also, and is more probably explicable by a lack of interest in religion, the voids left by the war, and so on, than by an ebullience of a "music for music's sake" spirit.

It seems to me childish to complain, as many older musicians do, of the enormous popularity of the attractions that run counter to music—the cinema, jazz dancing, and so on; if you want to see these things stamped out you must become not a musical reformer, but a complete revolutionary. For as long as commercialism, or industrialism, or capitalism endures the success of the more vulgar things is certain; and you cannot, while the basic means of existence remain degraded, obtain an universal desire for the lovely. If you really believe that the soul of a people is mirrored in its music, then to improve that music you must first of all improve the physical or economic condition of the people; you cannot (so I think) impose upon them a spiritual reform.

But such arguments are really wide of the mark, because great music is not a product, it is an accident. This, I know, is a dogma of despair, but I believe it to be profoundly true. While the capitalist system obtains, as it does in most of Europe and America, the true appreciation of music will always lie in the hands of a minority, and I imagine that unless a man be born with a leaning to æsthetics he must, before being able to appreciate music, be physically and spiritually content. That there are exceptions to this is granted, but, speaking broadly, it is nearer the truth than a "musical educationist" generally gets.

The above criticism is negligible by the enthusiastic, because it is all negative. But that is the problem as I see it: either you must forego the prospect of a musical democracy and be content with a musical aristocracy, or you must make a change of civilisation (e.g., Russia) precede a change in culture. The musician is, at the present time indeed between the devil and the deep sea. ANDANTE.

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- I.—"TWENTY YEARS OF BALKAN TANGLE." By M. Edith Durham. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 16s. net.)
- II.—"THE GARDEN OF BRIGHT WATERS." Translated by Edward Powys Mathers. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 6s. net.)
- III.—"MACEDONIA: A PLEA FOR THE PRIMITIVE." By A. Goff and H. A. Fawcett. (London: John Lane. 21s. net.)
- IV.—"HYMNS OF THE RUSSIAN CHURCH: Being Translations, Centos, and Suggestions from the Greek Office Books." By John Brownlie, D.D. (Glas.). (Oxford University Press. 5s. net.)
- V.—"LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ANCIENT INDIA." By Radhakumud Mookerji. Second Edition. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

I.—THE BALKAN TANGLE.

Even the best chef does not always put sufficient salt into an otherwise perfect soup. No one could complain that Miss Durham's "Twenty Years of Balkan Tangle" failed in the savour. There is no sameness in Miss Durham's virile pen.

"Twenty Years of Balkan Tangle" is reminiscent, and is, indeed, the child of her former books, but it is written in a different vein. "High Albania" is epic and stands alone. Through the pages of that book one had the picture of a dauntless English lady fighting her way over the heights and down the mountain gorges in the torrid days of Balkan summer. In "The Struggle for Scutari" the picture is different. The traveller has become, first, correspondent, and then nurse—the war nurse with a very insufficient equipment in a war that is in itself mediæval.

In "Twenty Years of Balkan Tangle" the nurse has become an historian, who says too many good things to quote. No review can deal adequately with a book that has so many sides, and which, in truth, is the record of a prolonged jacquerie that opened the gates to the world war. It is a story of peasants fighting for fairy gold, of men that died for legends rather than for faith, and of deathless animosities and battles about names and labels.

"It was not astonishing that the Serbs hated Islam, but that they should fiercely hate every other Christian Church I did not expect.

"It is but one more instance of the fact that it was largely to the fanaticism of the Orthodox Church that the Balkan people owed their conquest by the Turks."

It is first-hand and first-rate testimony of the coming of the crisis. "The gates of time were suddenly flung open, and in the space of a few years something like five centuries poured over the land."

During these years which Miss Durham witnessed she was often horrified, but even more often amused. It was only later that she realised that the blood-stained Balkan kaleidoscope closely concerned, and sometimes ruined, the audience that laughed and applauded the principal actors.

Essentially the book is (perhaps unconsciously) an indictment of the Slav and the Slav temperament. Once Tsarism meant order in Russia. Siberia existed for malcontents. Bolshevism means Siberia for all Russia and death to malcontents. Montenegro and Serbia prided themselves on being the "mirror of Slavism." Now, Slavism under the Tsar, or King Peter of Serbia, or Lenin himself, is always "You shall be Slav or you shall die." King Peter may insist that the Mohammedan shall kiss the Cross; Lenin may force the Orthodox to spit upon it; but they both order all who are in their power to admit that they are Slavs.

Miss Durham traces Serbian history from the days of the battle of Kossovo and the great desertion that gave the

Turks the land until modern times. The charm of her pen is not diminished by the blackness of the ink. There is the poetry and romance of Serbia, and, more especially, of Montenegro; but from Kossovo onwards the Saint and the soldier combined amongst the Slavs is hard to find. Karageorge is the modern hero and villain. Of him it is reported that, flying into Austria, when his father hesitated to leave his native land he shot him dead. The picture does not change greatly in our own times—from the horrible murder of Draga and Alexander to the similar crimes by living men. One has a gloomy picture of heroism combined with madness and hereditary curse upon the rulers of a people. Her descriptions of Montenegro, and particularly of the Prince, are not so sombre. She knew him first when Cook's tourists were often his only, and sometimes his most important, visitors—a tall, old man, distinguished in appearance among the Montenegrin mountaineers, and more royal than most kings. He was a warrior, and she records one of his battles, where many kinsmen fell. He is a poet, and one song of his, "Onward to Prizren," is known and sung by all his nation. Who, in those days, would have dreamed that the Serbs would possess it and be accused of crimes in Montenegro that make the mountaineers remember with affection the days of Turkish suzerainty? She tells of him in early days, a benevolent, autocratic father of his people; and then, gradually, there comes the tale of his intrigues, and how he married one daughter to the King of Serbia, another to the heir of the rival dynasty, and yet a third to the King of Italy; of how he flirted with Russia and with Austria; of all his shrewd business bargainings that, in the end, lost him the chieftainship of his barren rock and a position in Europe. Miss Durham returned the decoration to him which he gave her, but one cannot help suspecting her of a certain sympathy for him. He had at least more excuse for all he did than some of the Prime Ministers of the Great Powers.

But it is when Miss Durham deals with Albania that she is at her best. "Albania was faced by two enemies. Not only the Turk dreaded the uprising of Albania, but Russia had already determined that the Balkan Peninsula was to be Slav and Orthodox. Greece as Orthodox might be tolerated. No one else." . . . None of these efforts on the part of Albania's enemies killed the strong race instinct which has enabled the Albanian to survive the Roman Empire and the fall of Byzantium, outlive the fleeting mediæval Empires of Bulgar and Serb, and finally emerge from the wreck of the mighty Ottoman Empire, retaining his language, his customs, and his primitive vigour—a rock over which the tides of invasion have washed in vain."

"In April, 1915, as we learnt later, the Powers who had guaranteed Albania's independence bought Italy's intervention by promising her Albania's best port, Valona, and by the same secret Treaty bound her over not to object should France, Russia, and Great Britain desire to distribute among Montenegro, Serbia, and Greece the northern and southern portions of Albania." This partition, the work of Baron Sonnino, who, unfortunately for us, was called Sidney, had a Welsh mother, and spoke perfect English, had, according to Miss Durham, contributed to widen the breach between the Serbs and the Bulgars. This, however, is at least arguable. It is doubtful whether Great Britain, situated as she was, could have acted differently, but the Treaty itself was cruel and mean, and brought its own punishment with it.

There is no "Finis" written to "Twenty Years of Balkan Tangle." M. Venizelos, much the biggest figure, is in exile; King Constantine again rules in Old Greece; but what of New Greece? King Nicholas is an exile and gagged in France; Prince Alexander's Serbs are doing in Montenegro deeds that were better left undone. Yugoslavia has yet to prove that its legs are strong enough to carry its large body. Bulgaria is cut off from the sea. Albania has been admitted to the League of Nations. Roumania—but this is too long. Let Miss Durham go on with her writing, for there are many who will read her books.

II.—ASIATIC LOVE POEMS.

There are two kinds of translators—those for whom the practice is a pleasant pastime, and those in whose hands it is one of re-creation. For the one class the pleasure is technical, for the other poetical. Now it is certainly to the second that Mr. Powys Mathers belongs. And it is not merely to his seizing of the spirit of the hundred and twenty

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Asiatic love poems that he has translated that the success of his book is due; his excellence in the externalities of exoticism is also remarkable. "The Garden of Bright Waters" is indeed a revelation.

Some of these poems have been done from the original languages, others from the literal translations of French and Italian scholars, but all conserve the Eastern atmosphere. They include strangely beautiful verse from almost all the places of the East, including Afghanistan, Annam, Baluchistan, Burma, the Caucasus, Daghestan, Georgia, Hindustan, Kafiristan, Kurdistan, Persia, Syria, Turkestan, and Turkey, and among other things are twenty-four poems from the Arabic. Many are poignant and wistful melodies, simply crying for musical settings; we shall be surprised indeed if they escape the notice of composers. (The necessity for music is paramount in the songs from Annam, which are permeated in colour and in atmosphere.)

It is difficult in a review of a book like this to know what to quote, but perhaps nothing is more characteristic of the author's method than his poem called "Sand"; it is from the Arabic of that very remarkable figure, John Duncan:

The sand is like acres of wet milk
Poured out under the moonlight;
It crawls up about your brown feet.
Like wine trodden from white stars.

Most of the carnal poems are too long to be set down here, but the wisdom concerning the consequences of love is almost as typical of the East as the fleshly passion. Of this here are two examples, the first a song of the Tatars, called "Honey," the second a Turkish proverb:—

Young man,
If you try to eat honey
On the blade of a knife
You will cut yourself.

If you try to taste honey
On the kiss of a woman,
Taste with the lips only;
If not, young man,
You will bite your own heart.

And

Before you love,
Learn to run through snow
Leaving no footprint.

But we should be wrong if we gave the impression that these love poems deal only with the indulgence in or abstention from love, for, in fact, they deal with the matter pretty well as exhaustively as do Western writers. There is gathered in these pages the sapience of writers of all periods; there is anything from the soft sighing of a lacquered girl, to a wild ballad of the Caucasus. The book is indeed a varied and most admirable collection of unexpected beauties, of strange colours, and of sudden and subtle imageries; and it is more than distinguished verse, it is poetry.

III.—MACEDONIA DISCOVERED.

This book is exceedingly well produced, with a map and an index, which last is not as good as it might be. It also contains numerous very charming illustrations, which are successfully reproduced from beautiful drawings, in colour, pencil, and line, by Dr. Fawcett. These pictures are a welcome relief from the uninteresting photographs to which we have grown accustomed in books of this kind, and are in themselves instructive as well as delightful.

We only wish that the text of the book had been up to the standard of the pictures. The "introduction" and the sub-title led us to hope for a thorough study of Macedonia. When the authors inform us that, during a period of three years, "the most remote corners of the country have been probed," we look for a treatise going to the root of things; when we read further on that "they have been enabled to compile what is believed to be, from a non-political and non-military standpoint, the first detailed description of Macedonia" we begin to wonder. And we are not long in being disillusioned. In a quite pleasant way we are told of the various obvious matters which would thrust themselves on the attention of intelligent observers. The accuracy of it all is open to doubt, as not infrequently the information given on one page is contradicted or gravely modified on another. As indicated by the quotation from the "Introduction" given above, the authors seem to have read absolutely none of the existing literature on Macedonia, and, consequently, land themselves in a variety of very unfruitful speculations on the origin of certain customs, etc., which could have been avoided by means of a very modest course of appropriate reading. A little reading of a very general kind would also have kept them from talking of "Samos and Achaia" as "islands of the Archipelago," of "Franco-Chinese troops from the Annon Islands," or of "general *emporii* which sell anything from a Gillette razor-blade to a Turkish carpet." But we must be careful not to give a wrong impression of the book.

Most certainly it is not what it professes to be, but it does, in its queer *naïf* way give, on the whole, a clear and interesting superficial picture of life in Macedonia, specially during the war. "*Naïf*" is, indeed, the only word which expresses the child-like air of discovery which permeates the book, the solemn chapter-headings with their scrappy and inadequate contents, the constant use of expressions like "quaint," "feathered brigade," "sub-tropical," etc., the last expression being habitually used for the vegetation of Macedonia, of all places. It covers also the "fine writing" in which one of the authors indulges, as well as delicious statements like: "In attempting to describe the plants and flowers of Macedonia, one is confronted not only by countless species, but by many new and unknown varieties." Unknown to whom?

Quite a pretty house, in fact, and beautifully decorated, but it has been built without any kind of foundation and with poor materials.

C. S. W.

IV.—RUSSIAN HYMNS.

In his introduction to this book Dr. Brownlie states that the Greek Church is little known in the West, and attributes this ignorance mainly to a peculiarity of temperament in the Western peoples and to the Roman (by which he means the Catholic) Church. But there is small doubt that English interest, at any rate in the Eastern Church, is increasing, and the present work should find many eager readers in this country. The preface contains a few very useful general remarks upon the Russian, including one on the error of supposing that the Russian Church is not essentially Greek, and some technical details upon the Service books from which the hymns translated are taken.

The hymns themselves, which are both seasonal and miscellaneous, are done into smooth and flowing verse. They are careful and well appointed. But the exigencies of rhyme and of metre appear a little to have removed the very national essence of the Slavic hymns, and the imagery is of rather a universal than of a distinctively Russian type. Yet it is difficult to see how this monotony could have been avoided, for Eastern metaphors and symbols literally cannot be forced into the harness of Occidental verse.

We should have welcomed with this book some of the beautiful music to which these hymns are sung, for much of the strength and the dignity of the Russian service comes from the rhythmical freedom of its magnificent unaccompanied choral singing. This unfortunately is a side upon which Dr. Brownlie scarcely touches, but we feel that had its importance been more plainly demonstrated, the appeal of these hymns would have been more instant and certain. Perhaps for another edition the author may be persuaded to add some musical examples.

V.—EARLY INDIAN INSTITUTIONS.

We can do little more than record the appearance of a second edition of Dr. Mookerji's learned study of early Indian institutions. The work met with some criticism on its first appearance two years ago, and the author now replies to his critics in a vigorous preface. The controversy is interesting and important, but too technical for examination in these columns, and we must content ourselves with remarking that there is still much to be said by specialists in various branches of study. Meanwhile the book is indispensable to the student of ancient India, though he will be well advised to regard it as containing a large measure of hypothesis.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"An Aid to Practical Written Arabic." By John Van Ess. M.A. (London: Oxford University Press. 21s. net.)

"Bolivia's Case for the League of Nations." With a Map. By José Carrasco. (London: Selwyn and Blount. (5s. net.)

"Linguistic Studies from the Himalayas: Being Studies in the Grammar of Fifteen Himalayan Dialects." By the Rev. T. Grahame Bailey, D.Litt., etc. (London: Published by the Royal Asiatic Society.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

January 13 (New Style).
December 31 (Old Style).
Jumada I., 3, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Shebat 4, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Colonel and Mrs. Frank McClean have left London for Egypt.

Mr. R. S. Hudson, Second Secretary to the British Legation at Athens, has arrived in London.

A memorial service for the late Mr. J. D. Bouchier was held at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, on January 11. Among those present were the Bulgarian Minister and the staff of the Legation, Mr. G. E. Buckle, Mr. Geoffrey Dawson, and Mr. H. Wickham Steed, the three editors of *The Times*, under whom Mr. Bouchier had served, as well as a large number of personal friends.

M. Nicolas Michel Vladesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Paris, on leave.

The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland and Lord and Lady Maidstone will shortly leave England for the Sudan.

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby's visit to the Sudan, on which he was to have started last week, has been indefinitely postponed.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant-Colonel W. Hudson, M.C., and Joan Adèle Badcock will take place in Egypt at the end of February.

Gholam Hossein Khan Farid-es-Saltaneh, Secretary to the Persian Legation, has sufficiently recovered from his illness to be able to resume his duties.

The *Temps* states that Admiral Troubridge, in accordance with the regulations of the Danube Commission, has resigned his position as President of that body.

M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, left Prague last week for Bucharest after he had had an interview with Dr. Benes, the Czecho-Slovak Foreign Minister.

Sir Francis Lowe, M.P., left London on January 7 by the *Neuralia* for Bombay. He expects to be away for about three months. No letters will be forwarded.

Mr. Bhupendranath Basu, of the India Council, is paying a holiday visit to India on grounds of health, and left last week for Marseilles to embark on the mail steamer *Kaiser-i-Hind* for Bombay.

M. Leygues, French Prime Minister, received Major-General Sir Charles Townshend, M.P., and Ahmed Riza Pasha, former President of the Turkish Chamber of Deputies, in Paris last week.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in February, between Arthur George Fritz Napier, Indian Finance Department, eldest son of the late Professor A. S. Napier, of Oxford, and Mrs. Napier, of The Whins, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, and Lucy Cecil Winter, third daughter of the late R. T. Wright, of British Guiana, and of Mrs. Wright, Heather Cot, Tilford, Surrey.

The King of Italy and the Prince Regent of Serbia exchanged telegrams of good wishes on the occasion of the New Year, and messages passed between M. Vesnitch and Signor Giolitti and Count Sforza.

Earl and Countess Buxton, Captain the Hon. F. E. Guest, M.P., and Sir Robert and Lady Baden-Powell left London last week by the P. and O. steamer *Narkunda*. Lord and Lady Buxton are going to Algiciras, and will be away for about a month.

The engagement is announced between Captain H. A. Littlejohn, M.C., Reserve of Officers, late Royal Artillery and Egyptian Army, and Jeanne, younger daughter of Mme. and M. Eugène Mannerat, directeur de la Société du Béhéra, Alexandria, Egypt.

The Reverend William Somers Sutherland, Missionary, of Kalimpong, Bengal, and Miss Annette Matilda Benson, formerly Senior Physician, Cama and Albless Hospitals, Bombay, are recent recipients of the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal for Public Services in India of the First Class.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (December 31): Consequent upon the recognition by Italy of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the new Italian Minister to Belgrade, Count Manzoni, has arrived, and paid a visit to M. Vesnitch, accompanied by the Chargé d'Affaires, Signor Galanti.

A marriage has been arranged between W. B. B. A. Stephens, of the Bank of Madras, eldest son of the late Lieutenant W. H. Stephens, R.N., and of Mrs. Stephens, and Kathleen Wilmot, widow of Guy H. Bernays (Indian Police) and youngest daughter of the late Mr. A. T. Wilkinson.

The engagement is announced of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. Lloyd, D.S.O., Indian Army, eldest son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel T. P. Lloyd and of Mrs. Lloyd, 11, Kensington Court Mansions, and Eve, only child of the late Donald Shaw, of Glasgow, and of Mrs. Shaw, 2, Kensington Court Mansions.

On January 20, at 8.30 p.m., Dr. H. R. Hall will deliver a lecture at the Royal Society's rooms at Burlington House on "Egypt and the Outer World in the Tell el-Amarna Period." Tickets can be obtained gratis (if stamps are enclosed for postage) on application to the Secretary, Egypt Exploration Society, 13, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Ribar has been appointed Speaker of the first Constituent Assembly of Yugoslavia.

Sir Elliot Colvin has been appointed as British Representative on the Inter-Allied Commission under Part VII. (Reparation) of the Treaty with Bulgaria.

Dr. E. J. Butler, late Imperial Mycologist, Director of the Research Institute, Pusa, and Agricultural Adviser to the Government of India, has been appointed Director of the new Imperial Bureau of Mycology.

M. Michel Antinescu has been appointed Roumanian Minister of Justice in succession to M. Grecianu, who died from injuries caused by the explosion of a bomb in the Senate on December 9. M. Petrovici has become Minister of Public Works.

The Allahabad *Pioneer* announces that Mr. Clive Rattigan, editor of the *Pioneer* since 1915, tendered his resignation, as from the close of 1920, owing to reasons of health. The board of directors appointed Mr. J. E. Woolcott, the *Pioneer's* special representative at Delhi, to succeed Mr. Rattigan.

The *London Gazette* on January 7 contained an announcement by the India Office of the following appointments:—Sir Spencer Harcourt Butler, to be Governor of the United Provinces; Sir Edward Douglas Maclagan, to be Governor of the Punjab; Sir Nicholas Dodd Beatson-Bell, to be Governor of Assam, India.

M. Misu, for several years Roumanian Minister in London, has been appointed Chief of the Military and Civil Household of the King of Roumania, which it is understood gives him a position of exceptional importance as personal adviser to his Majesty. The post has been created by King Ferdinand for M. Misu, in whom his Majesty places great confidence.

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The Ven. John Harold Greig, M.A., B.D., rector of Hartlebury and Archdeacon of Worcester, has accepted the nomination of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Bishopric of Gibraltar, vacant by the death of Bishop J. C. Knight. Archdeacon Greig will be consecrated in Westminster Abbey on January 25, the festival of the Conversion of St. Paul. The See of Gibraltar stretches from Portugal to Constantinople, including the north littoral of the Mediterranean and Malta, Cyprus, and the Greek Archipelago.

OBITUARY.

M. Kosta Stoyanovitch, Finance Minister in the last Serbian Cabinet, died on January 1. He entered upon office in May, 1920, and was a member of the Democratic Union Group.

Mr. Arthur Phillips, formerly Standing Counsel to the Government of India, died last week at Bath, in his eighty-third year. Called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1867, he went to India shortly afterwards and practised at the Calcutta Bar until 1895, subsequently practising in England before the Privy Council. While in India he held the office of Standing Counsel to the Government of India, and he was at one time Secretary to the Legislative Council of the Government.

The death has taken place at Bexhill-on-Sea, in his 71st year, of Mr. Charles Elphinstone Gouldsbury. He was the youngest son of a Bengal civilian, Mr. Francis Gouldsbury, and was educated at Clifton. After some service in the Royal Navy he joined the Indian Police, in which he served from 1869 to 1902. He was widely known as an author of amusing and interesting books of Indian official and sporting experience. The last of these was "Reminiscences of a Stowaway," recently reviewed in this journal.

Colonel Charles Wemyss Muir, C.B., C.I.E., late 17th Cavalry, Indian Army, died at Maidenhead recently, aged 70. He was the son of Sir William Muir, the well-known Indian administrator and Principal of Edinburgh University. Proceeding to India in 1872, he served as A.D.C. to his father, then Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces. His first experience of war was in Afghanistan, where he was with Lord Roberts in his march to Kandahar. From 1875 he was A.D.C. successively to Lord Lytton and to Lord Ripon. From 1883 he commanded for six years the Viceroy's Bodyguard. He served in the Sudan in 1885, in Burma from that year to 1887, and in the Tirah campaign of 1897-8, and was A.A.G. in Northern India from 1891 to 1893. From the latter year to 1900 he commanded the 17th Cavalry, then being appointed Colonel on the Staff. He also served in the Q.M.G.'s Department in the late war.

Turkish Nationalists have confiscated cars belonging to the American Tobacco Corporation and the Red Cross in Samsoun.

Bulgaria, having resumed the restitution of the rolling stock and other material taken from Serbia, the Serbian Government has now ordered the resumption of railway traffic with Bulgaria.

Considerable outpost activity continues in the Resht area, North-West Persia, between the Bolshevik and British forces. Two Red attacks on British posts were defeated, the British casualties being two wounded.

The Conference of Ambassadors, in consequence of the report of the Inter-Allied Naval Commission of Control that the naval clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly had been fulfilled, decided to dissolve the Commission of Control in Bulgaria.

A message from the Serbian Press Bureau, Belgrade, says that it is authorised to deny all statements which have appeared in the foreign Press relative to the occupation of Serbia by certain territories beyond the line of demarcation.

Following upon the arrest of Communists in Georgia, the Bolshevik Government has recalled its representative at Tiflis. The Georgian Government has sent a Note to Moscow protesting against the concentration of Red troops near the Georgian frontier.

It is announced that "local bands" have crossed into the territory of King Hussein, and are moving against Taif (fifty miles E.S.E. of Mecca), and against the communications from that city to Medina, in considerable strength. Reinforcements and supplies have been sent to Taif.

News has reached Rome from Cyrenaica that some State employees have discovered a remarkable head, which is thought by experts to be that of the Venus of Cyrene, where much exploration work has been done among the ruins of the Temple of Venus since the Italian occupation.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1921.

POLITICS, BUSINESS AND PSYCHOLOGY.

A common reproach levelled against the Germans since the outbreak of the war has been that they have entirely failed to understand the psychology of other nations. Recent events in the Near East suggest that other Powers, Great Britain among them, are showing the same defect in regard to the Balkan States. Both in politics and in business disappointments have been experienced owing to the failure to acquire any real knowledge of the people with whom dealings have taken place. The most notorious instance is provided by the turn of affairs in Greece, when both Government and public in this country were taken aback by a development that had been confidently prophesied for two years by at least half of the Greek people. In the business world there has been frequent disillusionment. After protracted negotiations a loan agreement will be drawn up and everything is ready for the ratification; definite arrangements may be made for the taking over by foreign interests of all the railway workshops in a given country; a contract for the repairs of locomotives may be actually signed. Then the weeks pass, and nothing happens. Inquiries elicit no satisfactory explanation, and a comprehensive denunciation of Balkan business methods follows on the side of the British firms. It cannot be denied that from their point of view there is good cause for the exasperation felt; a great parade of the desire to do business has been made on the other side, but the tendency to hold back suddenly develops and increases as the negotiations reach the final stage. British business men are inclined to attribute the phenomenon to inherent bad faith or sharp practice, and many, as a result of their experience, make up their minds to have no further dealings with the country in question. A little previous knowledge of the people with whom they are negotiating would not only save tempers, but would also further the transactions. Too often the negotiations are in the hands of men who, however expert in their particular line of business, have no knowledge of the Near East. The discussions may even take place through an interpreter whose capabilities are not of a sufficiently high order. The subtleties of speech that often play such an important rôle in negotiations are lost, and the contracting parties are kept at arm's length. On the Balkan side the reason for the hesitation seems so obvious that no attempt is made to explain it, and umbrage is taken at the rising indignation shown by the others.

At the root of much of the misunderstanding lies the failure on the British part to appreciate how closely business and politics are associated together in the Near East, and on the Balkan part to realise that it should appear at all strange to anyone that this should be the case. In regard to Greek politics the idea of there being any other side of the question than that presented by the Venizelist Government would seem never to have occurred to the British Government; yet the anti-Venizelists had constantly protested their ability to sweep the polls as soon as free elections should be held, and

fifteen months before the event took place attention was called in these columns to the possibility, so patent was it to any close observer. In business matters a British business-man in negotiating with the representative of a Balkan firm will give as little thought to the latter's politics as he would to the politics of any fellow countryman with whom he happened to do business. But in the Balkans, unfortunately, the political aspect is all-dominating. This may be regrettable, but the fact must be reckoned with. A Government may feel compelled to resort to a foreign loan, and will open negotiations in perfect good faith; only when the final terms have been arranged will it be possible to pass in review all the bearings of these terms on the political situation, to say nothing of any international aspect, and the instinct of self-preservation may prove superior to considerations even of financial stringency. Again, the temporary surrender of the State workshops to foreign control may seem a wise as well as inevitable course to adopt to the Government in power; but if it subsequently realises that its position, none too stable at best, will be entirely undermined by such an agreement, it may feel compelled, in what it considers to be the national interests, to back out of it even at the eleventh hour.

Is, then, business on a large scale with Balkan States impossible? By no means. It is possible, it can be lucrative, and it should be regarded by the British trader, financier, and manufacturer as a duty imposed in the interest of Great Britain. But it should be embarked upon with understanding. If the difficulties with which the Near Eastern peoples have to contend are understood, they can be judiciously assisted in overcoming them, instead of having these difficulties enhanced. In the case of all large contracts of political importance the Balkan negotiators should be encouraged to have responsibility distributed, as far as is feasible, among the different political parties. Where Ministerial changes are frequent it is in the interest of the nation that a deal intended to promote the economic well-being of the country should remain unaffected by subsequent developments in home politics. To this end the advice of British official representatives should be enlisted, or the services of someone with some standing and with knowledge of the country and its people should be retained to supplement the expert knowledge of the chief negotiator. No less important is it that British firms should not sacrifice their independence of judgment as, unfortunately, the British Government has been inclined to do in regard to its Near Eastern policy for the last six years. No good has accrued to Great Britain from allowing herself to be tied to the wheels of the French diplomatic chariot in South-Eastern Europe, and British business men will find that they will fare much better in their negotiations with the Balkan peoples, if they act "on their own" and avoid international combinations. We entirely agree that the Anglo-French Entente should be strengthened in every possible way, but it will not be strengthened by any attempt at business co-operation in the Near East; for whatever may be the wishes or intentions of the French Government, that part of the French business world which is interested in the Near East has proved conclusively since the Armistice that it does not regard the promotion of its own interests as compatible with the promotion of British interests. Its method of procedure may be quite successful from its own point of view, but the fact remains that they are not popular among the Near Eastern peoples. Consequently, as British firms are not likely to adopt French methods, they will do better to seek business independently and in their own way, trusting to their country's prestige and to the desire of all the Balkan peoples to do business with Great Britain.

"THE NEAR EAST" INDEX.

The Index to Volume XVIII. of THE NEAR EAST (July 1-December 23, 1920) is now ready, and copies will be sent to subscribers on application to The Manager, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

TURKEY, BRITAIN, AND BOLSHEVISM.

The following article is by an Englishman who has had somewhat exceptional opportunities to study both the Turks and recent developments in Turkey and the neighbouring countries. The views to which he gives expression are, of course, his own, and THE NEAR EAST does not in all cases endorse them.

Despite the proverbial indifference of the British public to problems outside their own personal and individual concerns, it cannot fail to be of some interest even to busy merchants or politicians to know something of the present position in the Middle East, the causes that have led to it, and its future possibilities.

When the Armistice was signed Turkey was beaten down to her knees, and would have agreed to any terms that the Allies might have demanded; the Allied troops and commissions entered the country under the impression that after a short Armistice the Allies would readjust the East generally and Turkey in particular. Friends and enemies awaited the final and imminent decisions. Constantinople was at a standstill.

Time crept by without any of the expected results being brought about, and the final peace receded steadily into the unbelieved. Restlessness began to replace placid expectance; and in Turkish politics party after party arose, ineffective and unsteady, without definite aims beyond personal gain, forming a hopeless chaos. Financially the capital became a paradise for the money-changer, though there was no trade.

In considering the matter we must bear steadily in mind the fact that Turkey consists of:—(1) the Capital, and (2) Anatolia; the ruling and scandalous capital and the mis-ruled country inhabited by lusty peasants. Constantinople has for many a long day been the happy hunting-ground of the diplomatists. They continued at this time to play their old game of ensuring that no one obtained any advantages from the Sublime Porte. In Anatolia the peasants, overtired with four years of war, returned to their fields and homes as quickly as they could. No more docile enemy could have been found. Had the Allies been at all decided in their aims, it would have been simple to enforce any terms on the ineffective politicians of Constantinople and the weary population of Anatolia. The peasants wanted peace at any price; the politicians hoped for good terms from the lack of decision among the Allies, but they had no idea of effective resistance.

At this juncture there came, with the suddenness of a hurricane bursting, the occupation of Smyrna by the Greeks, on orders from the Paris Conference. The facts that led to this decision are far too complicated to be explained here; but it was foolish, unstatesmanlike and criminal. It cannot be defended on military grounds; and there is no doubt that a majority of the population of the area is Turkish. The act was fraught with terrific possibilities, which became realities as a result of the treatment of the natives by the Greek troops. The immediate result was stupefaction; then followed the realisation by the Turks that they were to be destroyed. But a far more important fact stood out: the British Empire was determined to have a Great Greece. The occupation was in contradiction to the wishes of the French, and it tended to throw our Italian Allies into the arms of our enemies; for Italy cannot afford to have as her neighbour a great Greek Empire.

In Turkey the period of stupefaction passed rapidly, to be replaced by enmity; the Smyrna area became full of Moslem refugees flying before the Greek armies; and enmity revived resistance. Had any of the principal Allies taken over the mandate the Turks would have acquiesced with a sigh, but the Greeks—! The Greco-Turkish quarrel is old, older than the British Empire; and to throw their ancient enemies into the midst of the Turkish population during an armistice was criminal folly.

How far the Turkish Government directed the organisation of resistance it is hard to say. It was clear that while the Allied troops were in Constantinople nothing effective could be done from there. It is sufficient to state that the Central Government sent out to North Anatolia a picked general, one Mustapha Kemal,

as inspector of a military area, but with large and comprehensive political powers. Within a month Mustapha Kemal had set to work to organise resistance to the Greeks, and it is clear that the Central Government viewed his action with considerable satisfaction, as a pawn to be used in the peace negotiations.

Mustapha Kemal organised secretly in the north of Anatolia with the fear of punishment in his heart. As the Armistice dragged on and the Allies took no effective action against him he came out boldly in the open. The French showed sympathy, the Italians gave active assistance to him, and the British had only the threats of using the Greeks and of taking away Constantinople with which to intimidate him. He fixed his headquarters at Angora, and under his direction a rough army, based on the remnants of the Turkish forces, deserters, brigands, and refugees, grew into being—the Turkish Nationalist Forces.

He proceeded to look for allies, and came into touch with the resentful Arabs of Arabia and Mesopotamia, the dissatisfied population of Syria, the Moslems of the Batoum province, the Opposition in Persia, the Kurds, and the Azerbaijanis.

Still the Armistice dragged on, and it became evident that beyond Constantinople the Allies could do little or nothing. Their only pawn was the Greeks, and the employment of them roused hostility and dissension among the Allies. The Turkish Government was now under the control of that fierce old Kurd, Damad Ferid Pasha, a man without any compromise about him; a tribesman of the old type that hates all outside his own clan with a blind hatred. Failing to control the Nationalists, he proclaimed them rebels, and thus the rift between Angora and Constantinople became a clear division.

Beyond Angora to the East arose another centre at Erzerum, under another Albanian, Kara Bekir. Round him, and in Angora, too, had grown up a party of extremists sworn to fight to the death as long as the Greeks remained in Anatolia.

The Greeks advanced eastwards and northwards, taking Brusa, the Allies declared a military occupation of Constantinople, the French began to clear Cilicia and to move northwards. As a result, like rats in a corner, the Nationalists were forced to look to their one hope—the Bolsheviks. The Turk and the Russian can never agree: Bolshevism and Islam can never hope to coalesce; but bound by the tie of a common enemy and, for the moment, a common aim—the destruction of the Allies—they could unite.

Gradually out of all the jumble the issue began to crystallise. The Bolsheviks were intent on destroying the British Empire by striking at her feet in the East. They seized Azerbaijan, invaded North Persia, and, by a concerted movement with the Turks from the South, forced the Armenians to their knees and opened a direct route into Anatolia through Nachivan and Zangezur. Now Nachivan is the front door of Persia, the back door of Anatolia, besides opening on the road to Mesopotamia. Herein lies the danger of letting the Bolsheviks and their creed into Asia.

Meanwhile the Allies have little to counter with. Constantinople and its Government are bankrupt. The Allies have bound the arms of the Central Government, and then threatened to kick it if it does not clear out the Nationalist rebels. Damad Ferid, though ready to sign, ratify, and carry out the Treaty, was ejected for failing, and he failed because we would not help him. His successor is far less amenable.

To kick the Central Government and the Nationalists we had the Greek Army sitting on the very Western fringe of this great mountainous country. Then came three lightning reverses; Armenia was crushed, Wrangel was chased out of the Crimea, and Venizelos was hooted out of Athens by his own countrymen. With Venizelos goes the real strength of the Greek Army. For eight years the man-power of Greece has been at war. Fired with imperialism the Greeks were prepared to do the dirty work of the Allies; with the issue clearly before them they have decided that they will do the dirty work no longer. Smyrna and Thrace will require a huge standing army; but Greece is both poor and tired, and Smyrna is valueless without the good-will of Anatolia behind it.

We stand, then, almost stripped of armour in face of an elated foe. Constantinople is held by us with a small garrison, screened by the Greek ring. The city is bankrupt and its Government is no more than a borough council with limited powers. Our weapon—the Greeks—is breaking in our hands. Before us lies an exasperated East urged on by Bolshevik propaganda and promises, in receipt of Bolshevik money and arms. We backed “a one man” policy in Venizelos and—it has failed.

There is still time to save the position, but no time to stand shivering on the brink of indecision. We must shut our ears to the fierce clamour of the fanatics—the American missionaries and the Bishops—pleading a crusade of Christianity against Islam. The Turks at this moment cannot be crushed out of existence; Anatolia is mainly, and must remain, Turkish. We cannot hope for peace in the East till Anatolia is tranquil. The key of our policy has been the creation of a great Greek Empire. The Greek nation has but one Venizelos. When we backed it we did so as much against our Allies as against our enemies. We must cease to back it. We must revise. We must call the Turks to us in common hostility to the world enemy, the Bolsheviks. The Greek must go from Anatolia. With the Turks, strange to say, will come the Armenians and the Kurds. We shall have the sympathy of Azerbaijan and Georgia. Europe must realise that she cannot partition out the East like slabs of bread for rapid consumption. We must have the East with us against the great common foe from Russia. If we call now, the East will join us; if we call to-morrow, perhaps it may; but if we neither call nor act the East will be against us, to our ruin.

NEW YEAR HONOURS.

The following is a continuation of the New Year Honours List, the first part of which we published last week:—

ORDER OF THE STAR OF INDIA.

G.C.S.I.

BENARES, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA SIR PARBHU NARAYAN SINGH BAHADUR, G.C.I.E., MAHARAJA OF PATIALA, MAJOR-GENERAL HIS HIGHNESS FARZAND-I-KHAS-I-DAULAT-I-INGLISHIA MANSUR-I-ZAMAN AMIR-UL-UMRA MAHARAJADHIRAJA RAJESHWAR SRI MAHARAJA-I-RAJAGAN SIR BHUPINDAR SINGH MAHINDAR BAHADUR, G.C.I.E., G.B.E., MAHARAJA OF.

C.S.I.

HAMIDULLA KHAN, NAWABZADA HAJI MUHAMMAD, third son of Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal.

ORDER OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE.

G.C.I.E.

BHUTAN, HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA SIR UGYEN WANGCHUK, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., MAHARAJA OF. KAPURTHALA, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS FARZAND-I-DILBAND RASIKH-UL-ITIKAD DAULAT-I-INGLISHIA RAJA-I-RAJAGAN MAHARAJA SIR JAGATJIT SINGH BAHADUR, G.C.S.I., MAHARAJA OF.

K.C.I.E.

DOBBS, HENRY ROBERT CONWAY, C.S.I., C.I.E. LIMBET, THAKORE SAHEB DOLATSINHJI JESVANTSINHJI, THAKORE SAHEB OF. ARUR SINGH, SARDAR BAHADUR SARDAR, C.I.E. CRUMP, HENRY ASHBROOKE, C.S.I. SRIMUR, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA SIR AMAR PARKASH BAHADUR, K.C.S.I., MAHARAJA OF. MALER KOTLA, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS NAWAB SIR AHMAD ALI KHAN BAHADUR, K.C.S.I., NAWAB OF.

C.I.E.

DUJANA, JALAL-UD-DAULA NAWAB MUHAMMAD KHURSHAD ALI KHAN BAHADUR, MUSTAKIL-JANG, C.B.E., NAWAB OF. MEHDI SHAH, KHAN BAHADUR SAYYID, O.B.E. DAULAT RAI, DIWAN BAHADUR DIWAN. KEANE, MICHAEL. SIFTON, JAMES DAVID. BURLTON, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL PHILIP SYKES MURPHY. WEBB, CHARLES MORGAN. CHADWICK, DAVID THOMAS. IVES, HARRY WILLIAM MACLEAN. BAKER, CHARLES MAURICE. MARR, WILLIAM ALEXANDER. CORBETT, GEOFFREY LATHAM. JAMES, MAJOR EDMUND HENRY SALT. GWYNN, JOHN TUDOR. DAVIDSON, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DAVID MACDONALD. O'KINEALY, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL FREDERICK. HARVEY, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL WILLIAM FREDERICK. GRIMSTON, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL LIONEL AUGUSTUS, V.D., O.B.E. VAN GEYZEL, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL JOHN LAWRENCE.

MUSPRATT, MAJOR AND BREVET LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SYDNEY FREDERICK, D.S.O. VAUX, MAJOR HENRY GEORGE. RUMBOLL, ARTHUR CHARLES, O.B.E. SAMPSON, HUGH CHARLES. BUTLER, DR. EDWIN JOHN. DODS, ALEXANDER WADDELL. DALAL, DADIBA MERWANJI. BHANDARI, RAI BAHADUR GOPAL DAS, M.B.E. MAZUMDAR, RAI BAHADUR JADU NATH. MURZBAN, JEHLANGIR B. JOSHI, NARAYAN MALHAR. HAMID KHAN. COTTON, HARRY EVAN AUGUSTE. BROWN, FRANK HERBERT.

G.B.E. (MILITARY).

BIKANER, MAJOR-GENERAL HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA RAJ RAJESHWAR SIROMANI SRI SIR GANGA SINGH BAHADUR, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., A.D.C., MAHARAJA OF.

(To be concluded.)

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR F. STANLEY MAUDE

On the application of the vicar and churchwardens of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, the Chancellor of the diocese of London (Sir A. B. Kempe) has granted a faculty for the erection of a memorial to Lieut.-General Sir Stanley Maude in the south-east corner of the ground surrounding the church. The memorial consists of a representation of Our Saviour on the Cross with an inscription at the base as follows:—“In beloved memory of Lieut.-General Sir F. Stanley Maude, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., 23 years in the Coldstream Guards. Born June 24, 1864; died in Baghdad Nov. 18, 1917, whilst commanding the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force. He was a Verrye Parfit Gentil Knyghte. God Reste Hys Soule.” The petition stated that the estimated cost would be about £200, which would be defrayed by members of the family.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes (January 3):—Sir Nicholas Beatson-Bell, Chief Commissioner in Assam, on his retirement, which takes effect shortly, will take Holy Orders. His services have been accepted by the Oxford Mission to Calcutta, and Sir Nicholas will serve his novitiate under Father Douglas, M.C., in the Bengali village of Behala. Father Douglas lives barefooted in a mud-floored, palm-leaf-thatched hut, and his unselfishness and devotion to the villagers are proverbial. Sir Nicholas Beatson-Bell, who as District Officer had a similar reputation in Eastern Bengal years ago, will ultimately go to Backergunje as village priest.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Business in the Balkans.

The attention paid to openings for British enterprise in the Near East has been one of the most satisfactory features of recent times, and we have been able to announce a considerable number of important undertakings. Some of these, unfortunately, have since shown a tendency to hang fire. Shipping developments on the Danube, for instance, have been checked by a disinclination of the riparian countries to allow trading facilities to steamers other than their own. The drop in exchange threatens to hamper the contract for the repair of Roumanian locomotives; and, again, the agreement which promised to do so much to advance the work of reconstruction in Roumania, by placing the workshops of the State Railways under foreign direction, is now in danger of being wrecked by a political manoeuvre. It appears that M. Bratianu, the head of the National Liberal party, has taken exception to the Government proposal on the ground that it is incompatible with Roumanian independence. I fear that this is merely a move in the party game, and I can only hope that M. Bratianu will give a thought to Roumanian interests before he persists in his threats, however great the party advantage they seem to offer.

Trade Depression.

The representative views on the trade crisis which we give this week serve to emphasise the point that its causes are not to be found in any one direction. The adverse exchanges and the lack of credits abroad have, beyond question, played the principal part in bringing about the present deplorable position; but, as Lord Sydenham forcibly points out, internal conditions have been important contributing factors. Crushing taxation has curbed enterprise and exhausted capital which should have been available for development, while labour unrest has had a serious effect on practically every industry; and manufacturers have, in many instances, found themselves unable to compete with America, Germany, and other countries, either because they could not quote a sufficiently low figure, or because they could not promise delivery in adequate time—if, indeed, they were able to name a date at all—or both. For a real revival of trade, it is obvious that, side by side with any steps that may be taken to overcome the handicap on exports, measures will have to be devised to meet the internal position.

Export Credit Schemes.

There are quite a number of export credit schemes in the field, and the business community is faced with no slight task in deciding which is likely to prove most advantageous. Notable among them is the Ter Meulen scheme, which has the sanction of the League of Nations, and the essence of which is the issuing by the importing countries of gold bonds. The latest addition to the proposals is Sir Edward Mountain's plan, which is given in another column. His scheme, which has been received with favour by the business community generally, provides for the establishment of a syndicate consisting of the leading banks and insurance companies, and the allocation by the Government of half the amount set aside for the original Exports Credits Scheme as a fund to guarantee the members of the syndicate against ultimate loss. Among the countries to which Sir Edward suggests that his scheme should be first applied are Roumania, Yugoslavia, and Georgia, and no doubt the other Near Eastern countries in need of such help would be subsequently included.

Speed Essential.

There is little to be said against the Ter Meulen scheme as a method of developing trade; but it is open, however, to the grave disadvantage that it would take time before it could be brought into operation. And the world is not in a position to brook delay. Sir Edward Mountain's plan, which would appear to overcome the defects of the present Export Credits Scheme, is not open to this objection, for it could be utilised without much delay, and in view of the favourable reception it has received it would seem exceedingly probable that it will constitute the basis of whatever expedient is adopted by the authorities to remedy the present position.

Application of Scheme.

Obviously, if the scheme adopted is to be successful not merely in initiating a revival of trade, but in its ultimate

issues, great care will have to be taken in regard to its incidence. On this subject I would draw attention to the remarks of Lord Sydenham and Sir Peter Rylands. Lord Sydenham points out that a scheme for the establishment of long-term credits can only succeed if applied to "such States as have need of our commodities, possess resources which we require, will employ their credits to trade with us, and can hold out the promise of stability, enabling them ultimately to discharge their obligations"; while Sir Peter Rylands argues that no credit should be extended to a country whose national expenditure exceeds its revenue. It is difficult, however, to see how any hard and fast division can be drawn if a scheme is to be of real use, for it is precisely those countries whose finances are for the time being in an unsatisfactory condition that are most in need of assistance.

Giving Rivals their Chance.

Our Port Said correspondent gives an illuminating instance this week of the way in which some British companies give their rivals an opening. A firm at Port Said asked an English company the freight from Suez to Port Sudan, and was informed that it was £E6. An Italian company quoted £2 10s., and this amount, be it noted, was for conveyance from Port Said, while in the other case there was rail freight to Suez to be added.

Passages from Egypt.

In view of the demand that is to be expected for passages from India this spring there has naturally been considerable apprehension in Egypt as to the prospect of obtaining passages to the United Kingdom. It is now announced that the P. and O. Company, by arrangement with the Egyptian Government, has assigned the s.s. China to the service between Alexandria and Marseilles, and that this vessel will leave Alexandria on April 12 and 26 for Marseilles, and on May 10 for Plymouth and London direct. This arrangement will ensure adequate provision for residents in Egypt desiring to visit the United Kingdom.

More Enterprise Required.

Because trade with the Near East markets is temporarily under a cloud, pending a solution of the problems of the exchanges and lack of credits, and, in the case of certain countries, of overstocked markets, many British merchants and manufacturers take the view that it is useless to do anything with regard to these markets until the situation improves. It cannot be too strongly urged that this is the worst policy that could be adopted. Throughout the Near East our competitors are combining to show extreme activity, and unless their example is followed to good purpose, when commerce does develop again to something approaching normal, British traders will find themselves at a great disadvantage. It is their business now to keep in close touch with their customers, so as to be ready for the inevitable trade revival. Exactly the same policy ought to be pursued with regard to advertising. It is not, as some business men seem to think, loss of money to continue to advertise, merely because at the moment there is no trade. On the contrary, it is an investment, and a paying one at that, for they are keeping their names before their prospective clients.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, December 20.

Cotton and Co-operation.

Cotton prices continue to be low, and the question which seriously preoccupies both the Government and landowners is how to handle the cotton crop in view of the relative small demand in the interior and the undoubted fact that present prices are unremunerative to the cultivators. Latterly there has been much talk of the formation of syndicates to take over the cotton owned by the fellahin in their respective districts, and to hold it for sale when the market is better; and this week the Government has issued a *communiqué* to the effect that it looks with favour on the creation of agricultural co-operative societies having for their object the purchase and sale of agricultural products including cotton, and that it is ready to do what it can to assist the agricultural element in forming these societies. For this purpose a special office has been created in the Ministry of the Interior, and the Government calls upon the Provincial Councils to lend their active support in this matter. It declares itself ready to help the Provincial Councils to establish these societies and to grant subsidies in all cases where the movement is seriously supported by the local inhabitants, and where there is a satisfactory financial control.

It will be very interesting to watch how this suggestion is taken up. It is obviously better that this sort of work should be done by the people themselves with the support and assistance of the Government than that the latter, as was lately suggested, should itself intervene and buy cotton. In no country in the world is the co-operative movement more necessary than in Egypt. Already before the war a start had been made in this direction, but beyond one or two instances these efforts had not met with much success. With this promise of active and material State support the movement should receive a decided fillip, only the fear is that once the immediate need—viz., the critical cotton situation—is passed, those who are at present most concerned in the success of the movement may find it not to their interest, and so may cease to support it, or may seriously oppose it.

I refer, of course, to the agricultural landlords, who in the past have always exploited the fellahin in the sense that they supplied them with seed, manures, etc., and took their crops in payment, and who at the present moment are seriously affected by the inability of the tenants to pay the high rents agreed upon six months ago. The tenants may, with the assistance of these proposed co-operative societies, be enabled in time to meet their obligations in this respect, and so it is in the interest of the landlords to foster the movement; but the latter will certainly not view with a favourable eye the permanent emancipation of the tenant classes as a result of co-operation, and once the crisis is past they will do all they can to fight the movement, which will require very active encouragement from the Government and high Egyptian circles to withstand this opposition and consolidate its position.

PORT SAID, December 21.

Demands of Strikers.

The strike among the workers of the various companies connected with shipping still drags on, but there is a more hopeful feeling among the men than there was, that it

will soon be over. The men's chief demands are believed to be an eight-hour day instead of ten hours as at present, twenty-five per cent. increase of pay, free medical attendance, full pay for the first month on sick leave, and one month's holiday a year. The companies concerned have already made certain concessions, and it is hoped that no unreasonable attitude on the part of the strike leaders will prevent a speedy settlement. The inconvenience to shipping is great, as no searchlights are being put on board the ships for night traffic through the Canal, and, consequently, the great majority of vessels are obliged to stop during the hours of darkness, which is reminiscent of the old days when ships took the best part of seventy-two hours to transit the Canal.

Freights—A Comparison!

The question of local freight is agitating the minds of traders generally, and those who have to ship by sea in particular. To give a case in point. An exporter in this town wanted to send some goods to Khartoum. He naturally wished to send them by the cheapest route, and asked for a quotation from an English shipping company for their rates to Port Sudan, the nearest port to Khartoum. They quoted him £E6 per ton from Suez to Port Sudan. He then asked for quotations from an Italian company, who offered to take the goods at fifty shillings per ton from Port Said. This is really much greater than the difference between £2 10s. and £E6, as before the goods got to Suez, from which port the English company said they would take the goods, the shipper would have had to pay railway freight from Port Said to Suez, a not inconsiderable amount, whereas the Italian company would take them practically from the door of his warehouse.

PORT SAID, December 24.

Settlement of Strike.

The strike of employees in Port Said, mentioned in my last letter, is now over, and a settlement has been reached owing to some generous concessions on the part of the firms, and it is hoped that a permanent basis of goodwill has been established in this most important centre.

GREECE.

ATHENS, December 26.

Railway Extensions.

The late Government had decided to extend the existing railway system to North-Western Greece, to effect a junction with Epirus and thence via Valona with Italian territory, and a convention to that effect had been concluded between M. Venizelos and Signor Tittoni. The prospecting of the line from Piræus to Valona was placed in the hands of an Italian company. It was soon discovered, however, that the execution of these works would necessitate an expenditure estimated at over 200 million drachmæ. This amount was considered excessive, and the whole scheme was abandoned. Subsequently the Government discussed the possibility of constructing with less expenditure a railway line between Epirus and North-Western Greece. The Italian company, which would have undertaken the construction of the first-mentioned railway line in co-operation with Greek engineers and capitalists, had also taken this matter in hand. An agreement was finally arrived at between the late Government and the Greco-Italian company, and the convention was signed between M. Repoulis on behalf of the Greek Government (M. Venizelos being absent in Europe) and the Greco-Italian company, represented in this country by the National Bank of Greece.

In accordance with this convention the railway line of Missolonghi would have been extended to Jannina, and later on to Valona. As a result of the construction of this line the products of Epirus would have been consigned to Patras via Missolonghi; furthermore, Arta, too, would have acquired railway communications, seeing that the proposed new line would have run, in accordance with the terms of the convention, via Arta. The width of the line was to have been one metre, and the expenditure was estimated at about 80 million drachmæ. This estimate was submitted to the Government and referred to the Senior Technical Council for approval. In the meantime the Venizelos Government resigned owing to its failure in the recent elections.

In addition to the construction of the above railway lines the late Government was also contemplating the construction of the Kavalla-Drama railway line, also the purchase of the Constantinople-Dedeagatch line, the Salonika-Dedeagatch line having been purchased six months ago. One cannot say whether the present Government will adopt the railway programme of its predecessor. This in any

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case depends entirely upon the financial position, which is closely engaging the attention of the new Administration.

The Financial Position.

At one of the last meetings of the Greek Chamber of Commerce in Athens the President, M. Charilaos, referring to the recent sudden decline of the drachmæ, explained fully the present financial position of the country, and emphasised the fact that the depreciation of Greek currency is not justified by the actual state of affairs, but is mostly due to speculation and nervousness. M. Charilaos pointed out that the amount of paper money issued up to the present day in Greece represents 1,804,624,755 drachmæ, of which 1,282,000,000—i.e., 71 per cent.—is covered. If the 200 million drachmæ held back by the National Bank of Greece are not taken into consideration, the circulating paper money only amounts to about 1,600,000,000 drachmæ—i.e., to 80 per cent. It is well known that few countries can boast of a similar percentage of cover, and this fact is a clear indication that Greek currency is in a far better position than that of many other Western countries. The value of a country's currency largely depends upon its resources of production, and in this respect Greece's position is a very sound one. The tobacco Greece anticipates exporting this year represents at the very least 300 million drachmæ, of which Macedonia alone contributes 170 to 200 million drachmæ. Twenty-five million drachmæ have already been imported into this country from this year's tobacco sold to various foreign countries. From the export of currants it is estimated that 175 million drachmæ will be realised. Of this sum, 100 million drachmæ have already been remitted to this country. The usual quantity of olive oil exported is about 50 million kilos, which, sold at approximately 3 drachmæ per kilo, will, as soon as the Greek Government authorises its export, bring 150 million drachmæ. The approximate amount of money imported yearly into Greece by emigrants is about 700 million drachmæ.

In addition to the above, a further 250 million drachmæ at least is realised by the export of other products—viz., wines, minerals, figs, and so forth. The total yearly amount, therefore, imported into Greece is about 1,600 million drachmæ, without taking into consideration the export trade of the new territories. This 1,600 millions practically neutralises the amounts exported annually. These reached 1,608,324,000 drachmæ in 1919, and will undoubtedly be much smaller this year, in view of the existence of large stocks of last year's goods in this market.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, December 31.

Cattle from Germany.

A commission has been formed to transport cattle from Germany into Serbia. The transport will cost no less than 30 million dinars, and will be effected partly by land and partly by sea. Owing to the shortage of rolling-stock arrangements are being made with Germany and Austria for the loan of wagons. Quarantine stations have been prepared at Maribor and Zemun, and it is anticipated that the transfer will be completed before the end of January.

Small Wheat Exports.

The following quantities of wheat were exported from Yugoslavia during September and November by the Danube through the Baja Customs:—2,118 trucks of wheat for Austria, 236 trucks of flour for Austria, and 624 for Czechoslovakia. Very little was exported by other routes during the period in question.

ZAGREB, January 3.

Proposed Exchange of Perpers.

The Minister of Finance has submitted a proposal that the Montenegrin perpers shall be exchanged for dinars at par up to 5,000 perpers, and beyond that amount at the rate of 2 perpers to a dinar. In this way no hardship will be occasioned to the mass of the population who are poor. Up to the present 1,557 people have reported as holding perpers which they wish to exchange, and the gross value is 17,653,734 perpers. Of this sum half is held among 150 people, and the balance spread among the rest. The Zagreb papers rather ruefully note that the perper is better than the krona, with the comment, "*Bolji perper nego krona*" ("Oh yes! All right!"), a parody of the Serbian soldiers' song at Salonika, when they heard how the Austrian krona was slumping, and felt that the Empire would soon break up, and that they would return to their homes.

It will be remembered that until 1909 Austrian money was current in Montenegro. In that year perpers were first issued, with the nominal value of a franc, divided into 100 paras. The silver coins had an inelegant portrait of King Nikola. The paper money became so valueless during the war that many people simply threw it away as not worth the trouble of carrying about.

"THE TRADE CRISIS."

SOME REPRESENTATIVE VIEWS.

We give below some representative views on the present trade crisis, which arises mainly from the adverse exchanges and the lack of credits abroad. Lord Sydenham touches on the effects of labour unrest in this country and heavy taxation—both of which have, of course, played their part in bringing about industrial stagnation. As regards any scheme for the development of exports, he points out that it can only be successful provided a number of conditions are complied with as regards the countries to which it is applied. Sir Peter Rylands urges that no credit ought to be extended "to a country whose national expenditure exceeds its revenue," and remarks that, in endeavouring to restore the buying powers of Europe, we must be careful as to the effect on the recovery of rival manufacturers. Sir Edward Mountain outlines a promising exports credits scheme, reference to which is made in "Notes and News."

LORD SYDENHAM, G.C.S.I., Etc.

The first step in dealing with the grave industrial situation with which we are faced is to arrive at a clear idea of the causes of unemployment, and to distinguish between those that are purely domestic and those that arise from the lack of purchasing power of our customers abroad. In part, at least, our trouble is due to the action of Labour leaders in forcing up wages at a time when the abnormal strain due to the war was beginning to produce the inevitable effect. The 4,000 strikes and the loss of more than 61 million working days are factors which cannot be ignored. The coal, railway, and moulders' strikes in particular dealt a grievous blow to most industries, and served to increase the prices of commodities all round. At the same time, the crushing burden of taxes and rates, which might have been mitigated by drastic public economy, tends to aggravate the difficulty by weakening the purchasing power of all classes. It is quite as necessary that we should cheapen as increase our production, since we are now being undersold in neutral markets, where the Germans—our greatest trade rivals—are recovering their pre-war commercial position, assisted by the low value of the mark. Cheap coal would be infinitely helpful; but the Americans are capturing our valuable export trade, in spite of the exchange, which in their case militates against the process. We are, therefore, threatened with still higher prices of our principal natural product, and the miners, enjoying wages which are still mounting, seem to be unaware that they are depriving their fellow-workers of employment. The conditions of the different industries, and even of individual businesses in each great industry, vary so much that only free and frank conference between employer and employed can suggest means of maintaining the maximum number of the latter while securing cheapened production and the certainty of output, the want of which is losing us important foreign orders.

The proposal to establish long-term credits with foreign countries can succeed only if it is applied to such States as have need of our commodities, possess resources which we require, will employ their credits to trade with us, and can hold out the promise of stability enabling them ultimately to discharge their obligations. These conditions cannot be universally fulfilled. In the case of Russia, for example, Sir Robert Horne has rightly stated: "The real fact is that Russia has got no commodities to trade with"; and as the Soviet purchasing power is limited by the amount of gold and jewels which it has stolen, Russia can do nothing to alleviate unemployment until the murderous tyrants of Moscow have been replaced by an honest and civilised Government. All trade is, in its essence, indirect barter subject to financial adjustments; direct methods of exchange can be arranged only when each of two countries can supply commodities which the other needs in quantities that can be made to balance. Even then the calculation of equivalent values must offer great difficulties, especially at such a time as this.

I cannot here discuss the complex question of the exchanges. Speaking broadly, the rate of exchange between two countries is governed by the trade balance; but other considerations, which cannot be analysed, are present. Thus exchange is undoubtedly influenced by the view held in one country as to the credit of another, which involves an estimate—possibly incorrect—of political stability. The credit of any State which is in the grip of or believed to be approaching revolution is a vanishing quantity. Fluctuating exchanges are a serious drawback to trade; but while it might be possible to stabilise exchanges within the Empire, which would be a distinct gain, I can see no way of effecting a universal adjustment, having regard to the wide differences of internal conditions. For us, so far as

America is concerned, the only course is to export more, to import less, and to discharge or fund our debt to that country as soon as possible, while setting an example to the world of national solidarity.

I have tried to indicate the general causes of unemployment and the possible remedies; but the psychological factor must not be forgotten. If any considerable number of our working classes has been seduced into believing that this is a favourable time for abolishing "the evil thing called capitalism," then all remedies will fail. The immediate cause of unemployment here and of great suffering in some parts of Europe is the destruction of capital, which is the outstanding economic result of the war.

SIR EDWARD M. MOUNTAIN, Managing Director of the Eagle, Star and British Dominions Insurance Company, Ltd.

In order that an effective scheme for insurance can be started whereby our merchants will be enabled to dispose of their surplus stocks to those countries who at the present moment are unable to pay cash and whose credit has become weakened owing to the war, it is absolutely essential that a syndicate should be formed in this country of overwhelming financial stability. This can only be done by getting all the leading banks and insurance companies into the group.

My proposal is that the Government should allocate £13,000,000 out of the £26,000,000 that has been voted to assist the trade of these countries as a fund with which they would guarantee the members of the syndicate against ultimate loss.

I think it would be possible to form a syndicate as suggested above, and that such a syndicate could conduct the business by employing a qualified manager and having a committee to meet daily to go into all questions that may arise. Such committee would consist of the ablest brains that are available in the City, and would be absolutely unobtainable in any ordinary way.

The syndicate would take any profit that might be made out of the insurance transactions, and would pay all expenses of carrying on, officers, managers, clerks, etc., except those who would give their time and attention to conducting the business free of all cost.

If the Government accepted this proposal, the syndicate would immediately get to work, and would get into touch with such countries as Roumania, Yugoslavia, Austria, etc., etc., to get similar syndicates formed in those countries by the leading bankers, who would give their guarantee for what it is worth to the English syndicate.

In my opinion, barring the risk of financial collapse of a country or a country being seized by Bolsheviks, and the Bolsheviks repudiating their debts, under this scheme the Government would never be called upon for a penny, and even if the Bolsheviks seized any of the countries and repudiated the debts, in all probability at some date in the future the money would be recoverable. If either of such events were to occur, however, the Government would lose heavily in any case.

My scheme in no way interferes with Ter Meulen's scheme, but the Ter Meulen scheme would probably take some months to get into order, whereas my scheme could be put into operation almost immediately. A scheme of this nature would cost the Government, if it costs them anything at all, very much less than giving unemployment doles or expending the money on forced work.

The assistance in the case of the bankers and leading insurance companies would all be entirely at the Government's service, and it would be impossible for them to form any such machinery except at a gigantic cost. Such a scheme, if considered, would immediately start trade going, and would have a very beneficial effect on exchanges.

SIR W. PETER RYLANDS, President of the Federation of British Industries.

We all must sympathise with the objects of the Ter Meulen or other similar schemes for restoring the buying power of Europe.

It would, however, appear essential that no credit under any such scheme should be extended to a country whose national expenditure exceeds its revenue. At the present moment there appears to be small prospect of this. There is some danger lest the importance of securing increased

business for this country may blind us to the evil consequence which we ourselves suffer from the present lack of financial equilibrium on the Continent and the consequent interminable increase in floating debt and paper currency.

The effect of this is reflected in international exchange, but more especially in an artificial labour cost which is reflected in competitive prices in the British and foreign markets with which our manufacturers find it impossible to compete.

The recovery of Continental manufacturers who compete with the products of this country is a matter of no less importance than the question of restoring the buying powers of Europe, and we must see to it that, while seeking to achieve the latter, however desirable, we are not, in fact, aggravating our own difficulties by the consequent effect of our action upon the former.

CATALOGUES REQUIRED FOR ZAGREB.

The British Consul at Zagreb states that he would be glad to receive catalogues dealing with the following goods:—Clothing, boots and shoes; woodworking machinery and tools, especially for furniture manufacture; agricultural machinery; commercial motors; paper, stationery, and office appliances; electrical appliances and fittings for house, shop, and tramway use; shop fittings; fancy leather goods; plant for coalmines; prepared foodstuffs, jams, tinned meats, cocoa, etc. The Consul also suggests that firms engaged in textile manufacture should send some species of advertisement. This market was formerly largely supplied by Germany, and the German language is the principal business language, so that it would be preferable if these catalogues were printed in the national language, Serb-Croatian, or alternatively in German, which is the only alternative to Croatian, and is largely spoken. Catalogues should be sent direct to the British Consul, Gjorgjiceva Ulica, 7, Zagreb (Agram).

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 (new style January 14 to November 13), 1920.

	Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper Naxos emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross receipts, Oct., 1920	6,083,064·79	5,000,378·00
Do. do. 1919	4,861,507·75	5,341,323·70
Estimated receipts for 10 months (Law of Control)	24,083,333·33	8,916,666·67
Actual do. do. 1920	54,822,277·06	49,156,427·05
Do. do. do. 1919	40,270,301·75	40,350,718·05
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 10 months	1920 +30,738,913·73 1919 +16,186,968·42	+39,236,760·38 +31,434,051·38

Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1/5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah. Production for week to January 2, nil (last week, nil). Hurgada: 3,216 tons (last week, 3,295 tons).

The Algerian Oilfields states that advices have been received from Paris to the effect that at a meeting of the Conseil d'Etat on December 30 the request of the Société Algérienne des Petroles de Tliouanet (in which the Algerian Oilfields is largely interested) for a concession in Algiers was agreed to without opposition.

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IRRIGATION WORK IN EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.—II.

NILE PROJECTS COMMISSION REPORT.

The Commission confirms in every detail the opinion given in its interim report with regard to the immediate execution of certain of the projects. It paid an extensive visit to the Sudan, and approved of the site chosen for the White Nile Dam at Gebel Awlia, which will afford Egypt a certain degree of flood protection and the necessary storage for the additional summer water immediately required, and it accepts as substantially correct the calculations of the volumes impounded in the reservoir and the flood protection levels.

As regards the Gezira Irrigation Scheme and the Blue Nile Dam, the Commission is of opinion that the dam has been designed in accordance with the usual engineering practice, and that the foundations are in sound rock. The reservoir can be filled without withdrawing from the river one drop of water to which Egypt is entitled; it does not rob Egypt of silt, and it is clear that the proposed scheme cannot adversely affect that country. The Commission considers that the project is an eminently satisfactory one, and that this scheme, as also the White Nile Dam, should be completed with the least possible delay.

The Nag Hamadi Barrage the Commission considers a necessity for the conversion of an area of about 500,000 feddans in Egypt from basin to perennial irrigation, a necessity which "alone is quite sufficient to justify the construction of this barrage."

The Upper Blue Nile Dam it likewise regards as essential for the full development of the Gezira irrigation project, and also in the interest of Egypt. In its opinion, the information available, although very meagre, indicates that such a work would be feasible from an engineering point of view, but it recommends that further investigations in the upper catchment area of the Blue Nile be undertaken immediately and prosecuted vigorously.

The Commission considers that the project for work in the Sudd region and for the Lake Albert Dam is necessary for the development of irrigation in Egypt to its fullest extent, but it says that in this case also the information at its disposal is not sufficient for it to give anything but a very general opinion on the project.

It says that: "If the proposed cut from Bor (or, possibly, from a point as far south as Rejaf) to the Sobat mouth is not impossible on financial or engineering grounds, it would prove probably the most satisfactory solution of the difficulty of getting water from Lake Albert to the White Nile without incurring the enormous losses which do now, and must always, occur in the Sudd region."

This cut with a reservoir on Lake Albert would considerably increase the supply of water for Egypt and the Sudan, but as no part of the line of the proposed cut has yet been surveyed, and part of the country through which it would pass is unexplored, it recommends that the surveys should be commenced as soon as possible, and that the possibility of obtaining an additional supply of water from the Bahr El Ghazal might be investigated after the completion of these surveys.

With regard to the proposal made by Sir William Willcocks for the construction of reservoirs in the Sudd region, the Commission does not consider it is worth while spending time or money on their investigations.

As regards the estimates of the water requirements of Egypt when irrigation has been developed to its fullest extent, it considers that they have been prepared with care and in great detail, but it is of opinion that the estimate accepted by the Ministry of Public Works is rather on the low side. It recommends that the figure submitted by Mr. Victor Mosseri, which agrees with the estimate arrived at by Messrs. Molesworth and Yennidunia, viz., 58,000,000,000 of cubic metres, should be tentatively accepted as Egypt's ultimate water requirements.

Coming now to the question of the allocation of the increased supply of available water, and the apportionment of the cost of the proposed works between Egypt and the Sudan on which there is not unanimity of opinion, two reports have, as mentioned, been written: one by Mr. Gebbie and Dr. Simpson and the other by Mr. Cory.

The latter, in a long and highly interesting note, in the course of which he answers certain of the objections raised by the Egyptian engineers, comes to the following conclusions: "Egyptian irrigation has practically reached its limit until conservation works are constructed outside its boundaries. The programme outlined in 'Nile Control' is the only practicable one. The present uses of Nile water by Egypt and the Sudan, as shown in the table, should be adopted as vested rights to the natural flow. The excess water over and above such vested rights should be divided

equally between Egypt and the Sudan. The costs of conservancy should be divided in like proportion, with the proviso that 90 per cent. of the total cost of the Makwar Dam be considered as for diversion only, and paid wholly by the Sudan, and the further proviso that failure of one party to join in conservation work when such work may be required by the other in no wise estops the first party from eventually participating in the full use of such works upon due payment of a proper share in the costs. The ex-



The Temple of Philae, now submerged by the raising of the Aswan Dam.

penses of the Commission should likewise be borne in like proportions. By complete conservancy, if that be found possible, the Nile waters will suffice for the irrigation of all irrigable areas in Egypt, and probably most of those in the Sudan."

The other two members feel that while they may be theoretically correct, it is impossible on financial and other points to apply Mr. Cory's findings in present circumstances. They regard it "as indisputable that Egypt has by right of long use established a claim to a supply of water sufficient to irrigate an area equal to the largest area which has been irrigated in any single year since the Aswan Dam in its present form was completed, and that Egypt has an established claim to receive this water at the particular seasons when it is required." (The largest area in these circumstances is 5,400,000 feddans, which was the area irrigated in 1916-17). They also consider that the Sudan has acquired a right to irrigation water for a certain area; but they have not been able to obtain sufficient data to enable them to determine what this area is. It is, however, very small in comparison with Egypt's established claim.

(To be continued).

The Guaranty Trust Company of New York announces that William Chapman Potter was elected chairman of the board of directors at a meeting held on January 5. Mr. Potter thus takes the place of the late Alexander J. Hemphill, whose death was recently announced. The new chairman is a partner of Guggenheim Brothers, who are the dominant interests in the American Smelting and Refining Company, and in other important corporations in the United States. He was a director of the Guaranty Trust Company before his election as chairman.

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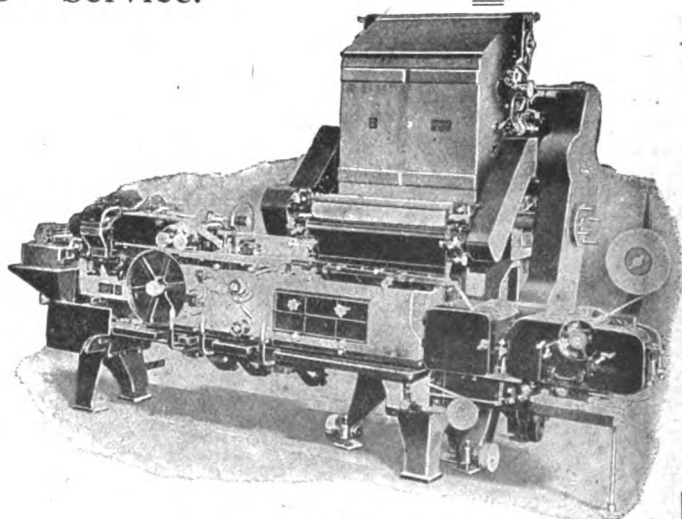
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ENGINEERING.

The Beardmore Car.

Reference to cars brings to mind the fact that I promised to say something about the Beardmore 11-h.p. car, which is, I may say, a very fine production. The last model I saw was fitted with a two-seater coupé body, which was extremely well finished, and presented a very smart appearance. I have not yet had an opportunity of trying out this car on the road, but I am given to understand that for the past eighteen months it has been undergoing the most severe road tests imaginable in the Scottish highlands, with gratifying results as to speed, power, strength and smoothness of running. I believe, as a matter of fact, that the suspension is on what might almost be termed super-efficient lines. The arrangement is such that the point of attachment to the axle is slightly away from the centre of the spring group, and as a result all the parts which are subject to vibration tend to damp out each other and produce vibrationless running.

Welded Steel Construction.

A factory has recently been erected in North London on the "A.W.P." welded steel construction system, the skeleton being entirely of steel and the walls and partitions being of a hollow block construction. The factory is 200 ft. in length by 70 ft. in width by 27 ft. in height, and the main truss has a span of 40 ft. The wing truss on either side of the building is 15 ft. in span. It is stated that whilst the site was being cleared and the foundations put in, the stanchions, which were of ordinary H-section, were cut to length and the base plates were welded on, these and the other principal members being prepared at the works of the construction firm. The trusses were welded up in halves, conveyed to the site, placed in position, and welded where necessary. A steel jig of simple design and construction was made by which the parts could be placed in the exact position required, and by means of this it was an easy matter to secure perfect uniformity. Cleats were welded on to the principal members to which the wooden joists and purlins could be attached by coach screws, and it is noticeable that the strength of this welded construction is such that very few gusset plates, or other strengthening pieces, have had to be used. The electrical plant required consisted merely of a transformer, clicking coils, the necessary lengths of heavily insulated cables and the actual electrodes, and the whole of the work, in spite of certain delay in the delivery of the materials, occupied but little over two months.

Cotton Waste.

The increase in the price charged for cotton waste for use in engineering establishments, which is now two or three times what it was before the war, has caused many engineering firms to consider ways and means whereby economy could be effected. Some little time ago one of the largest users on the Continent laid down a plant whereby used waste was first beaten to remove loose dust and metal chippings and then slowly heated in a tank to render the oil contained in it as liquid as possible. The waste was then placed in a centrifugal machine driven at a high speed by means of an electric motor. This removed a large quantity of the free oil, and the balance was taken out by washing in boiling water, the waste being finally dried in another centrifugal, and finished off in a steam oven. It appears that a company has now been formed in the North for cleaning oily waste and wiping cloths. The waste is collected periodically from the factories and engineering works, cleaned, washed, and dried, and delivered back to the original users for a comparatively low fee. This is sufficient to cover all costs of the operation, and to leave a margin, whilst a further profit may be derived from the sale of the extracted oil, which would have a high market value. It would seem that a good prospect of financial success would be found in the establishment of similar waste recovery plants in other industrial districts.

Electricity in Docks.

From time to time a good deal has been said in these columns as to the use of electricity in loading and unloading vessels, and all that has been mentioned is supported now by Mr. L. A. P. Warner, the general manager and secretary of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. He has just returned from a lightning tour of American shipping ports, and mentions that he saw 5,200 tons of coal loaded and trimmed into one steamer at Baltimore in rather under five hours. Not a single human trimmer was employed in the work, the only labour being a few men in charge of the electric motors and machinery. From first to last the whole operation was mechanical. He pointed out that the cheapness of electrical energy was one reason why the Americans were so far ahead in the use of electrical appliances. In New York, he added, for general cargo, there are a number of portable electric winches in use on

some of the piers to work in conjunction with a ship's gear. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the leading electrical journal in this country considers that in course of time it is probable that the old-fashioned hand-trucks used in the Liverpool dock-sheds in connection with the loading and unloading of cargo steamers will disappear completely, and their places be taken by electrically-propelled trucks, which have enormous economic advantages. For one thing they are easily operated and controlled, and for another by their means loads of five or ten times the weight carried by hand-trucks can be moved. Several standard types of trucks are already being used in unloading vessels of the Cunard, White Star, Harrison, and other steamship lines. It mentions that one particular type of truck so employed was one built for heavy duty. This was made to the following specification: Capacity, one ton; speed, empty, 6 miles per hour; loaded, 5 miles per hour; loading space, 7 ft. by 3 ft.; overall length, 8 ft. 6 in.; height of platform, 1 ft. 11 in.; and clearance under truck, 5 in.

Benzole or Petrol?

The reduction in the price of petrol is not an unmixed benefit to all concerned. A good deal has been said and written as to the value of benzole as a motor spirit, and in view of the fact that the Government, to encourage production, exempted that spirit from the late fuel tax a large number of firms became engaged in its production. Prices naturally ran very much in line with those ruling for high-grade petrol. Now that the Government in its wisdom has taken the tax off fuel and put it on vehicles, the petrol suppliers are able to reduce their prices by about 7d. per gallon. As there was no tax on benzole there is no tax to take off, and consequently the benzole people are at a disadvantage.

I have been in correspondence with my good friends the National Benzole Co., who tell me that they have given the most earnest consideration to the subject with the result that they have been able to bring down their prices by 3d. a gallon as from January 1. This may seem a small and even an inadequate reduction, but in view of the fact that benzole has been tested by various motoring organisations and found to be about 20 per cent. better than imported spirit it is still good business to run on benzole whenever ample supplies can be obtained.

A New Rectifier

A close examination of the new Tungar rectifier, placed on the market by the British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd., shows how well and carefully made is this interesting production. It is, as its name implies, a device for changing alternating to continuous current and transforming it down to a required voltage. It is self-contained and extremely compact, and its chief parts comprise a bulb, which does the actual work of rectification, a transformer, a reactance and an enclosing case with the necessary connecting leads.

The essential part of the apparatus is the bulb, which operates in exactly the same way as the thermionic valve used in up-to-date methods of wireless telegraphy and telephony. It operates in effect as an electric check valve, and only permits current to flow in one direction. We have, as a result, one half of the alternations of the current allowed to pass whilst the other half is checked, and this valve action has a further and most important advantage, in that it prevents the batteries from discharging back through the rectifier. Of course, the transformer and reactance are used for adjusting the current and voltage to the value required.

From personal experience I can testify to the fact that the Tungar rectifier is extremely simple in operation, and, in my opinion, it provides one of the simplest and most certain means I know of for performing the specified work. It is certainly superior in many ways to the somewhat costly and certainly bulky motor generator. It is only necessary in the case of the smaller form of the apparatus to connect the leads to the battery to be charged and insert the adaptor into any convenient wall-socket or lamp-holder. In fact, by means of one of these handy and comparatively inexpensive appliances any lampholder or wall-socket may be converted into a simple and absolutely reliable charging station.

Tungar rectifiers are suitable for charging accumulators, for motor-car starting and lighting sets, electric clocks, bells, telephones, and telegraph instruments, and also for the direct operation of various low-voltage direct-current appliances.

On account of its convenience and high efficiency, these rectifiers should prove of considerable use to the garage proprietor or private car-owner who has hitherto employed a motor generator or other form of rectifying apparatus. The appliance has no moving parts, and requires no attention, and by its use the often thankless and profitless task of battery charging becomes a matter of extreme simplicity.

Shell-Mex, Ltd.

I have just received official intimation that the existing organisations represented by Shell Marketing Co., Ltd., and the Anglo-Mexican Petroleum Co., Ltd., are to be combined under the title of Shell-Mex, Ltd. The well-known Shell Aviation, Shell, and Mex fuels will be sold as hitherto, and I should say that the new arrangement will tend towards increased economy and efficiency in distribution.

Dunlops in Czecho-Slovakia.

Mr. J. O. Jech, the principal Dunlop stockist in Prague, has forwarded to the manufacturers a copy of an official communication received from the Czecho-Slovak Automobile Club testifying to the remarkable qualities of Dunlop tyres as demonstrated by the recent reliability trial along the Czecho-Slovak frontier. The course was 2,000 kilometres in length, and was accomplished by three of the four competing cars in five days, the fourth meeting with an accident of a somewhat serious nature.

The roads are by no means up to British standards—even post-war standards—and that is expressing it mildly, judging from the reports. The fact, therefore, that the 45 h.p. Praga car—the only one to start on Dunlops—had only one experience of tyre trouble (within 300 km. from the finish) is extremely creditable. Each of the other cars was delayed considerably through the necessity for continual tyre changing, and the 70 h.p. Tatra, which attained a speed of 115 km. on the level, had eventually to fit Magnums to complete the course.

Cheaper Tyres.

Substantial reductions are being made in the prices of Dominion tyres, including both covers and tubes. The reduction is retrospective, and in these days of scarce money will be appreciated. I have never had an opportunity of testing out Dominion tyres on really bad roads, but I believe them to be of extremely good quality and likely to give full satisfaction in use.

New Automatic Oiler.

A cheap but highly efficient leaf-spring oiler of the automatic type has just been put on the market by Messrs. Dunhills, Ltd., a feature of which is the ease with which it can be attached. A good spring lubricator means a good deal, not only to the comfort of the driver, but to the life of the springs, and I am pleased to be able to recommend this simple device.

GEORGIAN NEW CUSTOMS DUTIES.

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Georgia has fixed a new Customs tariff, according to which all imports are divided into four groups:—(1) Provisions, agricultural implements, and machinery, which can be imported free of duty; (2) the import of articles of luxury is entirely prohibited; (3) goods for daily consumption are subject to a small duty; (4) all other goods are subject to duty which varies according to their importance as prime necessities. Goods for export are divided into three groups:—(1) Goods of prime necessity are subject to prohibitive duties; (2) monopolised goods and other raw material, such as manganese ore, tobacco, silk, wool, and timber, can be exported on payment of a corresponding export duty fixed by the Government; (3) other goods are subject to high export duties.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.**LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.****Market Unsettled.**

Dried Fruit.—Business has improved considerably during the week. Currants have been in fair demand, and the indications point to a growth in consumption. Sultanias have come to business well at steady rates. So far figs have been a dull spot, which is remarkable in view of the quality of the fruit available. There will no doubt, however, be a marked change in this respect before long. Persian dates have been in strong and increasing request.

Sugar.—Prices have remained unchanged. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 60-66s. and white Mauritius has been done at 71s. Home refined has met with a fair demand at the official rates.

Coffee.—The market has been variable. Costa Rica has been done at 110s. to 120s.; Indian is 4s. down at 106s.; while Mocha is 10s. up at 170s. The Futures market has been inactive. Quotations are:—March, 46s.; May, 47s.; July, 48s.; September, 49s.

Oilcakes.—There has been a slight rise in prices. Linseed cake and cottonseed cake are both 6d. up at 18s. 6d. and 10s. 6d., respectively. Arachis cake is unaltered at 13s.

Oilseeds.—The tone has been dull. Indian linseed at 22s. 6d. is unchanged. Rapeseed has declined, with Toria at 20s., 2s. 6d. down, and bold Ferozepore a like amount down at 19s.

Seed Oils.—Prices have remained steady. Linseed oil has come to business at 39s. Other transactions include arachis oil at 50s., coconut oil at 72s., and palmit oil meal at 10s. 3d. per cwt.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 214s. 9d. cwt.; butter, 336s. cwt.; cheese, 161s. cwt.; chillies, 127s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 3d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 102s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 113s. 6d. cwt.; East Indian bold, 115s. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 130s. cwt.; eggs, 45s. 8d. per 120; ginger (washed Cochin), 42s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 220s. cwt.; lard, 167s. 3d. cwt.; nutmegs, 11d. per 110's to 180's; pepper (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 8d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 152s. cwt.; sultanias (Smyrna), 136s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 91s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 72s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 76s. cwt.; Mauritius, 70s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 24s. cwt. rice (Rangoon No. 2), 25s. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), £7 15s. ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 6½d. lb. wheat (Australian), 114s. 6d. qr.; wheat (English white), 82s. 6d. qr.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer: First 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb. 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb.; cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4d. lb.; bulls (first), 4½d. lb. bulls (second), 3½d. lb.; kips (first), 6d. lb.; kips (second), 5d. lb.; kips (third), 4d. lb.; horse hides, 8s. to 25s. each. **France:** Market prices in francs per kilo for goat skins:—Algiers (saline dry), 10; Constantine (salted dry), 11; Oran (salted dry), 8.50; Tunisia (salted dry), 8; Morocco (salted dry), 5 to 6; Samsoun (salted dry), 5 to 6; West Coast, 7 to 8.

Metals.—Aluminium, £165 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £71 5s. ton; copper (electro, wire bars), £82 ton; gold bars, 116s. 10d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 225s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 260s. ton; lead (soft, foreign), £22 10s. ton; manganese Poti, 2s. 6d. unit; molybdenite, 55s. unit; nickel, £215 ton; platinum, 440s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £12 bottle; silver bars, 3s. 6d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 10s. ton; tin (standard), £203 15s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), £32 10s. box; wolfram, 18s. 3d. unit; zinc sheets, £46 10s. ton.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 5½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 10½d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; ammoniac (sulphate), £24 13s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £71 ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 6½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £21 ton; borax crystals, 41s. cwt.; cream of tartar, 207s. 6d. cwt. Potassium: Bichromate, 1s. 3½d. lb.; chlorate, 7½d. lb.; caustic, £75 ton; nitrate, £60 ton; permanganate, 2s. 10½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 6½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £27 15s. ton. Sodium: Crystals, 150s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 15s. ton; bi-chromate, 10½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £10 15s. ton; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £27 ton; hyposulphite, £27 10s. ton; prussiate, 11½d. lb.; nitrate, £22 15s. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate copper, £39 10s. ton; sulphate iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 4s. 10½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 9½d. oz.; red lead, £46 5s. ton; white dry lead, £53 ton; white ground lead, £62 17s. 6d. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 10.79d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian, Sakellaris), 22.00d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £19 15s. ton; rape (Toria), £22 15s. ton; soya beans, £15 5s. ton; palm kernels, £26 17s. 6d. ton. Oils: Linseed, £40 10s. ton; soya, £40 ton; cotton (crude), £41 10s. ton; olive, 16s. 6d. gallon; ground nut, £48 ton; palm, £45 15s. ton; rape (crude), £70 ton; nreroleum, 2s. 3½d. gallon; turpentine, 100s. cwt. Rubber: Plantation, No. 1 crêpe, 10½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 9½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 1d. lb.

DRIED FRUIT.**Conditions in 1920.**

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their annual report state:—

The habit of retrospection is one in which we mostly indulge during the closing days of one year and those which herald the commencement of another, and we think it may be of interest to pass briefly in review the salient features which have characterised the past twelve months. The country has witnessed a remarkable shrinkage in the values of most commodities, largely brought about by restriction of credit and consequent financial stringency, and we think the dried fruit trade has cause for much thankfulness in being spared participation in so widespread a slump, the experience of most markets making ours a striking exception to the rule.

Currants.—The notification published on May 29 that dried fruit was to be decontrolled caused a resumption of shipments to the United Kingdom in June. These consignments, and many others which had arrived during the close period, were of excellent quality, a considerable proportion being in wooden packages, and the appreciation of their merit was rendered more keen by the fact that we had become habituated to the inferior Government importations in bags. It was promptly realised that the permission to sell without restriction, which became operative on August 4, would be taken advantage of to a very great extent, the concession having been hailed with the greatest satisfaction, and even during July a considerable trade was done in anticipation of the release. This increased in volume during August, a real season's trade being done, but a reaction from such unwonted activity was inevitable, and the fruit which arrived in September had a decidedly disappointing reception. It became evident that buyers had made provision for their Christmas requirements much earlier than usual, and were no longer disposed to purchase on a large scale, a state of affairs which continued throughout the autumn months. The long-drawn-out negotiations which proved futile to avert the coal strike, and the eventual dislocation of trade throughout the country which occurred when the strike took place, all came at a most critical period, and had a most restraining influence on buyers' operations.

Considering the small amount of business passing, prices were maintained remarkably well, for while inferior grades declined appreciably, the fall amounting to 15s. per cwt., there was no great change in the better qualities, and Vostizza continued almost at opening rates.

It is known that the wholesale houses are carrying very small stocks into the New Year, and, as consumption is believed to have been fully up to the standard of a normal season, a feeling of optimism exists among holders, for, having passed through troublesome times so satisfactorily, an active demand is looked for in 1921. The closing weeks of the old year, however, were marked by a holiday feeling, and buyers showed very little interest in business.

Cables recently received from Greece report that stocks existing there amount to only 15,000 tons, the total crop being about 74,000 tons. This is a strong factor in stabilising prices on a more permanent footing, and, coupled with the fact that the relation between supply and demand is reverting to its former state after being so long disjointed, everything tends towards healthy conditions, which are reflected in the existing firmness. Quotations are:—New fruit—Pyrgos, 70s. to 72s.; Amalias, 75s. to 76s.; Patras, 76s. to 80s.; Gulf and Panariti, 82s. to 90s.; Zante, 80s. to 85s.; Vostizza, 90s. to 102s. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date, 17,690 tons.

Valencia Raisins.—The season has been one of record prices. It was fully expected that values would run high, the crop being the smallest harvested for years, but even the most optimistic did not anticipate a maintenance of the quotations right up to Christmas. Some business was transacted in July on a c.i.f. basis at 87s. to 90s. for selected half-boxes. The first consignment arrival realised 134s. to 145s. for selected. Later prices dropped a few shillings, but subsequently recovered, finishing at the top figures of 150s. to 155s. Seedless, on the other hand, give cause for disappointment. They never appreciated, and the hope that the extreme figures asked for sultanas would induce consumers to take Valencia seedless as a substitute did not materialise. The market for this description has been a dragging one throughout, and the closing quotation of the year was 118s.

Sultanas.—Coming to a depleted market, very high prices were secured from the outset, and a considerable proportion of first arrivals having been sold in advance, there was no great quantity to be offered, and a further rise on initial values was quickly established, ranging from 147s. to 160s., and, although final figures are about 10s. below the highest reached, the season may be described on the whole as eminently satisfactory. **Afghans.**—A fair volume of business was done on c.i.f. terms at 90s. to 92s. for Red variety, and 105s. for the Yellow class. Latest spot sales were:—Red, 100s.; Yellow, 120s. to 125s.; Greeks, 135s. to 150s.; and up to 160s. for finest.

Figs.—The public, having been denied this Christmas luxury for several years, proved keen buyers, and all supplies were readily absorbed as soon as they came to hand at the record-breaking prices of—Layers, 140s. to 180s.; Locoums, 170s. to 200s. Bags of Naturals also participated in the demand, many being sold before shipment. First spot sales were at 75s. to 78s., but these rates could not be upheld owing to most buyers having c.i.f. contracts running, and values gradually declined, finishing at 40s. to 58s.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.**Position Improved.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

The better feeling in the market continues to be maintained, and although sellers have not been able to make rapid progress in the way of booking fresh contracts, the demand during the past week has been on broader lines than for some little time back. Users of Egyptian cotton are getting more disposed to purchase, and some merchants have done more business during the last few days. There is no particular change with regard to the outlook for supplies. In Egyptian yarns the inquiry has developed, and some spinners have booked fair orders, but at poor prices. The larger demand for Germany continues, but much difficulty is being experienced in arranging for the payment of accounts. The Board of Trade has sanctioned the scheme of the Cotton Reconstruction Board for making grants out of the surplus funds to relieve the distress in Lancashire which has arisen through unemployment. Further correspondence has taken place between the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the India Office relating to the stabilisation of the value of the rupee, but the British Government does not seem inclined to take action at present. An improvement is now taking place in Eastern exchange rates. In cloth for Egypt rather more business has been done in stock lots at low prices. Demand has also been rather more plentiful for the outlets of the Levant. India has sent forward a larger inquiry, chiefly in light fabrics, and moderate lots have been sold for Calcutta. No particular headway has yet been made with the demand for China. Shippers to South America are still cautious. Although the prospects for manufacturers are rather brighter, curtailment of production continues on an extensive scale. In American yarns for home use the tone has been rather firmer, and slightly more business has been done. Export bundles have been in request for India and the Levant.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ended January 6, state:—A more optimistic feeling has been noticeable in our market during the past week, but the cause of it is rather difficult to define, unless we attribute it entirely to the steadiness displayed on the American side. The amount of spot business transacted here has been painfully small, and prices have again registered an all-round decline. Sakellaridis is gradually getting down to a more reasonable premium above contracts, but Upper is holding its own fairly well, and to-day was raised 50 points. A rumour current here, as we write, is to the effect that America during the last day or two purchased a line of 20,000 bales of Upper Egyptian in Alexandria. The grade was stated to be about good fair. No confirmation of this is yet to hand, however. The small inquiry we have had has been of a general description, with possibly a slight bias in favour of Sakellaridis. Manchester has been a little more cheerful the last two days, but "handsome is as handsome does," and it is deeds, not words, that the trade is in need of at the moment. C.i.f. business remains at a very low ebb, and spinners are finding it increasingly difficult to finance their cotton. Cotton here is freely offered, and, as compared with official quotations, there are some good bargains to be picked up. Summing up, the market seems to be finding its level, and although the general situation is still extremely adverse to trade, we are inclined to recommend caution in place of the all-out "bear" policy which we have hitherto advocated. Sales 650 (includes 70 bales Sudan). Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced 200 points, those of brown 100 points, whilst Upper shows a decline of 50 points, except for extra fine quality, which is reduced 100 points. Fully good fair Sakel 21d.

EGYPTIAN CROP.

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

Maizi (Nili).—Weather has been favourable and water supply sufficient. Harvesting is general and the early-sown crop has been cut. The crop is promising well, and the yield is average.

Millet (Nili).—The crop is healthy and promises well. Cutting will begin early this month, though harvesting has already begun in some early-sown fields. The crop is a little above the average.

Sugar Cane.—Weather has been on the whole favourable and water supply sufficient. The crop is growing satisfactorily. Harvesting sugar-cane for factories will probably begin at the end of the month. The crop is expected to be a little above average.

Wheat, Barley, and Beans.—The weather has been favourable and the water supply ample. The permission to uproot cotton sticks without cleaning before certain dates seems to have had a good effect on wheat, as sowing is generally earlier this year. Sowing of these crops is taking place actively and watering and manuring are also in progress. The crops are in a good state.



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LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give the following extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for November:—

Flour and Cereals.—Supplies have been arriving regularly during the month; altogether over 9,000 tons were received, of which 8,000 tons came from America—principally of the Martisco-Nelson and Gold Medal brands—and some 1,100 tons arrived from China. Very little fluctuation was recorded, prices varying from £T13½ to £T13½ per sack of 140 lbs. Exports totalled about 15,000 sacks during the month, mostly transhipped to Batoum and the Turkish littoral. The market is fairly well supplied, and with stocks on hand and cargoes afloat there is sufficient to last about eight weeks, allowing for the increased demand made on us by reason of the presence of the Russian refugees.

Barley.—In spite of the general decline in price in most of the European centres, prices here have been well maintained at figures considerably above the parities ruling in Europe, the highest and lowest for the month being respectively 11½ and 8½ piastres per oke for Russian and Roumanian qualities. Towards the close the price showed a tendency to rise, with fairly strong buyers at 9½ pts. This was mainly due to the stoppage of arrivals from Russia, and also, in part, due to the fact that we are approaching the season when the Danube will be closed to traffic. The market here is moderately supplied with stocks.

Sugar.—About 1,800 tons arrived during the month, mostly Java, and small quantities of lump from America, Marseilles, and Holland; of this some 400 tons was re-exported to Roumania. The market is fairly well stocked. During the month prices fluctuated greatly, varying from £83 to £65 per ton; still lower prices are expected by local merchants. Contrary to expectation, there has been little demand.

Nuts.—Some 5,000 bags of shelled hazel, of Kerassunde, Ordou, Trebizonde qualities, arrived from the Black Sea, and the market went a little easier on the increased imports. The price is not expected to fall much, seeing that stocks held at the places of origin are not large, and only a few hundred sacks are held here at the present moment.

Canned Goods.—Here as elsewhere the general crisis is felt, and with the exception of certain articles *de première nécessité* sales have been considerably reduced during the month. The hinterland continues closed, and as for the city itself, with its decreasing prosperity, the consumption of alimentary goods is naturally much smaller, with the result that retailers are restricting their purchases, and wholesalers are compelled to follow suit. However, apart from the present crisis, the alimentary trade is suffering from a superfluity of retailers.

Textiles, Dry Goods, etc.—There is practically no business, and prices are generally weak. During the month some consignments of cotton goods and sundry other articles arrived in port, but have not yet been withdrawn from the Customs. Dealers all round are offering stocks at dead-low prices, and in spite of this, when compared with prices, transactions are almost nil. Under existing circumstances it is quite impossible to give any current prices, for they vary with almost every merchant to such an extent that one cannot even strike a reasonable average.

Cotton Goods.—Several fairly large cotton dealers, who had their stocks lying in various warehouses, have been compelled to put them up for sale at cut prices; on the other hand, quite a number of local merchants have, notwithstanding the slump in merchandise and the rise in exchange, withdrawn their bills of lading in order to keep their credit high.

Coal.—Prices continue to fall for every description of coal. As was foreshadowed, with the settlement of the coal strike in the United Kingdom greater facilities have been granted for the export of Welsh and other qualities, so that with the lower freights at present ruling, the market here should be better supplied in the near future with the best coal at considerably reduced prices to those formerly obtaining. The situation in the United Kingdom has had marked effect on American coal, which has undergone a sharp fall in price. The local market is heavily stocked with American coal, and some dealers are finding difficulty in disposing of cargoes. Apart from cargoes actually consigned here, some large cargoes which were originally destined for the Crimea, etc., have, in view of the recent events in South Russia, been dumped on our markets.

With regard to Turkish coal, the position grows worse, for in addition to large stocks held here, large stocks continue to accumulate at the mines awaiting shipment. The situation is causing much embarrassment to the mineowners, who rely on the rapid disposal of their output to provide the funds necessary for running the mines. The trouble is further accentuated by the action of the Kemalists, who refuse to allow Greek vessels to load, and by the fact that Russian vessels are not permitted to proceed into the Black Sea, thereby increasing the difficulties of procuring tonnage.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

British Burmah Petroleum.

The report of the British Burmah Petroleum Company for the year ended July 31 shows a credit balance of £366,419, as against £534,605 the previous year, but owing to the gain in exchange the total credit is brought up to £555,998, against £595,311. To the profit of £368,419 has been added: Difference in exchange £112,085, agency fees £5,456, dividend on shares in Rangoon Oil Company £11,719, interest £26,477, transfer fees £2,196, making a total credit of £526,353, compared with £569,676 for the previous year. Including £29,645 balance brought forward there is a disposable profit of £359,955, an additional 2½ per cent. interest on Second Mortgage Debenture stock absorbs £1,173 14s., reserve and contingent reserve account is £100,000; leaving a balance of £143,175. Out of this the directors recommend a balance dividend for the year at the rate of 1s. per share, free of tax, payable February 28 next to holders registered on January 17, making 20 per cent., free of tax, compared with 17½ per cent., free of tax, for 1919.

The dividend of £11,718 paid by the Rangoon Oil Company has been handed over to the trustees of the first mortgage debenture stock for sinking fund purposes. Subsequent to the close of the financial year a further dividend of £14,345 has been received from the Rangoon Oil Company, which has been similarly dealt with. Up to July 31 last the trustees had purchased for redemption first mortgage debenture stock of the nominal value of £211,396. They now hold £213,119. With the funds placed at their disposal by the company, the trustees of the second mortgage debenture stock have purchased £27,492 of stock, the whole of which has been cancelled, leaving £47,508 outstanding at the end of the year. The sums provided for sinking funds of the first and second mortgage debenture stocks out of profits for the year amount to £36,718 and £4,156 respectively, enabling further purchases and/or drawings to be made. The expenditure at the refinery charged to capital account is £18,395, and at the field £24,037. The £75,868 written off for depreciation has been allocated as to £16,176 to refinery accounts and £59,691 to field accounts.

Although the combined production of crude oil by the company and the Rangoon Oil Company was less than for the previous twelve months, the throughput of crude oil at the refinery was maintained by drawing upon the stocks in hand. Since the close of the financial year a further fall in the production of crude oil has taken place, due largely to the reduced yields now being obtained from the Beme field and to the longer time required for completion of wells that have to be drilled to greater depths than hitherto. The footage drilled during the year was in excess of that of the previous year, and, with the additional plant now being delivered and an augmented drilling staff, it is anticipated that this decline will be arrested.

The electrification scheme for the Yenangyaung field will probably come into partial use early in the year 1922, the proposal in the first instance being to convert the producing wells and auxiliary plant. The company has secured an important interest in oil-bearing territory on the west coast of the peninsula of Sinai. This property has been reported upon most favourably by the company's geologist. The property will be operated by the British Sinai Petroleum Company, formed in March last (in which this company retains a predominant interest) with a nominal capital of £500,000, of which 100,000 £1 shares have been subscribed for immediate working capital.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

The report of the Imperial Bank of Persia for the year ended September 20 states that the profits for the period, after making provision for expenses of management and general charges in London and at chief office and branches, income-tax, excess profits duty, corporation tax, and bad and doubtful debts, amount to £80,242 4s. 5d., to which has to be added £27,809 5s. 3d. brought forward from last account, making a total of £108,051 9s. 8d. From this sum £4,000, the amount due to the Persian Government in terms of the concession, has to be deducted, leaving £104,051 9s. 8d., which the directors have dealt with in the following manner:—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; transfer to bank premises account, £5,000; final dividend, at the rate of 5s. per share (free of income-tax), £25,000; carry forward to new account, £29,051 9s. 8d.; total, £104,051 9s. 8d.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 3:—During the week ended December 25 crop prospects generally fair, but rain urgently required in the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Central Provinces, and Bombay, and parts of Central India and Madras. Bombay piece-goods market still lifeless. Calcutta jute market steady, with some business done. Hessians steady. Heavy goods practically neglected. Hides and skins show some signs of reviving interest. No change in bank rates.

This year's olive crop in Panderma is reported to be excellent. The Algerian fig crop is estimated at 400,000 quintals (88,900,000 lb.).

The export of dates from the French zone of Morocco has been prohibited, except under licence.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended December 25 amounted to £10,423.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

ALEXANDRETTA.

The report for November states :—Business between Aleppo and Alexandretta continues to develop, thanks to the security of the routes. It has not been the same as regards trade between Antioch and this place, and there have been some slight encounters between the troops of occupation and the Turkish rebels. The occupation of Aintab by the French troops will assist the development of commerce between that town and Aleppo, and consequently with Alexandretta. We await impatiently the pacification of the regions of Ourfa, Diarbekir, and Mesopotamia, in order that trade may develop as before the war.

ADANA.

The report for November states :—The railways connecting this town with Tarsus and Mersina having been repaired and communications re-established, commerce has rapidly been resumed, and, generally speaking, the prices of all articles have undergone a marked fall following the re-establishment of a connection with the sea.

Security having been re-established in the fields, the gathering and warehousing of cotton has been actively carried out. During the month under review 2,350 bales of cotton have been exported from this town to Salonika and Smyrna. The price of the batman of 4 okes, which was 200 piastres at the beginning of the month, has fluctuated considerably, and has now fallen again to 200 piastres.

The cotton crop is estimated at 25,000 bales, approximately the total of the previous crop, notwithstanding that the area sown was much greater than before. The decreased yield is due in the first place to the political events in this region between May and the end of September.

The French High Commissioner for Syria and Cilicia, with a view to encouraging and aiding the farmers and cultivators, has had 700 tons of barley unshipped at Mersina, and this amount ought to suffice for the sowing. In general the cultivators are discouraged by the yield of the cereal crop, half of which was destroyed by the excessive heat, and by the decreased value of the cotton crop.

The official winter monsoon forecast shows an unfavourable rainfall in North-west India and the neighbouring hills, justifying anxiety.

Reuter's Bombay correspondent states that the Bank of Madras have declared a dividend of 20 per cent., transferred to its contingent account for investments 8 lakhs, and carried forward 2½ lakhs.

Messrs. Coutts and Co., bankers, the London agents of the Bank of Bengal, have received the following information by cable from Calcutta :—Profit distribution—Dividend (for past half-year), 22 per cent. per annum (free of Indian income-tax), Rs.22,00,000; reserve fund, Rs.4,00,000; transferred to gratuity and pension fund, Rs.1,00,000; carried forward, Rs.3,01,868.

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 Reserve - £1,250,000

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EGYPT.

Alexandria. Cairo.
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 Port Said.

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Jerusalem.
 Jaffa.
 Caiffa.

CYPRUS.

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 Paphos.

SYRIA.

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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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ON 'CHANGE.

Somewhat Irregular Tone.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

It was quite a refreshing change last week to find most of the markets showing considerable buoyancy. A factor largely responsible for the improved position was the belief that early steps would be taken to cope with the problems presented by the adverse exchanges and the lack of credits in Europe. To-day there has been a reaction, and prices have been somewhat irregular, which was inevitable in view of the rapid advances made in some lines during the week.

Government stocks have been particularly strong, and all along the line there have been considerable rises. Foreign bonds have shared to some extent in the upward movement, but are closing rather irregularly. Other markets have been generally strong, Industrials in particular showing marked firmness. Oils have been fairly buoyant, while the rise in Rubbers has been simply surprising, and, it may be added, has been apparently without adequate justification.

Near Eastern securities have shown a greatly improved tone, and advances are to be recorded in a number of directions. In Government Funds practically all the changes that have taken place have been in an upward direction. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. are 2 up at 60, while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. 1855 are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 67. Greek Guaranteed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. 1898 are a point better at 55 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Greek securities have again shown improvement in many cases. The 5 per Cent. 1881 Loan and 5 per Cent. 1884 issues have both gained $\frac{1}{2}$ at 40 $\frac{1}{2}$. The 5 per Cent. 1890 Loan and Fundings are both unchanged at 40. The 1910 Loan is the same at 40, while the 1914 Loan at 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ has dropped $\frac{1}{2}$. The 1902 Loan has gained a point at 34.

Banks have been variable. Agricultural 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Bonds have shed 2 at 53, while the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds at 55 have lost a like amount. Imperial Ottoman Banks are unchanged at 7, while National Bank of Egypt at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$, have risen $\frac{1}{4}$. Land Banks are unchanged at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

There have been a number of changes in Land shares, mostly in the upward direction. Beheras have risen $\frac{3}{4}$ at 9, but the Preference shares remain unchanged at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments have remained unaltered at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Egyptian Consolidated Lands have risen 3d. to 1s. 6d. Delta Lands at 9s. 9d. and Gharbieh Lands at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ have risen 9d. and 1-16 respectively. New Egyptians have been done at 23s. 6d., a rise of 2s. 6d., and Union Foncières, at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, have gained a $\frac{1}{4}$. Sudan Plantations have recovered 5-16 at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{4}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	48'75-49'25
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	132-134
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1'6 $\frac{3}{4}$ -1'6 $\frac{3}{8}$
Bucharest	Lei to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	272-277
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1'6 $\frac{3}{4}$ -1'6 $\frac{3}{8}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	560-590
New York	Dollars to £	4'86 $\frac{1}{2}$	3'63 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3'64 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paris	Francs to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	60'95-61'12
Prague	Kronen to £	24'02	320-325
Rome	Lireto £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$ -104 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sofia	Levas to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	315
Teheran	Krans to £	50	36
Vienna	Kronen to £	24'02	1,600-1,650
Warsaw	Marks to £	20'43	2,500-2,600

In some cases quotations are nominal.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OIL.

Commenting on the decision of the Court of Appeal in the petition of right of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields against the English Government for damages caused by the destruction of its property by the Military Commission in 1916, the *Moniteur du Pétrole Roumain*, the official organ of the Roumanian Government, says:—

"The view taken by the Court of Appeal is that it is not the English Government, but the Roumanian Government, which has to make good the damage which the petroleum industry suffered by the destruction of the wells in 1916. For some time past this been merely a question of principle, seeing that a mixed Anglo-French Commission, presided over by Colonel Hearn, representing the English interests, was at work for a very long time last year with a view to ascertaining the amount of the loss inflicted on the oil industry in 1916.

"We understand the Commission has arrived at definite conclusions in this connection, and has submitted them to the Allied Governments. To the best of our knowledge, the principle of payment for the damage then caused has been definitely settled, the basis being the actual post-war expenditure incurred on the restoration of the various properties. All that remains now is to discuss the amount and the method of payment. These will be fixed as soon as the Roumanian Commission, which is examining the question of these war damages, has finished its labours."

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at October 31, 1920, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)	2,925,000
Reserve Fund:	
Statutory Reserve	1,462,500
Special Reserve	487,500
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	15,862,417
Mixed Tribunals	2,168,761
Egyptian Government	1,528,491
Sudan Government	77,764
Bankers' Accounts	782,464
Cheques and Bills payable	777,775
Sundry other Accounts	1,610,896

	£E27,683,568
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the	
Egyptian Government	9,327,313
Sundry Securities	226,697
Advances on Merchandise	1,772,280
Advances on Securities	2,103,282
Advances otherwise Secured	1,937,003
Sundry other Advances	778,934
Bills of Exchange	1,331,012
Local Bills Discounted	195,070
Buildings and Furniture	233,492
Money at call and at short notice	1,053,000
Bankers' Accounts	963,370
Egyptian Government	5,242,072
Sundry other Accounts	631,060

Cash:—	
Notes	£E1,495,422
Gold	29,357
Silver, Nickel, etc.	344,204
	1,868,983

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Notes Issued	43,800,000
	£E43,800,000

Gold	£E3,333,190
*British Treasury Bills	18,566,810
	£E.
	21,900,000

Securities:—	
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	£E431,305
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds ..	21,468,695
	21,900,000

£E43,800,000

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

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Forthcoming Sailings.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia, for Bombay (Liverpool, January 16); s.s. Assyria, for Bombay (Liverpool, February 2).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahratta, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London January 18); s.s. Malakand, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 26); s.s. Maihar, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London February 5); s.s. Stockwell, for Calcutta (Glasgow, January 29, and Birkenhead, February 9); s.s. Makalla, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, February 19); s.s. Manaar, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 23).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 26).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Macphree, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, January 17); s.s. Clan Mackenzie, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 27).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Glasgow, January 15, and Liverpool, January 22).

Ellerman City and Hall Line.—S.s. City of Baroda, for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 17); s.s. City of Alexandria, for Bombay and Karachi (Liverpool, January 20); s.s. City of Exeter, for Bombay and Karachi (Liverpool, January 26); s.s. City of Glasgow, for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 31); s.s. City of London, for Bombay and Karachi (Liverpool, February 12).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurence Line.—S.s. Venetian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (London, January 22); s.s. Bulgarian, for Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (London, January 26).

Golden Star Line.—S.s. Mediterranean Star, for Alexandria and Piræus (leaves Marseilles on January 18 and February 8).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Craftsman, for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 18); s.s. Orator, for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 31); s.s. Tactician, for Calcutta (Liverpool, January 31); s.s. Merchant, for Port Said, Port Sudan, Mombasa, etc. (Glasgow, February 10, and Birkenhead, February 17).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Bhamo, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 19); s.s. Arracan, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 9).

Holt Line.—S.s. Atreus, for Port Said, etc. (Glasgow, January 27); s.s. Hyson, for Port Said, etc. (Glasgow, January 27).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Cundall, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 22). A steamer for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, January 22). A steamer for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, January 29).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Asturian, for Algiers, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, January 22).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nyanza, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 21); s.s. Dongola, for Bombay (London, January 28); s.s. Novara, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 28).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Hatimwra, for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 22); s.s. Merkara, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 5); s.s. Tremere, for Bombay and Karachi (London, Feb. 5).

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ASSYRIA ABOUT FEB. 2.
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TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

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

Photographic Material.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of photographic apparatus and materials (chemical, etc.) required for the year 1921-2. Tenders, which must be submitted by persons or firms residing or having a representative in Egypt, should be marked "Tender for the supply of Photographic Material," and addressed to The Director, Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, Egypt. January 31, 1921 (L.).

Roadmaking.—The Director-General, Main Roads and Bridges Department, Ministry of Communications, Cairo, invites tenders for the widening of Road No. 12, from Gedaide el Hala to Telbana, consisting of earthwork and construction of culverts. January 15.

Office Construction.—The Inspector of Nag. Hamâdi Projects, 18, Rue Tewfik, Cairo, invites tenders for the construction of an office at Asyût, approximate cost to be £E16,000. Jan. 20.

India.

Refuse Destructor.—The Municipality of Bombay invites tenders for the manufacture, erection, and equipment of a refuse destructor for 200 tons of refuse a day. (Spec. 5s., Sir John Wolfe Barry, Lyster, and Partners, 2, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.) March 4.

Pumping Plant.—The Municipal Committee, Simla, invite tenders for supplying, erecting, and running for one month a new pumping plant, consisting of three units and steel rising mains, etc., with all fittings for the water supply. The pump lift (excluding friction) is 3,939 ft. The Municipal Committee is prepared to consider alternative tenders for other forms of plant to do the duty required by the specification. (Specification, etc., Municipal Office, Simla, Rs.10.) March 28.

Spare Parts.—The South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., invites tenders for the supply of spare parts for carriage underframes and wagons. Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the company's office, 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W.1.—January 26.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

102. A stamp collector wishes to purchase used Austrian stamps prior to the 1882 issue. Stamp dealers in the liberated provinces of Austria are asked to send bulk packages of such stamps to the care of the Editor of THE NEAR EAST, with the price in kronen of each stamp or price per dozen, per 100, etc., of each kind. All stamps required will be paid for at the price indicated and the rest returned. Newspaper stamps are not required, but rare postmarks should be included.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

104. A Greek firm is establishing an electric light station in Macedonia, and wishes to get into touch with firms dealing in the necessary machinery.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

107. Old established Turkish firm handling general stores situated in Smyrna and having branches in the interior invites exporters to quote prices for groceries. The firm also acts as agents for articles of general consumption in Asia Minor.

108. Hemp manufacturer in Croatia wishes to get into touch with rope manufacturers who would purchase hemp.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 506.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The French Ministerial Crisis.

As French policy in the Near East is such a potent factor for good or evil in the immediate future, the Ministerial changes in France are of special interest at this juncture. The events that led to the fall of the Cabinet were related to the western part of the Continent rather than to South-Eastern Europe; consequently the substitution of M. Briand for M. Leygues does not necessarily imply any change of front in France's dealings with the Near East. It is not to be supposed, for instance, that the new French Government will be less anxious to see the Sèvres Treaty modified in favour of Turkey, but any difference of opinion on this subject between France and Great Britain we hold to be of far less importance than the definitely anti-British trend that has been given to all French action in the Near East since the Armistice. We find it difficult to believe that this is the outcome of a policy officially inspired from Paris. For a local product, however, it is sufficiently widespread to call for the serious attention of the French Government, and it is hoped that M. Briand will not allow things to drift in the Near East until they are in danger of reacting on official Anglo-French relations.

Persia: Disturbing Reports.

For some little time past the Government has been discouraging women and children leaving England for Persia, and at the end of last week telegrams from Teheran announced that the immediate evacuation of British women and children was being arranged. Almost simultaneously a message issued through Reuter's Agency here explained that this step did not mean that there was "any immediate danger in their continued presence in that country," but that the conditions there were "considered most unsuitable for them, particularly in view of the impending withdrawal of British troops from North-West Persia." After this it was not surprising to learn that on Sunday telegrams had been received in Paris announcing the resignation of the Persian Cabinet, and to find the air full of rumours that the Shah had abdicated, that he had left Teheran "when the English garrison evacuated the capital," and had proceeded to Shiraz, fearing assassination "following the entry of the Persian Bolsheviks into Teheran." Failing any authoritative announcement on the subject, it was not altogether surprising that these reports should have caused some uneasiness to friends of Persia in this country. Happily, messages of a later date, and emanating from a British official source at Teheran,

dispose of most of them. The Shah—after some little hesitation, it seems—has decided on firm action; has dismissed the Sipahdar, whose Cabinet has resigned; and is confident that he can find men to carry on the work of national reconstruction.

The Shah's Resolve.

From this message it would appear that the Mejliss has not yet been summoned, but that it is to be summoned very shortly; and it is stated that the Bolshevik question is to be dealt with in resolute fashion. There is no mention of any withdrawal of British troops just yet. This is not surprising in view of our Government's implied promise that they should not be withdrawn until the spring, and of the considerable difficulty of moving bodies of troops at all in Persia at this season. Indeed, this particular rumour can never have been taken seriously by anyone acquainted with the facts of the case; for no move of the kind is likely to be taken at such very short notice, though we may ere long evacuate the northern zone. There was, however, some excuse for fearing that the other rumours might be true. The difficulties of the Shah, and of his Ministers, too, have been, and are, very real; and there can be no doubt that the Persian "Democrats" have been coquetting with the Bolsheviks. Moscow, as always, has been liberal with its promises; and it was actually suggested in some quarters that an agreement had been signed. Happily, that is not the case: Persia has, so far, avoided a fate which it would have caused her friends real sorrow to see overtaking her. She will, we hope, follow the lead given her by the Shah, turn a deaf ear to Bolshevik blandishments henceforth, and frankly grasp the helping hand that Great Britain, in all sincerity, has held out to her.

Egypt and Lord Milner.

The announcement of Lord Milner's retirement from the Colonial Office has given rise to much speculation and some uneasiness in Nationalist circles in Egypt, especially among the extremists; and it is conceivable that the uneasiness will not have been diminished by the report that his successor is to be Mr. Winston Churchill. There is a tendency to believe that Lord Milner's resignation is due to the Cabinet's refusal to accept his recommendations, and there has been of course, a renewal of violent protestations that Egypt will be satisfied with nothing but complete independence and a specific abrogation of the Protectorate. Zaghloul Pasha, however, has stated that he is willing to negotiate, if the British Government gives guarantees that the Treaty shall include a stipulation for the abolition. This is an advance, if not a very marked one, in the right

direction; and though Zaghloul may have lost ground with the extremists by making it, the step will have the approval of all moderate opinion. It is gratifying to note that all comments show that the Egyptians are now aware that in Lord Milner they have a sincere friend.

The Yemen and Asir.

News has reached this country, by way of Cairo, from Hodeida, that the Imam of Sanaa has captured Hajelah, and is threatening not only Bura and Bajil, two towns on the Sanaa-Hodeida road, but also the port itself. His forces are said to be commanded by Mahmoud Nedim Bey, who was, under the Turks, Governor of the Yemen; but against whom they are gaining their victories is not reported. In view of our cordial relations with the Idrissi, and the fact that Hodeida is garrisoned at present by Indian troops, it is natural to infer that the Imam's demonstration is directed against his old rival, and it is at least possible that it is in some way connected with the recent Wahhabite advance on Tayef. Again, the fact that Mahmoud Nedim Bey is a Syrian may not be without significance. But, so tangled is the skein of politics in the Yemen that it would be unprofitable to attempt to unravel this particular thread until further clues are vouchsafed to us. We may remark, however, that the Tehama, a low coastal region, is very different from the rocky plateau inland, and lends itself less readily to the style of warfare preferred by the men of Sanaa. Moreover, if our relations with Sheikh Idris are sufficiently cordial—we refer to Mr. Harmsworth's statement in the House of Commons the other day—the Imam's forces may, if they advance on Hodeida, learn something of the power of naval guns. It is not uninteresting to recall that it was at Bajil that Colonel Jacob's Mission was captured during the war, and that at about the same time the Arabs attacked Hodeida.

The Mystery of Rahmy Bey.

The mystery surrounding the detention of Rahmy Bey, formerly Governor-General of Smyrna, remains unsolved—as far as the public is concerned. Colonel Aubrey Herbert, M.P., who has interested himself in the matter and has asked various questions on the subject in the House of Commons, has now written a short but vigorous letter on the subject to the *Morning Post*. After recalling the unusual kindness of the Governor-General to the British who were interned in Smyrna during the war, and the unprecedented recognition of that kindness by his Majesty's Minister in Athens—actually while hostilities continued—Colonel Herbert acknowledges that he has received sympathetic answers on the subject from the Secretary for War, whose Department is not apparently guilty of this "gross act of ingratitude." That is satisfactory as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. What a steadily increasing number of people in this country want to know is: Who is responsible? Whoever it is cannot be sheltered indefinitely. As Colonel Herbert writes in concluding his letter: "All men have their individual ideas of what is honourable, but none that I have ever heard of could be found to correspond with the Government's treatment of Rahmy Pasha." On whose advice is the Government acting in this matter? And, if it considers that it has good reasons for its action, why does it not make them known? As it is, very unpleasant rumours on the subject are steadily gaining ground.

The Duke of Connaught at Madras.

The Duke of Connaught's tour has opened auspiciously, and the people of Madras have made it clear that they at least have no sympathy with the essentially un-Indian idea of ignoring the representative of their Emperor. From the historical point of view Madras has an outstanding claim to take the lead in the new movement, for it is the cradle of British power in the East. The village of fifteen or twenty fishermen's huts, where nearly three centuries ago Francis Day laid the foundations of Fort Saint George, has grown under British inspiration into a great city with many and complex problems of its own, political, social, and economic; the Presidency of which it is the capital is about to enjoy the novel experience of a non-Brahmin Ministry in what has hitherto

been the stronghold of Brahmin ascendancy; and all the circumstances of the moment combine to emphasise the Duke's call to the people to look forward rather than backward, to lay aside bitter memories, and to establish mutual confidence and goodwill. The future of Madras now lies in the hands of her citizens, and the Duke did well to insist that none of them can afford to stand aloof: there is work for everyone, and on the quality of the work now done will depend her destiny in India and the Empire.

The Famine.

It has now become clear that the inadequacy of last year's rainfall has imposed on the central parts of India an economic strain too great to be borne by the people without organised assistance, and the information issued officially last week indicates the existence of definite distress in parts of the Central Provinces, the Bombay Deccan, and the State of Hyderabad. Judging from past experience, we must be prepared for the extension and intensification of distress for the next five or six months, but the delay in its onset is a favourable feature of the situation, and the various Administrations affected should have little difficulty in keeping abreast of developments. In order to give a just idea of the position, we may point out that while the numbers on relief are now about 50,000 in British India and 27,000 in Hyderabad, in January, 1900, when the last great famine in this part of the country occurred, the numbers exceeded 2½ millions in British India alone; it is highly improbable, therefore, that the experiences of that terrible time will be repeated.

The Agrarian Disturbances in Oudh.

The outbreak of agrarian disturbances in two districts of Oudh was sudden, but not wholly surprising to observers familiar with the local conditions. We have no doubt that it was hastened by the general spirit of unrest, and also by the particular efforts of malignant agitators, but at the same time it must be recognised that the peasants have long-standing grievances against some of the great landholders, and against many of the smaller ones. A very clear account of those grievances was given a few years ago in a paper read before the East India Association by the late Sir Duncan Baillie, who insisted that the tenancy law of Oudh was seriously defective in that it failed to provide the primary requirement of security of tenure; Oudh tenants, he declared, enjoyed no protection except from "the good feeling of their landlord, when they have the luck to be under a landlord who desires to deal justly with them;" and he urged that early action was called for because the burden of discontent was continuing to increase unchecked. So far as we know, that view has never been seriously challenged, and it explains, though it does not justify, the outbreak, which appears to have been effectively and mercifully repressed.

The Remedy.

The matter will not, however, be disposed of merely by the restoration of tranquillity; the grievance remains, and it should be one of the earliest tasks of the new Provincial Legislature to face the question, a question which successive Administrations have been content to postpone. The great landlords of Oudh have a recognised and privileged position, on which they have hitherto been disposed to insist. Legislation directed against them would be difficult to carry, and might be nearly ineffective in practice, because their social prestige dominates their estates; and the only effective remedy lies in their hands. If they continue to insist on their privileged status, things are certain to get worse; if at this juncture they play the part of statesmen and offer what the peasants must ultimately have, they can not only solve this particular question, but give a lead which would have an immense effect for good throughout the whole country. In his speech at Madras the Duke of Connaught urged the need for sane and patriotic leadership: it would be a fact of happy augury if the great landlords of Oudh should be the first to respond to that appeal.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

Dover and Economy.

"The word politics," said Count Smorltork to Mrs. Leo Hunter, "surprises by himself." Certainly it has surprised the Government and a good many other people this last week. The Coalition only held the seat at the by-election at Hereford by a considerably reduced majority against an Independent Liberal candidate; at Dover, which used to be considered a safe seat, the Government nominee was routed. The victor had no party label, but stood on an Anti-Waste platform; it looks as though "Down with Taxes" might become as popular a cry in Imperial politics as "Down with the Rates" is in municipal affairs.

The trouble is that the bulk of taxation goes in National Debt and pension services, which cannot be reduced; but the real effect of a vote like that at Dover will be to curb the ambitions of bureaucracy. Many ambitious schemes are likely to be pruned or abandoned; Dr. Addison, who from the Ministry of Health looks on every inhabitant of these islands as a potential patient to be recorded on a card index, will pass sleepless nights because he is not allowed to spend money quite so freely.

Unluckily, there are signs, also, that the economists, emboldened by the rejection of the Health Bill a month ago, are now concentrating against the improvements in education which Mr. Fisher, the Education Minister, has in view. A subtle propaganda to that end is being worked in many popular papers, the main line of argument being that "what was good enough for father is good enough for anybody." In view of Dr. Shadwell's recent description in *The Times* of the progress of Labour colleges in South Wales, and Labour's insistence on educating itself, this anti-educational zeal in other quarters is likely to lead to a great deal of class-feeling.

Telephones.

Another source of discontent with the Government has been the projected increase in telephone rates. These seem as if they had been devised to irritate the public. The increases are enormous, and the old flat rate is now abandoned in favour of a yearly payment for the telephone installation—like a gas-meter—and a charge for each call. Obviously this will involve disputes between the Exchange and the user, and it will cost a great deal of clerical labour to register each call and to make out an account for every user. The protests have been loud and strong, but the Post Office has adopted a *non possumus* attitude. The whole matter will have to be discussed when Parliament meets.

Government Changes.

These troubles do not furnish a very favourable atmosphere for the reconstruction of the Government, which is likely to be confined within as narrow limits as possible. Sir Gordon Hewart is still thinking over the Lord Chief Justiceship; he would still like the post, but he cannot be spared from the Commons. Rumour declares that Lord Lee may leave the Board of Agriculture for the Admiralty, in the place of Mr. Long, who will retire to his beloved Wiltshire, where they discuss pigs instead of battleships; and Mr. Winston Churchill, tired of running the War Office in peace time, will cross the road to the Colonial Office. (He has been there before, as Under-Secretary to a colourless Secretary of State, in 1906.)

There is a disposition in some quarters to suggest that the Colonial Office will be of less importance than before; obviously Mr. Churchill does not think so, for he would be hardly likely to promote himself backwards.

Chequers.

Mr. Lloyd George has no doubt been turning these matters over in his mind in the quiet week he has been spending at Chequers. That beautiful country house, which dates from the Tudors, has now been made over to the Government by Lord Lee as a residence for the Prime Minister, and Mr. Lloyd George has taken the opportunity of the recess to snatch a rest in his quiet quarters. Chequers would be delightful anywhere, but, compared with the insufferable dinginess of Downing Street, it must seem like paradise.

Unluckily there is no dower-house attached to the mansion for fallen Prime Ministers; perhaps Lord Lee will consider the idea. An adjacent small holding for a retired Coriolanus might be a useful scheme; and it would be a kind of *memento mori* for the actual occupant of Chequers.

The City and Unemployment.

The City appears to be more cheerful than it was a month ago. Probably the fact that the Cunard Company's new issue, of four millions, was largely over-subscribed has a good deal to do with the optimistic feeling; at least, it shows that the investor is not an extinct species, but a rather cautious bird at the moment. The gilt-edged stocks, too, are on the upgrade. Of industrials the less said the better; the cold fit is likely to last some months in that direction until trade revives.

At present there is no sign of any improvement, nor is there likely to be for some little time. Unemployment is increasing rather than diminishing, and the adoption of short time, although probably better as a palliative than wholesale dismissals, is no real remedy.

In this connection it is not the City only, but the whole country, which condemns the folly of the official Labour Party in refusing to co-operate with the Government in dealing with the general question of unemployment. The negotiations have been going on for weeks. The Government have put forward many projects; the Labour Party has not accepted one. It has confined itself to destructive criticism, and seems to have sought every opportunity for delay; even now it has put off the problem to another Conference at the end of the month. Since it can hardly be so childlike as to believe that Committees and Conferences can ever come to a speedy or a real decision, it would appear that the Labour Party is either not impressed by the unemployment figures, or that it hopes to make political capital out of the difficulty. If the latter is the case, one would say that it has made a disastrous miscalculation. The Government has done its best to co-operate with Labour in finding a way out of the present difficulty; the discredit for refusing to co-operate cannot therefore fall on them, but on the Labour politicians.

In that event, they will lose still further the public support. A year ago their star was definitely in the ascendant. Last summer the Council of Action, the coal strike, and other causes, lost them many votes; their present action, or inaction, will lose many more.

Moreover, although the Labour Party is not as a rule responsible for strikes, the continuance of strikes must damage them politically. All the municipal employees of Ilford went on strike last week, and that borough was without light in its houses and trams in its streets. I know nothing of the rights or wrongs of the dispute—each side, as usual, blames the other—but it is certain



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that these things do not encourage the ordinary voter to support Labour or a policy of nationalisation or municipalisation. Personally, I do not care a jot whether my electric light is made by an "enlightened municipality" or "a callous capitalist company," but I must admit that I like it to function. And a private motor-bus that moves seems to my simple intelligence to be worth many municipal trams that do not run.

The Prime Minister's Salary.

The question of the Prime Minister's salary and the suggestion that a pension should be conferred on the holder of the office have again been discussed—this time before a committee. Mr. Lloyd George has made it quite clear that at a time when the State is not overburdened with wealth, he would refuse a higher salary even if it were voted. His scruples are to be respected, for he is probably the poorest man in the Cabinet; but there is no doubt that the office is scandalously badly paid. It should certainly not be less than £8,000, and £10,000 would not be too generous, with a pension of £5,000 a year. Mr. Asquith, who gave evidence, admitted that he left office a poorer man than when he entered Downing Street, but for some reason he was against a pension for ex-Premiers. Probably the motive of personal delicacy decided his standpoint, for he is not a rich man. Mr. Balfour, the only other living ex-Premier, is wealthy.

Mount Everest.

The announcement of the Mount Everest expedition has aroused enormous interest. Every small boy at school has traced a grubby finger along the map of the Himalayas, and Fleet Street has hastily brushed up its local colour with the aid of the Encyclopædia Britannica. I am told that it was even used to point a moral lesson in a sermon, and that the snow-clad purity of the summit made a peroration that duly impressed a congregation until they reflected that nobody could stay on those noble heights of virtue very long.

Scientific interest is equally great, although it takes a less boisterous form. The expedition, even if only partially successful, will add considerably to geographical knowledge, and it should make a permanent contribution to our rather scanty information of the upper atmosphere, and the conditions which it imposes on life. But the oceanographers, who want the depths of the ocean dredged to add to our knowledge of life five miles down as well as up, are rather envious that Mount Everest should have stolen a march on them.

Reprints.

A difficult position has arisen in that part of the publishing trade which engages in the business of cheap reprints of standard works. The cheapness of the reprints that were so popular before the war was based on the fact that the publisher did not expect to make any money on the first ten thousand copies, which he could easily reckon to sell at a shilling; after that he made a profit, infinitesimal when each copy was considered, but fairly remunerative when another ten thousand had been sold of each of several volumes in a series.

The stocks being exhausted by this time, it is commercially impossible to reproduce these reprints at less than half-a-crown, and it is very doubtful whether twenty thousand purchasers can be found at half-a-crown even for standard works. Many of them are therefore likely to remain out of print unless print and paper come down—a circumstance that is peculiarly unfortunate at the moment when the reading public is larger than ever.

OCELLUS.

We have received the current number of the *Review of Reviews*, the first issue under the editorship of Sir Philip Gibbs. It preserves its usual interesting features, but worth special note are the contributions written by several eminent publicists, who deal largely with the world of the future. As an organ of general appeal, its popularity will certainly be increased by the vigour and honesty of its new editor.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, January 2.

Disruptive Forces.

The enemies of the Union have been busy over the close of the old year, for they realise that if ever they are to succeed in their intrigues to separate Croatia from Serbia it must be before the Constituent Assembly has done its work. Their headquarters are most probably in Budapest, and they are using the Communism bogey as an instrument in their game. In Belgrade they have made a determined and partly successful attempt to capture the Labour Party, and they have been behind every strike, and lost no opportunity to interfere in the machinery of Government and the working of the State.

A sensational case occurred in Zagreb in the middle of last month, when Dr. Accurti (formerly Public Prosecutor) and his wife were arrested on the charge of plotting with the Hungarians against the interests of S.H.S. One of the doctor's messengers was arrested when trying to cross the frontier, and on him was found a letter written in invisible ink to a Hungarian captain, by the hand of Madame Accurti. The messenger was induced to confess, and the whole pretty plot revealed; which was to enlist Magyar military aid at the psychological moment to break up the Union and to separate Croatia from Serbia. Accurti sprang into unenviable fame as the Public Prosecutor in the notorious treason trial at Zagreb in 1908 and 1909. The plot was discovered by the police, who are extremely competent, and was allowed to mature up to a certain point, when the authorities struck.

The purely economic strike of the colliers in Slovenia and Bosnia was eagerly seized by the Communists to prosecute their ends, and when the authorities announced that they would militarise the Bosnian miners a general strike was proclaimed in Zagreb and disturbances threatened in Belgrade. But the authorities were equal to the occasion. Wholesale arrests of agitators took place in Bosnia, and it was found that they were almost without exception foreigners, apparently chiefly Hungarians. In Zagreb the strike fell flat. There was a scuffle when the police, with rifle butts, scattered a Communist meeting, and a few shots were fired into the air, but no greater damage seems to have been done than the loss of a number of hats.

To ensure order in the town the sale of alcoholic drinks was forbidden for several days; so New Year festivities were quiet; and, besides, all cafés and restaurants were closed at nine. No newspapers appeared over the week-end. The most obvious result of the so-called strike was the cessation of the constant rumble of the trams and the closing of the shops for a day. It is rumoured that all prominent Communists and leaders have spent their New Year's Day under preventive arrest. A similar state of affairs seems to have obtained in Belgrade, where the police had no difficulty in scattering one meeting which threatened to be obstreperous.

Strong Action by the Government.

The swan-song of the Vesnitch Cabinet was a proclamation declaring the firm intention of the Government to fight with all its resources the hostile and revolutionary movement inspired from abroad by enemies of the country, consisting chiefly of pro-Hapsburg Magyars, international Jews, and Russian Bolshevik agents, who mostly supplied the funds. It was announced that a comprehensive Bolshevik plot had been discovered to bring about a revolution, murder several Ministers and other prominent persons, and proclaim soviet republics all over the place.

The Communists were well organised and supplied with funds. They had a wireless telegraphic service, and had prepared a simultaneous attack upon banks and State treasuries. They had secret agents all over the country, even in many Government departments,

including the telegraph office; they were in touch with Moscow, through Roumania, Hungary, and Bulgaria; and their numbers were swelled by large numbers of women and children whom they had succeeded in misleading. It is believed that their plan was to murder M. Vesnitch, M. Drashkovitch (Minister of the Interior), Dr. Yankovitch (Minister of Agriculture), General Yovanovitch (Minister of War) and the Crown Prince himself. The assassins were to be chosen by lot. The colliers' strike was to be the first step towards disorganising the country.

The Government promptly arrested about two hundred people in Belgrade, seized all meeting places of the Labour Party, confiscated their papers and their funds, forbade strikes and meetings. All foreigners in any way connected with Bolshevik or revolutionary propaganda will be expelled from the country, any attempt at propaganda will be severely dealt with, and all State aid will be stopped from the families of any person in any way connected therewith. The Labour Party suffers from its association with the Communists, and its newspapers are suppressed. There has been a wholesale arresting of people all over the country who have been in any way connected with the propaganda.

The New Cabinet.

After taking these energetic steps the Vesnitch Cabinet resigned; and the new Cabinet, under M. Pashitch, consisting of an equal number of Democrats and Radicals, took the oath. They take up the reins of Government at a critical moment; but it seems that they are as determined as their predecessors to see that the Constituent Assembly carries out its great duties in freedom and peace. The new Cabinet is interesting as being the first step in the inevitable fusion of the two great parties, Democrats and Radicals. Of the former, M. Drashkovitch, Kosta Stoyanovitch, and Svetozar Pribitchevitch retain their portfolios of the Interior, Finance, and Education respectively. Dr. Henrik Krizman (Democrat) migrates to Mines and Forests, leaving Social Policy to the Radical Dr. Milivoje Yovanovitch. The representatives of the Narodny Club, of course, leave the Cabinet. The Radicals have Dr. Slavko Miletitch as Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, M. Nikola Uzunovitch as Minister of Agrarian Reform, and M. Mark Trifkovitch as Minister of Justice and of the Constituent Assembly and Unification of the Laws. General Branko Yovanovitch remains Minister of War. Dr. Vyekoslav Kukovec (Democrat) is Minister of Commerce. M. Pashitch carries the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, together with the Presidency of the Council. Unfortunately, scarcely was the decree signed when M. Kosta Stoyanovitch (Minister of Finance) was taken suddenly ill and died. His successor, who must be a Democrat, has not yet been named.

A Powerful Coalition.

Thus, the Democrats and Radicals have buried the hatchet, and it is to be hoped that henceforth they will work in harmony for the good of the State. It will be noticed that M. Stoyan Protitch is not included in the Ministry. In view of his rigidity of character and implacable hostility to M. Pribitchevitch, this is entirely in the interests of peace. It is the Radicals who are inevitably identified, in spite of all their faults, with the tremendous events of the later part of the war, and it is the Democrats who have fought for the complete unification of the country, and include in their number the survivors of the Independents, Progressives, and other now obsolete anti-Radical parties. The new coalition of the two strongest parties in the State bids well for a settled and considered programme, and no better combination could have been found to steer the ship through the fateful days of the Constituent Assembly. They will surely be supported by the Socialists and the Peasants of Serbia, the Voivodina and Bosnia, while the Radicals will be supported

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by the Bosnian Moslems. This fusion is one more instance of the essential patriotism and solidarity of the Serbs, who fight like Kilkenny cats among themselves, but on the first appearance of an outside danger close up their ranks and present a common front to the enemy. Austria never could understand this, and always made the mistake of counting too much upon apparent internal quarrels in Serbia. And now again to-day, pro-Hapsburgites and reactionaries, Hungarians, Bulgar Chauvinists, Bolsheviks, and d'Annunzio have been making the same mistake. They have joined forces in their common blind hatred of the Union, but are coming to grief on the rock of the South Slav sturdy character.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, January 2.

Parliament and the Cabinet.

Parliament rose on December 31 for the Orthodox holidays, and will not reassemble until January 25. The week was an uneventful one in the Chamber, being devoted chiefly to discussing the King's Message, though considerable sums were voted for railway reconstruction.

The death of M. D. Grecianu and the resignation of M. O. Taslauanu having created vacancies in the Cabinet, M. Mihail Antonescu is to take over the Ministry of Justice, and M. J. Popovici has been appointed Minister of Public Works.

Visit of M. Stambolisky.

M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, is expected to arrive in Bucharest from Prague on January 4. It is understood that the object of his visit is to exchange views with the Roumanian Government on the resumption of economic and political relations between the two countries. M. Stambolisky will be accompanied by MM. Kissinoff, Bulgarian Minister at Athens; Karakasoff, the Director-General of Bulgarian Railways; Miloseff, general manager of the Sofia Bank; and Mlle. Stancioff, the Prime Minister's secretary.

The Bulgarian Minister in Bucharest, M. Nedkoff, has presented his credentials to the King.

The Krefeld Camp Trial.

The special military court which has been for over three months trying the Roumanian ex-prisoners from the officers' camp at Krefeld has at last passed sentence on the accused. The principal charges against them was that they returned to the occupied territory of Roumania with the consent of the enemy, and that they gave a written undertaking that they would not take up arms again against the Central Powers. A number of these officers were also charged with surrendering to the enemy, and with assisting Colonel Sturdza in the propaganda by which he sought to spread the idea of forming an army to fight against the Russians, and consequently against the Roumanian Army. Others were accused of having accepted missions to go to the prisoners' camps behind the German lines in order to collect information concerning the Roumanian Army, and to distribute literature with a view to bringing about desertions. Yet another charge was that of having held posts under the Germans.

The sentences passed were as follows:—The chief culprits, Colonel A. Sturdza and Second-Lieutenants Wachmann and Negresen, who are still absent from the country, have been sentenced to penal servitude for

life. Colonel Stavroche, charged with surrendering with the brigade that he commanded and with aiding Colonel Sturdza, was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. Sentences of imprisonment ranging from one to four years were passed on eight other officers, and forty-six of the accused were acquitted.

GREECE.

ATHENS, January 3.

The History of a Decoration.

Shortly after King Constantine's return to Athens His Majesty awarded to the Chief of the British Naval Mission to Greece, Vice-Admiral Kelly, the Grand Cross of the Order of the Saviour. Two days later, however, the British Minister in Athens, Earl Granville, called on the Greek Prime Minister, M. Ralli, returning the decoration to him and informing him at the same time that the British Government would not authorise Admiral Kelly to accept it. Soon after the departure from the Ministry of Earl Granville an extraordinary Council of Ministers was held to discuss the question of the decoration. On the following day a statement was published in the papers to the effect that the Grand Cross of the Order of the Saviour was conferred upon Admiral Kelly in his capacity of an officer of the Hellenic Navy, but as the British Government did not authorise its acceptance the Greek Government would not insist on this point any further.

Practically every paper in Athens has commented in leading articles upon the incident. The *Patris*, a Venizelist organ, says:—"M. Ralli ought to have foreseen that the decoration conferred upon Admiral Kelly by the King would not be accepted. The result is that Greece has received an affront which she did not deserve. This would not have happened if those governing had any conception of national dignity." The *Ethnos* (Venizelist) says that the incident is without precedent in history, and any other Government responsible for such an affront would have resigned." The *Politia* (Royalist) writes:—"The return of the decoration awarded to Admiral Kelly is a continuation of the Allies' policy towards the new régime in Greece. Its acceptance would have meant a change in this policy, but in any case the Government ought not to have challenged the Allies to display their defiance and reserve."

The Hellenic Government had also decided to award a decoration to the Chief of the French Military Mission to Greece, General Gramat. In order, however, to avoid a repetition of Admiral Kelly's incident the Government took steps to ascertain whether the French Government would authorise General Gramat to wear the decoration. The French Government replied through its Minister in Athens, M. de Billy, that it could not, in the present circumstances, grant the necessary authority.

The British Colony.

The British Club in Athens gave a very successful dance on New Year's night. Amongst those present were the British Minister, Earl Granville, and Countess Granville, Vice-Admiral Kelly, R.N., and Mrs. Kelly, Colonel Sir Frederick Halliday, Chief of the British Police Mission to Greece; Colonel Hoare-Nairne, Military Attaché; Mr. Bentinck, Counsellor of the Legation; Mr. Dodd, Secretary of the Legation; Mr. Atchley, Secretary of the Legation, and Mrs. and Miss Atchley; Mr. Donaldson Rawlins, Commercial Attaché, and Mrs. Donaldson Rawlins; Captain Hays, R.H.N., and Mrs. Hays; Captain Cope, R.H.N., and Mrs. Cope; Commander Wethey, R.H.N., Chairman of the Club Committee, and Mrs. Wethey; Major R. Murray Meikle, managing director of the Levant Co. (Greece), and Mrs. R. Murray Meikle; Mr. Luard, President of the British Chamber of Commerce in Athens; Colonel Schellenberger, American Military Attaché; Miss Capps, daughter of the American Minister in Athens; and many others, the total attendance numbering a hundred and fifty. Colonel Sir Frederick Halliday, in command of his well-known jazz band, the members of

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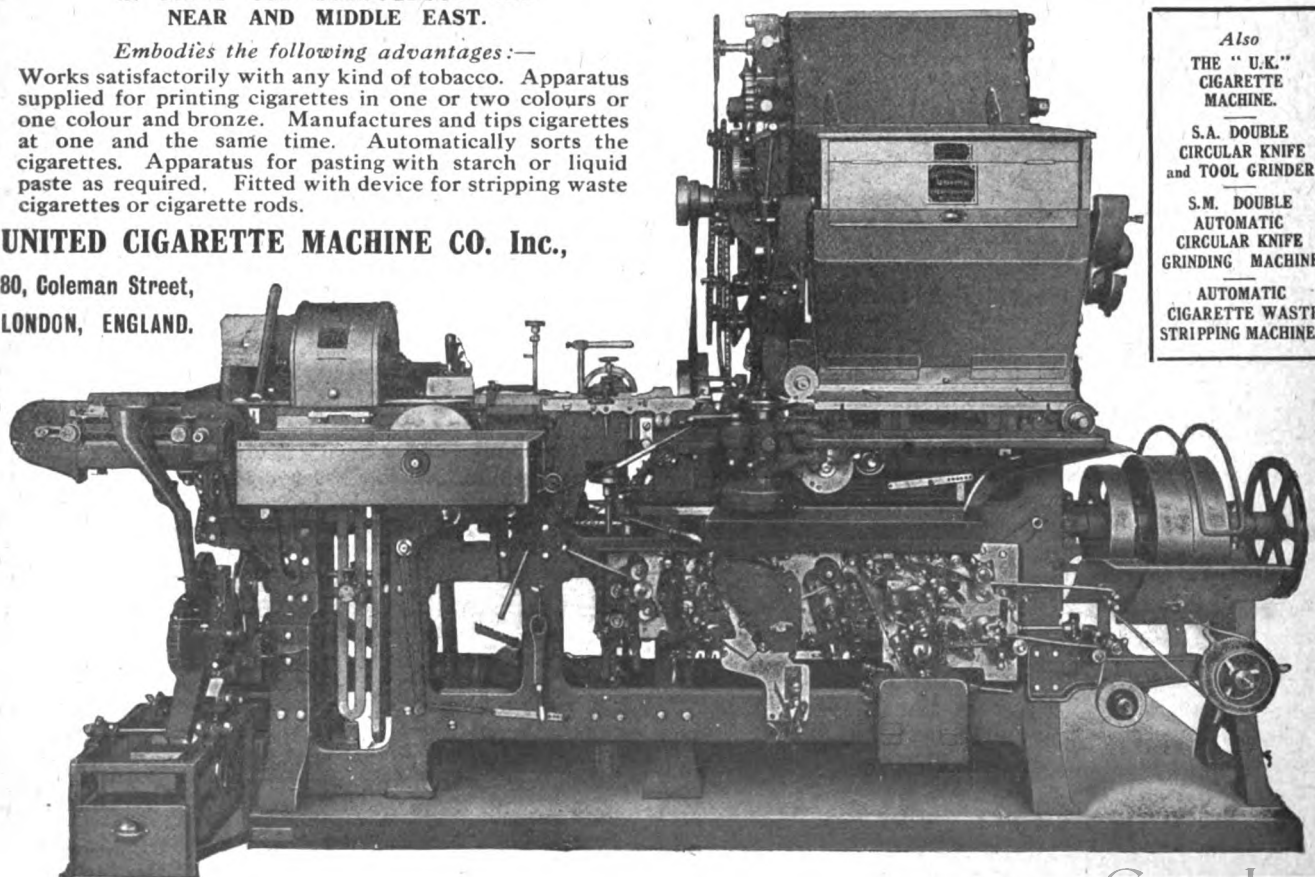
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which consist of ladies and gentlemen of the British colony, greatly added to the success of the evening. The dance was not over until 5.30 a.m.

The Greeks in Bulgaria.

The Greek Chargé d'Affaires in Sofia has notified the Hellenic Government that the Bulgarian Government has issued orders for the release of all Greeks accused of having damaged property belonging to Bulgarians. The Bulgarian Government has likewise released all Greeks residing in Bulgaria who, in accordance with the law, had been sent to prison on a charge of becoming rich during the war.

A Torchlight Procession.

A torchlight procession in honour of the correspondents of foreign newspapers at present in Athens took place last Sunday evening. The torch-bearers, singing the "Son of the Eagle," passed up Stadium Street, Constitution Square, Kifissia Boulevard, and thence past the Royal Palace in Herode of Attica Road. The King and the Royal Family watched the procession from one of the balconies of the Palace.

The "Salamis."

A few months before the outbreak of the war the Greek Government had placed an order in Germany for a large cruiser, which was to have been given the name of Salamis. The Minister of Marine has now decided to send a commission to Berlin for the purpose of cancelling the contract and recovering the deposit of twenty-five million drachmæ which was at the time paid by Greece.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 10.

Mr. Lloyd George Contradicted.

A considerable flutter has been caused in Turkish political circles by the emphatic contradictions on the part of Turkish statesmen of Mr. Lloyd George's statement in the House of Commons on December 22 to the effect that, while the Treaty of Sèvres was being drawn up, the Allies were informed that Turkey would be willing to sacrifice Thrace and Smyrna in return for being allowed to remain in possession of Constantinople. It will be remembered that when Ali Riza Pasha's Cabinet first came into power, Tewfik Pasha collaborated with Mustapha Reshid Pasha at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until Sefa Bey became Foreign Minister in the same Cabinet. Ali Riza Pasha, Tewfik Pasha, and Sefa Bey were the first to deny that any such overture had been made by the Turkish Government at any time during their tenure of office. The inference was that Damad Ferid Pasha was the guilty individual, but that veteran statesman also denied that the overtures made by his administration concerned anything more than the affirmation of Turkish rights according to the principles enunciated by President Wilson. "What is truth?" said jesting Pilate, and stayed not for an answer. Bacon was right—it is rather a waste of time upon certain occasions.

The Government Mission.

Rumour has been very busy with regard to the mission that is negotiating with the Nationalists at Angora for the purpose of effecting a reconciliation between the Nationalists and the Central Government. It was authoritatively reported that the mission left Angora for Ineboli and Constantinople on December 29, but so far it seems to be true that no news whatever has been received officially or otherwise concerning the alleged departure. On the other hand, it would seem to be true that the Government actually sent a communication to Izzet Pasha instructing him to return with all his colleagues as soon as possible. Exactly what is happening at Angora is therefore a matter for conjecture. In some quarters it is confidently asserted that neither Izzet Pasha nor any other member of the mission intends to return, but that they all have definitely thrown in their lot with the Nationalists. These affirmations are probably based upon announcements in the Anatolian Press, to which reference has been made in previous letters, but which really amounted to nothing more than a statement that Izzet Pasha and his colleagues had accepted the Nationalist point of view; although another

construction was justifiable in view of the ambiguous nature of the announcement. In other circles, it is believed that the Nationalists are preventing the mission from leaving and from communicating with the Central Government, because an offensive is about to be commenced against the Greeks, and the measure is a precaution against the leakage of information. There is something to be said for this point of view, because it is a fact that the fighting which has been in progress recently in the neighbourhood of Oushak has suddenly become more violent and has spread to the Broussa area. It is also an open secret that the Nationalists have been planning an offensive on the western front for some time. In the meanwhile, however, the position of the Government is becoming critical on account of the complete lack of funds. Schools are being closed down, officials are absenting themselves from their work, orphanages and refugee institutions are unable to feed their charges, and the widespread distress is daily becoming more acute. In such circumstances, unless the mission returns very shortly, a Cabinet crisis is almost inevitable.

The Caucasus.

In the Middle Eastern theatre a complicated situation, in appearance, at all events, has arisen. There seem to be clear indications that the Bolsheviks and the Turks are profoundly distrustful of each other, and the Turks particularly are taking no risks, if they can be avoided. Circumstances, at the present moment, are rather in favour of the Turks, because wintry conditions are preventing the Bolsheviks from maintaining any considerable forces in territory adjacent to Turkey. Thus the Bolsheviks are compelled to rely almost entirely upon diplomatic methods. In this connection the arrival in Angora of the notorious Bolshevik Bodu Mdivani is of considerable interest at the present juncture, and it may be safely surmised that his object is to assure the Nationalists that "Codlin's the friend."

The activity of the Georgian Foreign Office is also of considerable interest at the present moment. The precise situation is not altogether clear, but it is certain that Georgia's position is such that the Bolsheviks have only to move for a Soviet Government to be established in Tiflis as in Erivan. A Georgian delegation under Simon Gurkevitch, vice-president of the Georgian Assembly, has reached Angora, and it is said that the Turks have concluded an entente with the Georgian Government whereby the latter is assured of Turkish neutrality in the event of a conflict with Russia, and of immunity against a Turkish attack upon Batoum. The Georgian Government will probably discover that the Turks have never made a promise yet through which a camel could not pass.

CYPRUS.

December 17.

Greek Opinion on the Outlook.

There is little new to say regarding the "Union" agitation. The situation resembles that which followed similar replies of the British Government to previous deputations. The Greek leaders, after another check, continued the chase. They have declared for continued efforts, but are in favour of the incorporation of fresh elements, so as to form a larger representative body. The agitation has hitherto been mainly directed by but few actual workers, the most active and demonstrative being of the Limassol group, with a strong collaboration, as time went on, from Nicosia, and latterly from other towns, with

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their clubs, committees, and newspapers. The average town Cypriot goes somewhat passively with the stream, with little real enthusiasm; but is ready to take part in demonstrations and to avoid any outward appearance of lukewarmness that would prevent social harmony or amicable meetings at club or coffee-house. When you come to the rural districts, there is really merely a parrot-cry, which becomes more shrill in the *komopolis*, or large village, or in some particular localities. But if the truth were known, it is doubtless a fact that many of the more thoughtful would candidly confess that they cannot see where any advantage to the island could come in by a change of administration; and that the cry for union is in reality purely sentimental. Moreover, the present outlook in Greece may well strengthen misgivings. It may be shrewdly suspected that Greece might gain something at the expense of Cyprus, but hardly *vice versa*.

December 23.

Attitude of the Greeks.

The Greek papers publish a number of addresses, letters, and telegrams that have emanated from the promoters of *enosis*. There is a long address to the people, signed by the nine elected non-Mohammedan members of the Legislative Council, explaining the reasons for their resignation, and stating that the people now have an opportunity of forcibly expressing their views and wishes. Then there is a communication to the officer administering the government stating that the members would be inconsistent, and fail in their duty and sacred trust, if they did not declare how much the *amour-propre* of the Greek community had been wounded, protest emphatically against the decision of the British Government, and affirm their unalterable desire for freedom from a "foreign yoke." Circumstances, they allege, compel them to resign in a body; and they request that their communication may be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Greek Archbishop, on his part, takes separate action. He has written to the O.A.G. complaining that martial law is still in force, and that a late member of the Legislative Council, Mr. N. Laniti, has been summoned before a court martial on account of a recent political speech criticising the decision of the British Government. Mr. Laniti, whose language is certainly calculated to incite people to disaffection, has been warned that he renders himself liable to expulsion from the island. His Eminence has also telegraphed to the English Press and to various politicians and friends of Greece in England, that certain statements of the Under-Secretary of State have "raised a storm of indignation." To the Greek Press he has telegraphed stating that co-operation (with the Government) is now impossible, and that the struggle must be maintained. "We call," says the telegram, "upon the Hellenic nation, and the friends of liberty and justice everywhere, to aid in the sacred struggle for our country." He has also telegraphed to French and American papers.

Mr. Theodótou, late M.L.C., who is also a member of the Executive Council, has resigned his seat on that body. The leaders have thus definitely proclaimed that collaboration with the Government is out of the question, and that a campaign will henceforth be maintained by a full Committee of Bishops, former and late Members of Council, and mayors of towns. Prayers are to be offered in all churches, and collections to be made on Sundays and official festivals, in aid of the cause.

The local papers, which are largely occupied with Hellenic affairs, support all the proposals; but apparently not one of them takes any wider view of the situation, or makes the slightest attempt to explain the obvious reasons—very well known to themselves—for the decision of the British Government. They run in blinkers and can only look along one road. Articles and speeches constantly end with the everlasting "Union, only union, and nothing but union."

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, December 28.

Venizelist Demonstration.

The Smyrna Greeks have kept to-day, the birthday of Venizelos, as a general holiday. All the shops in the principal streets have closed. The few shopkeepers who refused at first to close their premises were compelled to do so by the various Venizelos committees. In one or two instances where shopkeepers refused to close their premises, and invoked the aid of the Greek soldiers, the Venizelists stood up to the bayonets of the soldiers, and defied them to strike. The soldiers, however, gave way and the premises were closed.

India, the weekly organ in this country of the Indian National Congress, has ceased publication, its last number being dated January 14. It was founded thirty years ago.

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 EGYPTIAN SITUATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In his important and extremely interesting letter, which you published in your issue of January 13, on the Egyptian situation, Coles Pasha makes several references to my summary of, and comments on, the Milner proposals in the December number of the *Nineteenth Century*.

In dealing with the question of the "Protectorate," he writes: "I take it that a Protectorate means a Crown Colony." In this I think he is wrong. If a Protectorate was the same thing as a Crown Colony, then the Egyptians would have become British subjects, as the inhabitants of a Crown Colony are the subjects of the British Crown, and bear allegiance to King George V. The Egyptians are not British subjects, and never have been, and the only allegiance they bear at present is to the Sultan.

In my opinion, therefore, he is wrong in stating that "we start in fact from the Crown Colony basis." The problem would be much simpler if we did, and the essential difficulty of the present situation lies in the fact that we start from the basis of a Protectorate, the precise implication and meaning of which was not defined when it was proclaimed, and has not since been defined. The only thing that was defined when the "Protectorate" was proclaimed was the right of the British Crown to select the Sultan of Egypt, and I agree with the last paragraph of Coles Pasha's letter, in which he lays emphasis on the possible results of any surrender of this right. If we do surrender it, I think it should be part of the Treaty of Alliance contemplated by the Milner proposals, that the ex-Khedive, Abbas II., should be debarred under any circumstances from restoration to the Egyptian throne. The new organic law will have to contain the law governing the appointment and succession to the Sultanate, and this is why I suggest that the organic law should be made an integral part of the Treaty of Alliance which the Egyptians could not violate without at the same time violating the Treaty of Alliance.

I had not seen the article of Sir Malcolm McIlwraith when I wrote my article in the *Nineteenth Century*, but I am inclined to agree with him that the chief difficulty presented by the Milner proposals lies not in any difficulty in effecting the Treaty between Egypt and the British Crown, but in the far greater difficulty of effecting the necessary collateral Treaties with foreign Powers who have hitherto enjoyed rights under the Capitulations, especially in connection with the proposed mixed criminal courts. In fact, I maintain, the main problem before the Egyptian leaders lies, not so much in the consideration of the future relations between Egypt and the British Empire, but in securing the assent of twelve other foreign states to the "bringing of all the various nationalities under the laws of Egypt," which I agree with Coles Pasha is the only solution which will be ultimately satisfactory from both the British and the Egyptian point of view.

May I once again repeat the appeal with which I concluded my article in the *Nineteenth Century*, that the whole matter may be settled one way or the other without further delay? The continued procrastination in the announcement of the final intentions of the British Government is as exasperating to every Englishman who is working in Egypt as it is to the Egyptians, and to the foreign communities resident in that country.—I am, etc.,

W. ORMSBY GORE.

5, Mansfield Street, W.1.

January 13, 1921.

THE LATE J. D. BOURCHIER.

A Bulgarian Tribute.

Mr. P. M. Mattheoff sends us from Sofia the following appreciation of the late Mr. J. D. Bouchier, dated January 6:—

J. D. Bouchier, Balkan correspondent of *The Times* for the past thirty-three years, died suddenly on December 30. About eleven o'clock in the evening he complained to the waiter of the hotel in which he resided of internal pains, and asked for a doctor. The doctor came, attended to him, and left him asleep. At 8.30 in the morning of the 30th he was found dead in bed.

Bouchier came to Bulgaria in 1888 as *The Times* correspondent. He has since acted for his paper in Greece, Roumania, Serbia, and Bulgaria, his preferred residence being in Sofia. During his long residence in these countries he acquired a unique and complete knowledge of the Balkan lands and the nations inhabiting them, and of the statesmen and leading men who guided their destinies. He came to possess a thorough understanding of the aspirations, pretensions, and ambitions which divided these nations; knew where these clashed and where

a little goodwill and common sense on both sides might have conciliated them; where chauvinism was rampant and impossible to reason with. The knowledge he possessed and his honesty of purpose gave him great opportunities to accomplish good work in bringing these nations to a better understanding among themselves. He more than once initiated and conducted with zeal important negotiations to that effect. Events, however, in the Balkans moved too fast, rivalry was too acute, chauvinism rendered conditions inextricable because of the ever-present jealousy and even bad faith.

Bourchier lived to see Bulgaria, whose rights he most disinterestedly championed, fall into the hands of thieves, to see her in the extremest distress, undergo catastrophe after catastrophe. He had borne testimony to Bulgaria's brilliant progress and development; he rejoiced greatly and with pride when she was on the point of attaining her national ideal, the reunion of the Bulgarian race: he grieved to see Bulgaria side with the Central Powers in the last war, disastrous for all; but he did not blame her. He died with Bulgaria before his eyes humiliated and cruelly rent asunder.

Bourchier worked honestly, ideally, and equally for all the Balkan countries, but he certainly gave more of his mind and time to the country which most needed his help, unhappy, unfortunate—blundering, if you please—Bulgaria. Few are the Bulgarians who have not met him; there is not one who has not heard his name. There is not a corner of the Bulgarian lands that he has not visited, and his death has been a shock for all Bulgarians. The whole country is in mourning.

A State funeral was accorded to him, conducted as for an Orthodox. He lay in state in the Cathedral for three days. The funeral service was most imposing. It was performed by the Archbishop, with the assistance of all the clergy present in Sofia, and representatives of the King, the Staff of the British Legation, the Ministers, the military and civil functionaries, and delegates from the country were present. The square outside the church and the streets through which the procession passed were black with dense crowds; shops and business places were closed. The first wreath placed on the catafalque was that of the King; there was one from the British Legation and another "from *The Times*, London."

Sir Arthur Peel, British Minister, paid tribute in well-chosen words to the sterling qualities of the departed (his former master at Eton), and to the services he had rendered to this country, which held him in such high esteem and love. Sir Arthur was followed by a journalist and by the President of the Macedonian Brotherhoods. The coffin was carried into and out of the church by members of the Press. The weather was magnificent and the procession a wonderful sight. The coffin was finally closed and placed in a specially prepared lorry, which at once started for the Rilo Monastery.

The Rilo Monastery is an ancient national sanctuary situated in a valley in the midst of the highest summits of the Rhodopes. The burial-place is a beautiful spot just outside the monastery, in accordance with the deceased's expressed wish.

The constancy, the intrepidity, and daring with which Bourchier laboured in defence of right and justice have endeared him to Bulgarians, wherever they live, and his name in itself will be a national monument. Generations upon generations will wend their way to the beautiful spot, where lie his remains, to utter a blessing and offer a prayer for the great-hearted, noble Briton.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Hellenism.

The *Morning Post* of January 7 contained an interesting article written by its Rome correspondent on "The Phanariotes: Byzantium versus Athens." "Owing to our regrettable habit," he says, "of not treating Greek history as a whole—

we are apt to ignore the fact that modern Greece is the grand-child of classical Hellas, but the child of mediæval Byzantium. From 1453, when Constantinople fell, down to the War of Independence, of which 1921 will be the centenary, the traditions of the Byzantine Empire—a great and often unjustly calumniated name—were worthily continued by the (Ecumenical Patriarchate. That institution, more national than the Papacy (for the (Ecumenical Patriarch was always a Greek, while the Pope, before 1523, was frequently not an Italian, and during the Avignon captivity always a Frenchman), was thus for three and a half centuries the outward and visible head of Hellenism, at a time when Athens was still a small provincial town and the now busy Piræus a single warehouse. Not only so; but down to the erection of the Bulgarian Exarchate in 1870 the (Ecumenical Patriarch was the ecclesiastical head of the so-called "Greek" Christians of the Balkans, not only Greeks, but Bulgars, Serbs, and Roumanians also, and the division between them and the Turks was by religion and not by race.

Even now, although the creation of an independent Greek Kingdom in 1832 involved the erection of an autonomous Church in Greece proper (finally recognised in 1850 and 1852), still in matters of dogma "the Great Church" of Constantinople retained its pre-eminence. Thus, the markedly pro-Venizelist and anti-Constantinian policy of the (Ecumenical Patriarchate—there is at present no (Ecumenical Patriarch, for the last was deposed during the war, and the (Ecumenical Patriarchate, pending a new election, is in commission—must needs exercise considerable influence upon the Hellenic world. This means that, if Athens be Royalist, Byzantium is Venizelist. If Athens has rejected the modern Perikles, Byzantium has repudiated the new Constantine and the new Sophia. And it was Byzantium, not Athens, which saved Hellenism from the Bulgarians, retook Crete from the Saracens, and, in fact, anticipated the deeds of M. Venizelos a thousand years ago. But it was not only the ecclesiastical circles of Constantinople that exercised a great influence upon the fortunes of Hellenism. From the "Lighthouse," or "Phanar," quarter of Byzantium sprang those Phanariotes, who were for long the intellectual leaders of the Greek race. The Phanariotes had their faults of character, but they, as their name implied, were a "lighthouse" of culture in the dark days of Turkish Greece. From them, between 1716 and 1822, came the Princes, or *Hospodars*, of the two Danubian Principalities, Wallachia and Moldavia, the nucleus of the present Kingdom of Roumania. From them still earlier came the chief interpreters of the Porte and the Dragomans of the Fleet—the brains, in fact, of the Turkish service. They never forgot their own people, and more than once were the means of saving them from annihilation.

He proceeds to give examples of Phanariotes who have conspicuously served their country, and continues:—

In the early years of Athens as the capital of the new-born Kingdom, the Phanariote Society represented the most cultured element there, as was natural from its long traditions, by the side of such ancient indigenous Athenian "anchoritic" families as the Benizeloi, from whom M. Gennadius, the learned ex-Minister of Greece in London, is on his mother's side descended.

The "unredeemed" Greeks, as one of them recently said to me, are against Constantine—and the "unredeemed" Greeks are a powerful factor. What Byzantium thinks to-day Athens may think to-morrow, especially if the Allies give Constantine plenty of rope and plenty of time to make mistakes. The Royalist leaders are only united by their antagonism to M. Venizelos; otherwise there are as many schisms among them as there were in St. Paul's day in the Church of Corinth. Constantine, if left to his own devices, is much more likely to become unpopular than if he be converted into a martyr. Our true policy is to watch events carefully, not to allow ourselves to be fooled by him twice, and to place no confidence whatsoever in the promises and explanations of new-born "friends of the Allies" with or without aggressively German names, or even with aggressively British ones.

Articles to Note.

"The Revulsion in Greece," by Professor A. J. Toynbee, in the *Contemporary Review* (January).

"The New Era in India," by Stanley Rice, in the *Fortnightly Review* (January).

It is stated that at a recent meeting of members of Cambridge University interested in Oriental archaeology it was agreed to offer the University twenty pounds annually to enable it to become a subscriber to the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. This subscription will entitle the University to nominate one student at the school. There would seem to be little doubt that in the future all systematic exploration and excavation will be conducted through this school and the associated French and American schools.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"SIR ARCHIBALD MURRAY'S DESPATCHES." With specially prepared Maps and Portraits. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons. 35s., with Case of Maps.)
- II.—"SMITH AND THE PHAROAHS AND OTHER TALES." By H. Rider Haggard. (Bristol: Arrowsmith. 7s. 6d. net.)
- III.—"SHALLS FROM THE SANDS OF BOMBAY. Recollections and Reminiscences, 1860-1875." By Sir Dinshaw Wacha. (Bombay: The Indian Newspaper Co., Ltd. Rs. 3.)

I.—THE DESPATCHES OF SIR ARCHIBALD MURRAY.

On January 9, 1916, General Murray took over the command of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force from General Sir C. C. Munro. The Dardanelles adventure was just over, and troops were pouring into Egypt both from there and through the Suez Canal from India and Australia. The Commander-in-Chief's most urgent problem was the defence of this Canal—and all Egypt—from an attack from the East. To the West of Egypt the Senussi, with many restless tribes, threatened disturbance, and all the larger oases had to be occupied. Along the coast towards Tripoli active raids and reconnaissances were in progress. Even the forces collected in Salonika, under the command of Lieut.-General Sir B. T. Mahon, were under General Murray's control "for administrative purposes," and Cyprus for a time called for some attention. Amid all this remained the constant pressing calls from France for more men, and tens of thousands of soldiers had to be passed on from Egypt, on several occasions at the expense of the disorganisation of plans of offence already arranged for against the Turk. These four despatches, now first printed uncensored, give an account of all these operations.

The first despatch contains an account of the organisation of the Canal defence and of numerous minor operations, both on the Eastern and Western frontiers. Though mostly successful, there was a serious setback at Oghratina and at Katia, where the greater part of three squadrons of Worcestershire Yeomanry were overwhelmed. The advance eastwards, however, was soon resumed. The second despatch centres round the very important victory of Roumani. Originally a carefully organised attack on us, the repulse of the Turkish forces was followed by our rapid advance, whereby thousands of prisoners and great quantities of munitions and stores were captured. Lieut.-General the Hon. H. A. Lawrence was in command, and is here deservedly given the "warmest praise."

The third despatch, dated March 18, 1917, carries the account of a continued successful advance right up to the frontier of Palestine, in which the battles of Magdhaba and Rafa were notable achievements. For these successes special credit is paid to Lieut.-General Sir Charles Dobell and Lieut.-General Sir Philip Chetwode.

On the Western frontier of Egypt the dramatic capture of the Siwa oasis in February by a fighting force of "three light-armed batteries and three light car patrols of six cars each," was an event as momentous as it was unique. When one recalls how much had been written of the danger of the Senussi, the destruction of the forces and the headlong flight—unfortunately not the capture—of the famous Sayad Ahmad and Mahommed Salih were great events.

The fourth despatch, dated June 28, 1917, contains an account of the two much-discussed battles of Gaza. Here especially censorship was exercised during the war, and it is only just that the constantly changing attitude of the War Office, which must necessarily have greatly embarrassed General Murray's plans, should now be revealed. A letter from the War Office is published as a "Foreword," as a condition of the publication of the full text of General Murray's original despatches. In this it is pointed out that "the various changes of policy on which stress is laid in the first part of the (fourth) despatch were based not merely on local considerations connected with the campaign east of the Suez Canal and adjacent theatres of war, but on a general review of the course of the war as a whole, including such considerations as the development of the German submarine campaign, the failure of General Nivelle's offensive and the extension of the British line on the Western Front, Allied policy in the Balkans, and the course of events in Russia." A want of recognition of this is apt to create a misleading impression, but it is only fair to add that the suppression of the "various changes of policy" has been unfair to General Murray, as it was very largely responsible for the setback at Gaza and the popular verdict upon it. The first battle of Gaza was an attempt to take the town by a bold and sudden stroke; apparently it very nearly succeeded. "Though the *coup de main* just failed, the military results, in my opinion, justified my anticipations." Indeed the General calls it "a most successful operation," a view taken by the Press at home on the publication of the first news. Probably it was this too roseate Press view which caused the

public to go to the other extreme when the failure to take Gaza became known a few days later.

Of the second battle of Gaza in April it cannot be said that the account here given does much that is new in its defence, even though the results were not without importance. Politically it did no good. It was a frontal attack upon a position which since our first attempt had become a veritable fortress, protected by earthworks, wire, and cactus hedges, and held, according to this despatch, by some five divisions of Turks—a force much larger than our own. General Murray had been starved of reinforcements, and obviously, it is now clear, had insufficient men for such an attack. All hope of a surprise was gone, and that alone could have given success. Tanks, of a primitive make, proved a failure. Our casualties were 7,000, and though General Murray estimates the Turkish loss as greater, it is difficult to see how he supports his figures. Obviously General Dobell and his divisional commanders were right in advising General Murray to break off the engagement. The brighter side is that the ground gained was consolidated on April 20. "No ground, in fact, gained on that day has since been lost, and the position to which we then advanced has facilitated and will facilitate further operations."

Were these despatches the end we might view them differently, but the crown is laid upon General Murray's work by Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, who says:—

"I reaped the fruits of his foresight and strategical imagination, which brought the waters of the Nile to the borders of Palestine, planned the skilful military operations by which the Turks were driven from strong positions in the desert over the frontier of Egypt, and carried a standard gauge railway to the gates of Gaza. The organisation he created, both in Sinai and in Egypt, stood all tests, and formed the corner-stone of my successes."

This volume, beautifully printed and bound, is a commentary on the above words, and, we venture to say, forms a far better and more dignified answer to public criticism than some books which have been published, manifestly of a controversial nature, by other military leaders. These documents are submitted to the verdict of history alongside Allenby's own despatches, and there is little fear what the verdict will be. The second battle of Gaza was an incident in a brilliant campaign, and in the long run it became a link in the chain of our final success.

It should be added that, besides some fine portraits and some sketch maps, there is a portfolio—in book form, containing four splendid maps—the Turkish Empire, Egypt, Sinai, and South Palestine, which illustrate every point in the military operations described. The whole publication is most handsomely got up, and should be widely circulated.

E. W. G. M.

II.—ADVENTURES IN ANCIENT EGYPT AND ELSEWHERE.

What strikes us most about this collection of six short stories by Sir Rider Haggard is the variety of his choice of subjects and the way in which he can command a definitely separate style of writing to fit each. The first story, which gives its title to the book, is a perfect blend of humour and romance, and is absolutely successful as a whole. It is charming from the moment when Ebenezer Smith, in the British Museum, first catches sight of a cast of the head of an unknown Egyptian queen, and loses his heart to that sweet face with its strange, inscrutable smile. We follow with delight his subsequent adventures, and learn how he discovers the tomb of his beloved—Ma-mee; how he is accidentally locked into the Museum at Cairo on the night when all the rulers of ancient Egypt are allowed to assemble and talk, how he both sees his beautiful queen, and has speech with her, and is left to the end of his days wondering whether this marvellous experience was all a dream or not.

The longest of the stories, "Barbara Who Came Back," is a pretty, old-fashioned love story, until Barbara dies, and then makes her great sacrifice by choosing to return to earth in a fresh incarnation in order to save another's soul.

Descriptions of "the other side" which—in spite of the best intentions to describe a state of spiritual and perfect happiness—must be translated into the terms of material comfort, or rather luxury, are always difficult to bear with patience.

In "The Little Flower" the author does succeed in making us picture very clearly that ardent, though not very wise, missionary, Thomas Bull, his wife and little daughter, and the tribe whom he struggles to win for Christianity from the influence of the powerful witch-doctor, Menzi. The story is, however, rather spoilt by the clumsiness of the machinery that is used to bring about Menzi's dramatic death.

Of the three remaining tales, two do not reach a very high level. The one which is presumably intended to make the reader's flesh creep quite fails to attain its object. But, in the third, Allan Quatermain's many friends will be glad to hear his deep voice telling the story of the heroism of "Magepa the Buck."

III.—"A HOLE CALLED BOMBAYEE."

It is not yet three centuries since Captain Weddell described how the Portuguese war-vessels, after a naval action, had retired to "a hole called Bombayee," and a hole, or, in other words, an anchorage, Bombay remained throughout the Portuguese period. Then came the East India Company, and laid the foundations of the city, which, under the leadership first of Scots and then of Parsees, has grown into the gigantic mushroom of to-day, presenting to its citizens all the complex problems of town life in their most aggravated forms. One of the most prominent of these citizens has now given us a description of Bombay as it appeared to his boyish eyes, and we think the predominant feeling of every reader will be gratitude to the veteran who has undertaken such a labour, even though it be a labour of love. And with gratitude will go admiration, for while there is no obvious art and a captious critic might point to various defects, Sir Dinshaw has given us a real book, one which serves its declared purpose, and at the same time can be read with interest and enjoyment. The writer takes us over the ground step by step, pausing on occasion to glance backward or forward, and never forgetting to pay a tribute to each hero of the old times. There are no men like them nowadays, says Sir Dinshaw, and we can only answer that there never were.

What, then, was Bombay like to live in sixty years ago? The man of to-day will probably reply that it must have been intolerable. Slums perhaps fewer, but as bad as now; open drains, or no drains at all; a water-famine every summer; no organised recreations; bitter sectarian controversies; and a dozen other objectionable features. Water-famines, of course, meant cholera, and also disastrous fires. Sir Dinshaw's grandmother instructed him at an early age in the truth of the aphorism that, come what may, a burglary is to be preferred to a fire, and there is no doubt that that is the Indian point of view. You are not ruined while the roof is on the walls. But against all these drawbacks must be set the blessing of space, plenty of room inside the houses, and plenty of room for small children to play outside. Space meant liberty, the unchartered freedom of Indian boys to play what and where they liked, which is nowadays so sadly curtailed in Bombay as well as Calcutta; and Sir Dinshaw looks back on the town hall not only as the scene of dignified ceremonials, but as a splendid place to play in, running up the steps and sliding down the banisters. So, altogether, Bombay was habitable in the 'fifties, though the life was not the life of to-day. Sir Dinshaw traces the beginning of the change which set in just then. There was a quickening of civic and commercial life; the railways were climbing the *ghats*; water was being brought to the city; gas-lamps were coming; banks were developing; and a start had just been made in what, looking backward, we may call the cause of all the woe—the erection of the cotton mills. Bombay attempted to pack not only Liverpool but most of Lancashire into one small and inconvenient island, with the waste spaces of all India lying just behind. There was room for a great seaport, but not for much more, and no one need be surprised at the congestion which has resulted. However, the mischief is done, and now the island has to be enlarged. When that is accomplished there will be yet another Bombay, and we hope that someone will leave as good a record of the city which is now to pass away as Sir Dinshaw has given us of the older city which he knew.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Black Blanket." By Maxwell Laurie. (London: T. Werner Laurie, Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.)

"The Industrial and Commercial Revolutions in Great Britain During the Nineteenth Century." By L. C. A. Knowles, Litt.D. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd., 6s. 6d. net.)

"Macmillan's Historical Atlas of Modern Europe." Edited by F. J. C. Hearnshaw. (London: Macmillan and Co., 6s. net.)

"The Latin Orient." By William Miller, M.A. 1s. 6d. net.

"Knights of Malta, 1523-1798." By R. Cohen. 2s. net.

"Slavonic Settlements." By S. B. Bury. 2s. net. (London: S.P.C.K.)

The Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects invite competition for the proposed Council Chamber to be built in Calcutta for the Legislative Council of Bombay. Premiums of £500, £250, and £100 will be awarded to the authors of the designs, and the winner of the first premium will be appointed to carry out the work in accordance with the Royal Institute of British Architects' scale of professional charges.

MUSICAL NOTES.

A Joint Recital.

On the whole there was much more to bless than to curse at the joint recital which Miss Mildred Allingham and M. Michael Doré gave at the Wigmore Hall on January 7. Despite the fact that Miss Allingham sang poorly poor songs by Havergal Brian, Goossens, and Cyril Scott, and despite the choice by M. Doré of such juvenile pieces as Paganini's "La Clachette" and Kreisler's "Schön Rosmarin," there was a good deal for which one was really grateful. First was a very charming sonata of Cervetto (exquisitely arranged by G. Salmon), played by M. Doré with a cleanness and straightforwardness that made the music a sheer delight. There is no need to go deep into such music as this—fortunately for M. Doré and ourselves—for technical efficiency and a modest temperament are all that is required to bring through its charm. Then there were the quite amazingly beautiful "Four Songs for Voice and Violin" of Gustav Holst, sung most reverently and feelingly by Miss Allingham. The words, which are taken from Miss Mary Segar's "Mediæval Anthology," are steeped in the Catholic spirit, and it is proof of Mr. Holst's deep and flexible sympathy that he has so purely conveyed that spirit. In the rhythm of these songs he has broken, not new ground certainly, but the links that bind composers to the old ground; he has returned to the freedom of the past. Very economically, most simply, and without any ostentation, he has put back the hands of the clock; it was possible during the singing of these songs to realise a little of the mediæval devotional spirit, a realisation hitherto made possible only in painting and in literature. The rich reticence with which Miss Allingham treated them deserves much praise, the beauty of her low notes being notable. She continued excellently in a group of foreign songs, singing Max Reger's "Maria Wiegenlied" and Joseph Marx' "Lob des Frühlings" in particular just as they are meant to be sung.

The Royal Philharmonic Society.

The connection between Beethoven and this Society is too well known to be told of here, and it was interesting to notice how the 150th anniversary of the composer would be observed. It seems pretty certain that, in spite of the older critics and the older public, Beethoven's reputation is declining—one cannot stop these things—and though in various recitals and other concerts the occasion was duly honoured by having the programme composed wholly of Beethoven, at the Royal Philharmonic Society's concert at the Queen's Hall on December 16 it was more fittingly honoured by having only one Beethoven composition—the "Coriolan" overture—in the programme. The main interest of the evening, however, lay in the first London performance of Arnold Bax's tone-poem, called "November Woods." Bax is one of the most often played of the younger school of British composers, and deservedly so, for he has a fine richness of imagination, and is developing a subtle and sure technique. But it was possible to admire "November Woods" only in details, for it was as a purely individual expression of mood before Nature that one heard. On this one hearing, I, at any rate, could get no impression of the cosmic spirit which most great works of like intent have; the attitude taken up was, where the painting was not merely realistic, wholly subjective, and to be subjective one must first be important. But rather than say anything about this work now, I would like to hear it again. It was vividly conducted by Mr. Hamilton Harty, whose imagination is in some ways akin to that of the composer.

In a different mood, and with less pleasure because of the sudden and total change, one listened to some extraordinarily good singing by the Philharmonic Choir under Mr. Kennedy Scott of some unaccompanied choral works of the sixteenth century. Both the technique and the tone of this choir are excellent, and their renderings of a motet of Sweelinck ("Hodie Christus Natus Est") and of a cradle song by Calvisius ("Joseph, lieber Joseph mein") were extremely beautiful. It is not often that one hears this old polyphonic stuff done nowadays; but its vitality and freshness are really astonishing.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

January 20 (New Style).
January 7 (Old Style).
Jumada I., 10, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Shebat 11, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Milne Cheetham left London last week for Paris.

Lord and Lady Eustace Percy will shortly leave London for Egypt.

Viscount and Viscountess Astor have arrived at the Hotel St. George, Algiers.

M. Canellopoulos, Hellenic High Commissioner in Constantinople, has resigned.

The Hon. Mrs. Ronald Greville has left London for the South of France *en route* for the Sudan.

M. Constantin Constantinesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on January 16 for Nice.

The Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, accompanied by Lady Evelyn Herbert, left London last week for Egypt.

M. Radu Th. Djuvara, the newly appointed First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London last week from Bucharest.

The Bulgarian Minister entertained the personnel of the Legation on January 13 in celebration of New Year's Eve according to the Greek Orthodox calendar.

The King has been pleased, by Warrant under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, to authorise the Viceroy of India to confer the honour of Knight Bachelor upon Mr. William Mitchell Acworth.

In celebration of the knighthood conferred on Sir Mirza Abdul Hossain, Sheriff of Madras, Mr. M. H. Ispahani, his nephew, and Mrs. Ispahani gave a dinner party at the Savoy Hotel on January 15 to a large company.

The lecture on Viscount Allenby's campaign in Palestine, which was to have been given by Captain Neville Hobson last week at the 19th London Regiment Headquarters, High Street, Camden Town, has been postponed until Saturday, February 12.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Walter Raleigh Fetherstonhaugh Trevelyan, 93rd Burma Infantry, only son of the late Captain Walter Raleigh Trevelyan, 64, Onslow Gardens, S.W., and Olive, youngest daughter of T. Gibbons Frost, of Mollington Hall, Chester.

Friday, the 14th, being New Year's Day according to the Greek Orthodox calendar, a special service was held at the Russian Church in Welbeck Street, Marylebone, during the morning. The Very Rev. Eugene Smirnoff officiated. Amongst the congregation were the Bulgarian Minister and the personnel of the Legation.

Mr. Dhunjibhoy Bomanji, of The Willows, Windsor, who is at present on a visit to Bombay, where he has extensive business associations, has made a gift of £5,000 to the King Edward VII. Hospital, Windsor, free of any conditions, his object being to "help the splendid work the hospital is doing for the benefit of the sick and suffering."

Lady Chalmers, Baroness de Balabre, Major R. and Mrs. Lloyd George, Sir Robert McAlpine, Sir Edward Every, Mrs. Porteous Scott, and the Hon. Mrs. Malcolm Stevenson were among the passengers by the P. and O. Company's steamship Malwa, which left London on January 14 for Bombay. Sir T. O. Callender, the Maharaja and Maharani of Cooch Behar, Viscount and Viscountess Ennismore, Major-General Sir H. C. Holman, Brigadier-General Storrs, and Major-General L. R. Vaughan will join the Malwa at Marseilles next Saturday.

Mrs. Fanny Mavrogordato, of Westbourne Terrace, W., who died on November 18, wife of Michel George Mavrogordato, has left estate of the value of £50,071. The will of July 30, 1906, is proved by her sons George Michel Mavrogordato and Theodore Michel Mavrogordato, and her son-in-law Constantine Manoli Vassiliadi, all of Great Winchester Street, E.C. She gives her leasehold house to her son-in-law Constantine M. Vassiliadi, and the residue of the property between her two sons and her daughter Fanny Vassiliadi.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The following appointments are announced of Presidents of legislative bodies provided for in the Government of India Act (1919):—

The Indian Legislature: The Council of State.—Mr. A. P. Muddiman, I.C.S., late Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Department. The Legislative Assembly.—Mr. A. F. Whyte.

Provincial Legislatures.—Bengal: Nawab Syed Sir Sham-sul Huda, member of the Bengal Executive Council, 1912-17. Madras: Sir Raja-gopala Achariyar, a member of the Madras Executive Council since 1917. United Provinces: Mr. Michael Keane, I.C.S., late Judicial Secretary to the Local Government. The Punjab: Mr. M. S. D. Butler, I.C.S., formerly Secretary of the Indian Public Services Commission. The Central Provinces: Rao Bahadur R. N. Mudholkar, formerly a member of the Viceregal Legislative Council. Bihar and Orissa: Sir Walter Maude, I.C.S., member of the Executive Council of the Province. Assam (temporarily): Mr. J. C. Arbuthnot, late Commissioner of the Surma Valley and Hill Districts.

M. de Fontenay, Minister at Belgrade, is to go as French Ambassador to Copenhagen. M. Clement Simon, French Minister at Prague, has been transferred to Belgrade.

Major Milau Yovitchitch, Assistant Military Attaché at the Yugoslav Legation in London, has received an appointment in the War Office at Belgrade.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred last week of Mr. George Francis Adams, who had been Chief Inspector of Mines in India since 1910.

The death is announced of the Rev. Arthur G. Luckman, rector of St. Cuthbert's, Colinton, Mid Lothian. Ordained in 1881 he worked for many years in India. He was master of the Boys' High School, Allahabad, 1882-86; canon of Calcutta, 1900-7; and Archdeacon of Calcutta, 1907-11.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

According to a Constantinople report, £1 sterling is now worth 14,000 roubles in Georgia.

Recent police raids in Cairo have resulted in seizures of bombs and revolvers, and the Public Prosecutor is personally investigating the matter.

Further raiding by the adherents of the Emir Abd el Aziz es Saud of Riyadh against the Hejaz is reported from Taif, where they have been repulsed by troops sent from Mecca.

It is announced in Paris that General Franchet d'Esperey will go to Belgrade to bestow, in the name of the French Government, the Croix de Guerre conferred upon the Serbian capital.

The examination for the Indian Civil Service in 1921 will be held under the old regulations. No date has yet been fixed for the introduction of the new regulation reducing the age limit by one year.

Reshid Pasha, accompanied by Raghib Raif, Turkish Minister-Plenipotentiary, arrived in London last week on an unofficial mission from Constantinople. Reshid Pasha visited this country during the Balkan Conference in 1912.

From Bolshevik sources it is reported that a Tartar insurrection has broken out in the Crimea, and that the Tartars have established relations with the peasant leader Makhnov, who is operating in the Government of Ekaterinoslav.

Among the cases which will come before the Seine Assizes on January 25 and 26 is that of the two Greek officers, Tserapis and Kyrikis, who in August last made an attempt on the life of M. Venizelos at the Gare de Lyon, in Paris.

M. Ralli, the Greek Prime Minister, has been informed by the British and French Ministers that their Governments regard as insufficient the explanations given by the Greek Government for appropriating the balance of the loan granted by Britain, France, and the United States.

The Viceroy of India reports that Sir H. Dobbs' Mission to Afghanistan arrived at Kabul in safety on January 7. The Mission was received with full military honours on the frontier and at Jellalabad. Suitable arrangements have been made for its reception and accommodation at Kabul.

The Macedonian societies in Bulgaria have appealed to the League of Nations against the action of the Hellenic and Yugoslav Governments in suppressing the activities and confiscating the buildings of 1,373 Bulgarian schools and dismissing 2,226 teachers in Macedonia, in addition to closing 1,331 Exarchist churches and 73 monasteries in that area.

The following information has been received by the Minister of War regarding the losses sustained by the French Army of the Levant in the period between November 1, 1919, and December 15, 1920:—2,700 killed, died as a result of disease, or missing; 700 prisoners. These figures include 1,800 natives. Four thousand seven hundred troops have been withdrawn.

The illustration, "On the Tigris, near Baghdad," which appeared in our issue of January 6, was from a photograph by Mr. Ernest Betts, author of "The Bagging of Baghdad."

NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST.*(Continued from January 18th).***HONORARY MILITARY RANK.****TO BE HONORARY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL.**

JAIPUR. MAJOR-GENERAL HIS HIGHNESS SARMAAD-I-RAJHA-I-HINDUSTAN RAJ RAJINDAR SRI MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR SAWAI MADHO SINGH BAHADUR, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., LL.D., MAHARAJA OF.

TO BE HONORARY COLONEL.

ALWAR. LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS SAWAI MAHARAJA SIR JEY SINGH BAHADUR, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., MAHARAJA OF.

TO BE HONORARY MAJOR.

BHARATPUR. LIEUTENANT HIS HIGHNESS MAHARAJA SRI BRAJINDRA SAWAI KISHAN SINGH BAHADUR JANG, MAHARAJA OF.
DHOLPUR. HIS HIGHNESS RAIS-UD-DAULA SIPAHDAH-UL-MULK MAHARAJADHIRAJA SRI SAWAI MAHARAJ RANA SIR UDAIBHAN SINGH LOKINDAR BAHADUR DILER JANG JAB DEO, K.C.S.I., MAHARAJA-RANA OF.

SACHIN. CAPTAIN HIS HIGHNESS NAWAB SIDI IBRAHIM MOHAMED YACUB KHAN MUBAZARAT NASRAT JUNG BAHADUR, NAWAB OF.
BILASPUR. CAPTAIN HIS HIGHNESS RAJA SIR BIJE CHAND, RAJA OF.

TO BE HONORARY CAPTAIN.

SADUL SINGH. MAHARAJ KUMAR, son of His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner.
HANUT SINGH and SAGAT SINGH. RAO RAJAS, sons of His Highness Maharaja Sir Partap Singh Bahadur, Regent of Jodhpur.
LOHARU. NAWAB AIZUD-DIN AHMED KHAN, NAWAB OF.

TO BE MAHARAJA (HEREDITARY).

COCHIN. HIS HIGHNESS RAJA SRI SIR RAMA VARMAH, G.C.I.E., RAJA OF.
RATLAM. COLONEL HIS HIGHNESS RAJA SIR SAJJAN SINGH, K.C.S.I., RAJA OF.
RAJPIPLA. CAPTAIN HIS HIGHNESS MAHARANA SHRI VIJAYASINHJI CHHATRASINHJI, RAJA OF.
SONPUR. MAHARAJA SIR BIR MITRADAYA SINGH DEO, K.C.I.E., RAJA OF.

THE STAR OF INDIA.**K.C.S.I.**

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SINHA OF RAIPUR. the RIGHT HON. SIR S. SATYENDRA PRASSANO, Baron, K.C.
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KAZILBASH. KHAN BAHADUR SARDAR MUHAMMAD ALI KHAN.

The Polish General Haller arrived in Bucharest on January 11, and has been received by the King.

Snow has fallen at Kandahar for the first time since 1905, and it is stated to be the heaviest fall on record.

According to the *Temps*, the Œcumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople has reversed its policy of hostility to King Constantine.

A telegram from Budenib, on the Moroccan-Algerian frontier, reports that local levies, assisted by French aeroplanes, attacked and routed, with considerable loss, a large gathering of rebellious tribesmen south-east of Itzer.

The Central Committee of the Party of Syrian Union in Cairo has protested against the Franco-British Agreement defining the frontiers of Palestine as a dismemberment of Syria, for which the Committee claims independence under the guarantee of the League of Nations.

A Colonial report on Malta states that the question of the increased cost of living in that group of islands was the main difficulty with which the Government had to contend during the past year. Unemployment, aggravated by the discharging of 15,000 men from the naval and military establishments and the mercantile marine, had also to be dealt with.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 1921.

LORD READING'S TASK IN INDIA.

In recording the appointment of Lord Reading as Viceroy and Governor-General of India we wrote briefly of the difficulty of the task which lies before him. The accomplishment of that task may depend not only on his gifts as leader and administrator, but also on the support accorded to him by this country and by the rest of the British Empire; for there are anxious times ahead, and it may well be that the outcome may be determined in great measure by the attitude of a wider public towards questions which at first sight appear to be of merely local import. Sympathy, to be of real value, must be based on knowledge and on understanding, and it may serve some useful purpose at this juncture if we set out in the fewest possible words the basic factors of the problems to be solved. We have invited India to discard the old ideals of privilege and ascendancy; let us endeavour to realise the strength of the fortress, which, after a somewhat desultory siege, has now been summoned formally to surrender. Patriotic scholars claim to have discovered elements of popular government in the India of the distant past, but if those elements ever existed, they had been submerged before the opening of the historical period, which stretches over nearly a thousand years, and is dominated from first to last by the ideas of spiritual ascendancy, political tyranny, and economic exploitation. The individual had no chance, and Indians in the mass had no rights, but only duties, in particular the duty of slaving for a starvation wage, and handing over the surplus produce of their labour to support in luxury the adventurers and parasites of half Asia, who swarmed into India in search of prey. With the establishment of English rule came western education and western ideas, which proved attractive from the outset to a small but energetic class of students; they assimilated the liberalism of the last century in its crudest form, and they originated a demand for political institutions with a very imperfect appreciation of what was actually implied. Meanwhile the new ideas were spreading more widely, and their true implication was becoming understood by other classes, less conspicuous on the surface, but of greater importance in the stream of national life. Five years ago it was already possible to distinguish two tendencies in Indian thought: desire to restore the old régime and aspiration for a fusion of East and West which should be better than the old; but these ideas were still, so to speak, in solution, and it required the impact of some external force to render them visible to ordinary observers. The declaration of policy made by the British Government in August, 1917, sufficed to start the process of crystallisation, and while officials have been engaged in devising the political machinery of the new constitution, Indian thought has responded by bringing the opposing tendencies clearly into view and thus providing the foundations of a party system, a thing which is frequently abused, but with which no progressive nation has yet been able to dispense.

So far the development will be intelligible to everyone. The distinctive feature in the situation is that one of the two nascent parties which desires to restore the old régime of privilege and ascendancy has decided to stand outside the constitution and to attempt its destruction by any means which seem to offer a prospect of success. The initial inspiration of this party is, we believe, intellectual, but its strength lies in the fact that circumstances have enabled it to secure the support of a large volume of sentiment, impractical indeed and often ill-informed, but genuine and at the same time important. Three strains of this

sentiment may be distinguished. First, there is the pathetic nationalist dream, inspired so largely by false history, of a once fruitful and smiling land ruined by English commerce and English rule. Bad teaching has created this sentiment, and its present strength is great; it can be cured only by time and by the spread of knowledge, and, while it is already weakening, it must be reckoned with as a factor of importance during the years ahead. Next, there is the sentiment clinging to the idea of the Khalifate. As so many of our readers know, that is not a Moslem idea, but a product of the impact on Islam of the definitely Indian idea of spiritual ascendancy. Competent observers assure us that it is already on the wane, a fact due mainly to the ineptitude of those who propagated it; but at the moment it remains a force which must be taken into account. Lastly, there is the widespread bitterness which resulted from the events of 1919 in the Punjab, and here there is unfortunately little sign of appeasement. In this matter we can only repeat the opinion we have previously expressed that time, and nothing but time, can cure the wounds of both sides; further discussion would be useless, but the existence of the sentiment has to be borne in mind. The net result is that the convinced advocates of the régime of privilege and ascendancy can count for the time being on the support of a large number of persons who are guided mainly by their feelings, and disposed to set their own undisciplined emotions before the good of their country or the crying needs of the masses of the people. And it is in connection with the masses that their support counts for most, because sentiment is always a powerful basis of appeal, and it is particularly powerful in India at the present day. No careful observer can doubt that English rule has opened the eyes of the masses to the fundamental fact that life may possibly be worth living, a fact denied by their faith and contradicted by the stern experience of at least a thousand years. Vague discontent already exists, as is apparent from the recurring strikes in the industrial world, and from disturbances like those which are reported as we write from rural districts in Oudh; this new spirit may be turned to the salvation of the country, but it may also be directed to its ruin, and the latter course has been chosen by the party of which we speak.

The position then is that a new and highly experimental constitution has to be worked, largely by new and inexperienced men, in the teeth of an unscrupulous opposition, working outside the constitution, directed by able leaders, supported by enthusiasts, and having ready to its hand all the materials for a conflagration which it may not hesitate to provoke. What is the duty of the Government in these conditions? It is easy to say that the peace must be kept, that the new constitution must be given a fair chance, and that the men who have welcomed its introduction must be assured of sympathy and support. The realisation of these objects would in any case be a task of much difficulty, but the conditions require even more: the necessary operations of the administration must be carried out in such a way as to rally to the constitution the sentiment which now opposes it, and the masses who are just beginning to be conscious of its existence. We believe that the new institutions, both legislative and executive, will, when once in working order, exercise a powerful attraction on many of the best spirits, who, owing to temporary causes, have decided to hold aloof. For them the way must be made easy, and nothing must be done or said to harden them in opposition or tempt them to seek a martyr's crown. It is possible to conceive the gradual dwindling of the unconstitutional party to a point where its elimination should present no practical difficulties. We do not venture to prophesy that this object will be attained, but we would urge that the attempt must be made, and that its realisation would be a triumph of true statesmanship. And at the same time the peasants and the workmen must be rallied to the new order. We suggest no facile policy of doles, but the infinitely more arduous undertaking of constructive leadership. The masses can be swayed by sentiment, but the sentiment is not all on one side, nor are they deaf to reason when urged by the men they

trust. Convince them that the way to realise their new and still vague aspirations is to support the institutions which have now been established, and the central danger of the position would at once disappear. It is a difficult task, impossible of accomplishment by stereotyped official propaganda, but not beyond the reach of organised effort by the great mass of Indian opinion which has determined to accept the ideals underlying the new constitution. What is wanted here is the inspiration and the driving force which only the highest statesmanship can supply, and for this, we are confident, India will not turn to Lord Reading in vain. The masses do not yet vote, but already they begin to dominate the field of politics; we may be sure that they will not stand still; and their course will be determined by the leadership of the next few years.

A GREAT ALBANIAN.

In recent years Ismail Kemal Bey was so closely associated with Albania in the public mind that, had he not left them his memoirs* to remind them of the fact, even some of his best friends might easily have forgotten that, before he became known to this generation as an Albanian patriot, he had devoted the best part of a lifetime to the cause of Turkish reform. His memoirs tell the story of his life in the Turkish service, and practically all we can learn in them of his labours on behalf of Albanian independence is confined within the compass of a single chapter of the book, to which it constitutes in reality an appendix reproducing an article he contributed to the *Quarterly Review* in June, 1917. It is explained by the editor that Ismail Kemal Bey had intended to use this article as the framework of an Albanian section of his memoirs running to several chapters; but he was not spared to carry out the project, and after his death the material he left behind him was found to be too scanty to admit of the section being written by another hand. This *Quarterly Review* article, which the editor has happily been permitted to reproduce, enables us, however, to appreciate how thoroughly the realities of the Albanian question were grasped by the author; and the Albanians may esteem themselves fortunate in having available for the support of their claims this admirable presentation of their case bequeathed to them by one whose services to his native land will ever bear comparison with those he so faithfully rendered to the Ottoman Empire during the long years he owned the Sultan as his master. Still, one cannot help regretting that this gifted statesman, who never allowed his enthusiasm for the cause of his native land to obscure his mature political judgment, was not spared to write the projected Albanian chapters of his memoirs; for one feels instinctively they would have presented the Albanian case so cogently and so powerfully that even the amateur exponents of the new diplomacy, struggling to make good the defects of their education in geography and modern history, might perhaps have been able to grasp earlier the necessity for taking a firm stand on behalf of the rights of one of the most ill-used of the nations of the Near East. It would really seem as if the Albanians were free at last from the menace of having meted out to them the fate reserved for "backward races" in the new world—the shadow of the mandatory power no longer hangs over them—but one fears they are more likely to ascribe this happy release to the circumstance that they live in a difficult country and know how to fight in defence of it, than to the sense of justice of the makers of the new Europe.

The memoirs of Ismail Kemal Bey, covering the fifty years between 1860 and 1910, tell us practically all that is to be known of the political history of the Ottoman Empire during the period. Written by one who was privileged to be in the centre of Turkish politics during the most critical years of the life of the Ottoman Empire, enjoying the confidence of two Sultans and the friendship of some of the most capable Ministers who served them, these memoirs

possess a unique value at the present time, when to acquire a right understanding of the Eastern Question seems to be beyond the capacity of the mediocrities whose experiments in foreign policy threaten to deprive the world of all the good we fondly hoped a just and lasting peace would confer upon it.

For fifty years Ismail Kemal Bey was one of a band of brave, enthusiastic men who worked untiringly for the reform of the Ottoman Empire. Steeped in the Liberal materialism of the time, they honestly believed that universal suffrage, public works, education, and the efficient administration of justice were all-powerful instruments for the uplifting of the human race. For them, prosperity was synonymous with progress and a budget surplus the hall-mark of success in the competition of nations; they thought imperially, and (if Ismail Kemal Bey's friends will forgive us for saying so) nationalism made no appeal to them whatever. Some of them were attracted by the federal system of government, believing it capable of adaptation to the peculiar needs of the Ottoman Empire; but the majority, convinced that administration is necessarily simplified by centralisation, looked to the building up of a new Turkey on French lines. Of these latter the Young Turks may be regarded as the modern successors, for while one inevitably associates their movement with Germany, it may be questioned whether, apart from their belief in the excellence of German military and commercial organisation, they ever swerved from their faith in the ordered logical French system of centralised administration, convinced as they were that it offered the best means for the attainment of the object they had ever in view—the consolidation of the Ottoman Empire.

The Sultan Abdul Hamid is always regarded in this country as a bloodthirsty tyrant, whose reign brought untold evil on Turkey, and to whose malign influence may be traced not a little of the trouble in the Near East which culminated in the outbreak of the great war. There is little in this book calculated to modify this view of "Abdul the damned," but still one feels after reading the memorial submitted to him by Ismail Kemal in 1897, that he was broad-minded to the extent of allowing his servants to state their views on the policy of the Empire with a freedom which in Germany would have been regarded as *lese majesté* in those days. Regarding the Turkish Liberals as dangerous enemies, he took the greatest possible care to keep himself fully informed as to their political aspirations, and by encouraging them to put their ideas into concrete form for his enlightenment, invariably succeeded in paralysing their reforming zeal whenever their efforts seemed likely to lead to tangible results. His industry, his thorough grasp of European politics, and his keen judgment of men and things made him the most formidable antagonist against whom the unlucky reformers could possibly have been pitted, and his contempt for them naturally increased with every victory he scored against them. The mere fact that he never took the trouble to have any of them executed, and rarely thought it worth while even to banish them, points to his having always felt confident that his intellectual superiority over them was bound in the long run to bring their schemes to naught. Abdul Hamid did not believe in constitutional monarchy, and, convinced that its introduction into the Ottoman Empire would be disastrous to the Khalifate, devoted most of his life to wrecking the projects of the Turkish Liberals. For many years he could claim to be not only the most successful despot in the whole world, but also the ablest, for during the greater part of his reign his Ministers were little more than his secretaries. They had nothing to do with policy—with that he alone was concerned—and even the minor details of administration were subject to his supervision. In the end the Young Turks proved too much for him, but it is at their door that posterity will lay the responsibility for the downfall of the Ottoman Empire; while Abdul Hamid will ever be remembered as the last of the Sultans who was able to hold it together by sheer force of intellect at a time when, rotten within and ringed around by enemies, its continued survival impressed the world as a chronic miracle.

Ismail Kemal Bey's life for fifty years was devoted to a hopeless cause; everything he laboured to build up was thrown down as soon as it began to take shape; he was always on the losing side, yet never in his memoirs can one

* "The Memoirs of Ismail Kemal Bey." Edited by Somerville Story; with Preface by W. Morton Fullerton. (London: Constable & Co. 18s.)



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detect the note of disillusionment, and his faith in his political ideals remained unshaken to the end. It was only when he turned his back on Turkey and devoted his remaining years to the Albanian cause that he was allowed to get a glimpse of the promised land.

Ismail Kemal Bey suffered in the latter part of his career in the Turkish service from his long association with Midhat Pasha, with whose policy he was entirely in sympathy and for whom he entertained a great personal regard. During Midhat's governorship of Bulgaria Ismail Kemal Bey was his right-hand man, and, sharing his chief's belief that good administration would alone suffice to remove the discontent of the Christian population in the European provinces of the empire, he laboured unceasingly to raise the standard of government in the districts bordering on the Danube. If we are to believe Ismail Kemal Bey, Midhat Pasha effected a marvellous improvement in the administration of the province in a very short time, and it was only when his policy was reversed after his downfall that the movement for Bulgarian independence began to acquire force. He insists that the downfall of the military power of France in 1870 was largely responsible for the collapse of the Turkish reform movement and the disastrous reaction which followed during the seven years which ended with the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish War. After the Crimean War the influence of the Western Powers was paramount in Turkey. Prussia was fully occupied with her schemes for uniting the northern States of Germany into a great empire, Austria with her chronic Italian embarrassments, Russia exhausted by a disastrous war was content to bide her time for making her next great bid for Constantinople. The only Powers in a position to make things uncomfortable for Turkey were Great Britain and France, no longer allies, but still substantially in agreement in their Near Eastern policy. They desired to see Turkey strong enough to hold Russia in check, and realising that strength could only come to her when the unrest of her Christian population was allayed by good administration, they never ceased to urge on the Sultan the necessity for adopting a sound policy of reform. The Sultan, fearing that his Western supporters might be moved to take strong action if he did not hasten to carry out their wishes, for a time gave the statesmen of the Liberal Party in Turkey practically a free hand; and had they been allowed to complete the work set going by Midhat Pasha it is possible that the liberation of the Balkan States might have been delayed half a century. With the eclipse of the military power of France, and the virtual withdrawal of Britain from European politics under the first Gladstone Government, the Turkish reactionaries were able to convince the Sultan that the reform policy forced upon him by the Western Powers might safely be dropped. Germany and Austria affected to sympathise with the desire of the reactionaries to restore the good old days of Oriental despotism, while secretly encouraging Russia to fill the rôle of liberator of the Balkan States prepared for her by the atrocious misgovernment of the Sultan's servants.

With the return of the British Conservative Party to power the hopes of the reformers revived, but the mischief had gone too far, and with the crowning folly of the Bulgarian atrocities Turkey's last chance of active support from any of the Great Powers disappeared. The good fight she put up against Russia in 1877, however, restored to her many of the friends she had alienated by the orgy of misgovernment she had indulged in in the period immediately preceding the outbreak of the war, and she may thank them for having at the Berlin Congress secured her Empire a reprieve of forty years. When, however, one reflects that during the years between the Berlin Congress and the outbreak of the Great War no European Power ever made a serious attempt to encourage Turkey to reform, and that the chief concern of all of them was the disposal of the provinces periodically plucked away from her—Eastern Rumelia, Egypt, Crete, and Tripoli in turn—it is not very surprising that the patriotic Turk's belief in the benevolent intentions of the Western Powers steadily declined. The Balkan war was the last straw, and when Turkey at the end of it found herself sliding rapidly into the abyss, we can hardly blame her for grasping the hand held out to her from Berlin. In 1914 the best that the Grand Alliance could offer her was the preservation of her remaining territories as the price of her neutrality; Germany, on the other hand, could hold out the bait of a restored and enlarged Ottoman Empire embracing Egypt and all the Russian territories south of the Caucasus if she would consent to throw in her lot with the Central Powers. She succumbed to the tempter, and, joining the wrong side, became involved in the disaster which overtook our enemies in 1918. To-day, bankrupt, impotent, and spiritless, she is free to reflect on her former greatness and the criminal imbecility of the Sultans who, after allowing it to be frittered away, crushed every effort made by the best men in the Empire to restore it. Ismail Kemal Bey was only one of the many capable men the Sultans have always had at their service to administer the Ottoman Empire pro-

perly. In the brief periods of spasmodic activity in the direction of reform they were always able to demonstrate their capacity, and one feels, after reading these memoirs of Ismail Kemal Bey, that had Turkey been fated in recent years to be governed by men of his type, by her best instead of by her worst, not only could the downfall of the Ottoman Empire have been averted, but the intervention of foreign Powers in its internal administration would have been rendered to a great extent unnecessary. The editor and the translator of this most interesting and informing book are to be congratulated on achieving what must have been to them—the friends and admirers of Ismail Kemal Bey—a veritable labour of love.

BETA.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION.

The current *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund contains an illustrated article on "The Fund's Excavation of Askalon," which gives an encouraging report of the first stage of the work. Two interesting statues were secured in the earliest days of the excavations; specimens of local pottery of every period, from post-Neolithic to Roman times, and traces of Byzantine and Crusaders' Churches have been found; and a general preliminary idea of the potentialities of the site has been secured. It is to be hoped that the appeal for special subscriptions to meet the expenses of the work will have a most generous response. The *Statement* also contains a note on the subject of crocodiles in Palestine, by Dr. E. W. G. Masterman, who puts forward much evidence in favour of the case "for," and expresses the hope that if crocodiles are found actually to have survived, some degree of protection may be afforded to them. Other articles are: "Neo-Babylonian Signet with Phœnician Inscription," by E. J. Pilcher; "The Synagogue of Theodotos at Jerusalem"; "The Inscription of Theodotos," by Rabbi A. Marmorstein; and "A New Interpretation of the Phaistos Disk: The Oldest Music in the World?" by F. W. Read.

According to the *Ecclesiastical Herald* of Athens, the Orthodox Greek Church intends to prohibit the entry into churches of women wearing some of the up-to-date styles of dress. It is suggested that Cyprus should follow suit, so rapidly has the wave of fashion spread there.

In a public speech recently delivered on the occasion of the third anniversary of the existence of the People's Guard, the President of the Georgian Government, Monsieur M. N. Jordania, referred to the success attained by Georgia, in the organisation of her forces, and expressed full conviction that the Georgian people would be able to bring to a desired and successful conclusion the strengthening of their country's freedom and independence, and to overcome all the obstacles it may encounter.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Sir Adam Block's Report.

The report of Sir Adam Block on the Ottoman Public Debt, which is given elsewhere in these columns, will provide but cold comfort for bondholders, for Sir Adam takes anything but a rosy view of the present conditions in Turkey. The period covered is the year ended February 28, 1919, and the report has been delayed owing to the impossibility of obtaining definite figures from the provinces. For that period the position was not unsatisfactory—on paper. There was a substantial increase in the gross receipts, while the net receipts also expanded, but the depreciation of the Turkish pound renders comparisons of this nature most misleading. As regards the following year, it is stated that receipts were coming in fairly well up to the Greek occupation of Smyrna on May 15, 1919. "Since that time, owing to the Nationalist movement," adds Sir Adam, "the whole situation has changed, and, Anatolia being now cut off from the Central Administration, there has been a very serious fall in receipts." Sir Adam remarks that there can be no improvement until order is restored in Anatolia.

Wanted a Policy.

As Sir Adam justly points out, the state of Turkey has gone from bad to worse since the Armistice, and it is his opinion that if the existing state of things is allowed to continue, the situation, already critical, will be compromised beyond repair. It is incumbent, he says, on the Allied Powers to decide on their policy, and to put it into execution without further delay. What will happen if matters are allowed to drift as they have been up to the present I leave my readers to determine for themselves in the light of the message of our Constantinople Correspondent, given in these columns a couple of weeks ago, dealing with the grave economic crisis at the capital arising from the severance of communications with Anatolia.

Payment of Coupons.

Naturally the question of immediate interest to bondholders is how and when the coupons in arrears are to be paid, and what funds are available for the process. The payments cannot be resumed until the ratification of the treaty with Turkey. £6,906,032 is required to cover the eleven coupons in arrears. This amount would be more than covered if the sums deposited in German and Austrian banks could be realised at pre-war rates of exchange. A claim has been lodged with the Clearing House established under the Treaty of Versailles for the repayment on this basis, and the matter is now under consideration. The sums actually in the Council's hands at present would only be sufficient to pay about three-eighths of the arrears of interest, and it is stated that if this were done it would probably be necessary to issue funding certificates for the balance. In view of the length of time that bondholders have had to wait without any return, it would seem desirable as soon as the ratification of the peace makes the resumption of payments possible that this method should be resorted to rather than that there should be any further delay.

A Lost Contract.

An account was given recently in a contemporary of a lost deal in grain with Roumania. What actually happened may be briefly described. The Roumanian Government proposed to dispose of its surplus grain to an English group on favourable terms, which included the placing of substantial orders in England. There was everything to be said in favour of the proposal, which would have done much to cement British interests in Roumania, and at the same time would have provided much-needed employment here. A doubt existed in certain quarters here, however, whether Roumania's harvest would yield an adequate surplus to enable sufficient exports to be made, and on this ground it was not found possible to proceed with the scheme. As it happens, England's lost chance would appear to have presented France with her opportunity, for I learn that negotiations with our Ally seem likely to have a better fate, and that it is probable that France will agree to take grain for something like 100,000,000 francs, the stipulation being that the payment is to be utilised to meet the outstanding Roumanian coupons, and those that will fall due in the immediate future. As my readers know, France holds most

of the bonds, and it will be realised how once again she stands to profit by what may prove to have been an excess of caution on the part of this country.

A Kantara Tunnel?

Writing of the decision to replace the Kantara railway bridge by a ferry service, I said that at best it could only be regarded as a temporary expedient, and according to the information now before me, that is all it will be. The ferry project naturally received considerable opposition as it entailed the end of direct communication between Egypt and Palestine with all that that implied, and presumably as a result of the outcry that was raised on both sides of the "Black Water"—I trust I am not out of order in using this phrase in a non-Indian connection—the project has been reconsidered, and the Egyptian State Railways have sent an expert to examine the possibility of a tunnel under the Canal. Obviously a tunnel was the only satisfactory solution if the Canal Company maintained an adamant front on the question of a bridge, and it would appear probable that resort will now be made to this expedient. It may be hoped that there will be no delay in arriving at a decision, because tunnels are not constructed in a day, and the interests of Palestine and Egypt will suffer in the absence of adequate communications between the two countries.

India and British Coal Exports.

Elsewhere we reproduce an official communication of the Government of India dealing with restrictions on the export of coal. It has been found necessary to introduce stringent regulations regarding the export of this commodity, because of labour complications and the deficiency in railway rolling stock. Exports to Sabang and Singapore have been stopped, no bunker coal will be allowed to go to Aden after the end of this month, while up to March restrictions are placed on the amount of bunker coal that may be exported to Colombo, after which month Ceylon will no longer be able to depend on India for bunker coal, though Ceylon's railways will continue to be supplied. The effect of these restrictions is to make the ports in question mainly dependent on the United Kingdom for coal. A few months back it would have been difficult to meet their requirements, but at the present time, owing to a combination of circumstances, such as high prices, the resultant competition, and increased production, there is no shortage of coal for export, and India's decision, therefore, will bring a measure of relief to the home market.

The G.I.P. Report.

The report of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for the half-year ended September 30 shows a satisfactory increase in the gross receipts, which are Rs.14,09,007 up at Rs.6,64,58,930, but this is far more than counterbalanced by the rise in expenditure, which has increased by Rs.74,76,633 to Rs.5,04,17,244, and the net revenue at Rs.1,00,41,686 shows a decline of Rs.60,67,626. Excluding the State lines, there is a decrease of Rs.54,97,102. The increased expenditure is due mainly to the increase in salaries and wages. The prospects with regard to the current half-year would appear to be rather unfavourable, as while the expenditure remains high receipts have decreased as a result of the present trade depression.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

GREECE.

ATHENS, January 3.

The Governorship of the National Bank.

The intervention of the Government in the question of the Governorship of the National Bank of Greece has caused much commotion amongst the political and financial circles of this city. Last week the Premier, M. Ralli, visited the co-Governor of the National Bank, M. Drosopoulos, and requested him to inform the Governor, M. Zaimis, that it was the Government's wish that he should tender his resignation. M. Ralli added that in case M. Zaimis refused to comply with this request a statement would be issued, prior to the shareholders' meeting, to the effect that M. Zaimis' re-election would not be recognised by the Council of Ministers. M. Zaimis' reply was a blank refusal to comply with this demand. He declared that he saw no reason whatsoever why he should resign, seeing that during the last six years he has been the Governor of the National Bank this establishment greatly prospered. Moreover, the intervention of the Government in the matter was an arbitrary action, and aimed at influencing the shareholders prior to the general meeting. He pointed out that since he had been entrusted with the administration of the National Bank this establishment's reserve capital had increased from 13,300,000 drachmæ to 40,000,000 drachmæ, while the dividend distributed to the shareholders increased from 240 to 360 drachmæ. As M. Ralli, however, strongly insisted upon M. Zaimis' resignation, the latter issued a statement to the Press to the effect that in view of the arbitrary attitude adopted by the Government in the matter he had decided not to seek re-election. The *Anatoli*, an independent paper, commenting on this regrettable incident, says that the action of the Government will shake the confidence of the people in the premier banking establishment in Greece to an extent which will undoubtedly do much harm to the economic situation of the country.

Prices of Foodstuffs.

Since the abolition of Government control, prices of foodstuffs have gone up considerably. The following are the latest prices at which foodstuffs are sold in the capital:—Lamb, 19 drachmæ per oke, instead of 12; cheese, 14 drachmæ, instead of 8.50; onions, 1 drachma, instead of 40 lepta; potatoes, 1.40 to 1.60 drachmæ, instead of 85 lepta; pork, 11.40 drachmæ, instead of 7; beef, 12 drachmæ, instead of 8; and fish, 14 drachmæ, instead of 10. In order to prevent further increases, which are quite likely now, owing to the approaching holidays the Government has decided to reintroduce the control of prices.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, January 2.

Danube Navigation Resumed.

In my last report I mentioned that the river traffic was interrupted owing to the freezing of the Danube. After ice-breakers had been used, and milder weather having set in, navigation was resumed on December 28.

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Opposition to Workshops Concession.

As was expected, the concession of the railway workshops to foreign concerns is meeting with a certain amount of opposition, chiefly from the Liberal Party, the local iron and steel manufacturers, and a large number of engineers. In the first place, they are against any concession to foreigners on principle, and, in addition, they consider the conditions of the contract disastrous to the country from a financial as well as an industrial point of view.

Curb on Speculation.

With a view to avoiding speculation in the lei abroad, the Ministry of Finance has sent a circular letter to all banks, instructing them to make no payments of lei abroad for account of any foreign banks or persons without being fully covered in cash previously.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, January 15.

New Companies.

The manufacturing chemical company "Isis" has founded a new company at Karlovatz (Croatia) with the title *Kastel* Factory of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Products, which is the first of its kind in the country, and, indeed, in the Balkans. Its objects are the manufacture of various medicinal articles, tabloids, serums, and medicinal vegetable products. The company has purchased an extensive property on the line between Karlovatz and Liubliana with a large number of spacious buildings which can easily be adopted to the needs of the new works. The spare ground, of which there is plenty, will be employed in the cultivation of medicinal plants.

A railway-truck and bridge company has been founded at Brod on the Save with a capital of 20 million kronen, which is to be increased to 200 million within three years.

More Austrian Kronen.

The Italian evacuation of territories hitherto occupied has released an immense number of old Austrian kronen that have not been stamped by the Yugoslav Ministry of Finance. This is a very serious problem for the Ministry as well as for the unfortunate holders of the notes.

Sugar Factories' Amalgamation.

The sugar factories of Yugoslavia have made a combine for mutual protection. The president is M. F. Zajet, general director of the Tiuprija Factory, while the vice-presidents are M. V. Brachfeld, director of the Osijek factory, and M. Oskar Tiller, director of the Belgrade factory.

CYPRUS.

CYPRUS, December 17.

Agricultural Outlook.

Weather conditions continue to be very unfavourable, and cause much anxiety. There has been no rain to speak of for many weeks, and early cereal sowings are already seriously affected, but much sowing has still to be done. The Government is issuing seed corn on the usual terms to all needy applicants, but complaints, backed by some of the members of Council, are made that the quantity offered is insufficient, owing to the partial failure of last year's crops. The Government is also asked to lower the prices of grain issued from the tithe stores.

The Vine Industry.

At last there seems to be some prospect of more care being taken in the preparation of raisins, which should be a far more lucrative branch of the vine industry than it has ever been in the past. There is no reason why in many excellent vine lands raisins should not be handled according to methods that would insure acceptance in the London market, which has hitherto looked with disfavour on the Cyprus product. It is a case of apathy and neglect. There is at present some awakening to the need of new methods, and correspondence with London which is now proceeding may have good results. There have been some good shipments to New York.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended January 8 amounted to £9,146.

The half-yearly general meeting of the East Indian Railway Company will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel on January 25.

IRRIGATION WORK IN EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.—III.

NILE PROJECTS COMMISSION REPORT.

It has been impossible to obtain sufficient data on which to base any reliable forecast of the probable rate of increase of irrigation in the Sudan, and Mr. Gebbie and Dr. Simpson find themselves, therefore, unable to decide precisely what proportion of the increased supply of available water should be allocated to Egypt and the Sudan. They have, however, after consultation with Sir Murdoch Macdonald and the officials of the Sudan, made the following suggestions as a workable solution of the problem which they believe will be acceptable both to Egypt and the Sudan: "The Sudan Government to pay for the Sennar Dam and the water derived from it to be used by the Sudan only. If, however, the stored water unused on April 15 in each year is given to Egypt, then the cost of providing by pumping or other agreed method drinking water for the cultivators on the Gezira and their livestock will be borne by Egypt.

"The White Nile Dam (Gebel Aulia) to be paid for by the Egyptian Government, and the water derived from it to be used for Egypt. As the reservoir will cause material damage south of Gebel Aulia, the Egyptian Government will pay or provide full compensation, in cash or kind, for such damage. As the effect of the dam will be to injure to some extent the basin and other systems of flood irrigation north of Khartoum in the provinces of Khartoum, Berber, Dongola, and Halfa, so much water as shall permit 80,000 feddans of summer crops in these provinces to be irrigated by pumps shall, as compensation, be appropriated every year from the Nile after the Gebel Aulia Dam is built.

"The Sudan Government already has the right to pump water without restriction between July 15 and March 1, and the right to irrigate 20,000 feddans of summer crops, and is availing itself of the latter right, partly on the Blue Nile and partly on the Main Nile. After the construction of the Sennar Dam the latter pumping right will no longer be exercised on the Blue Nile for the land now irrigated within the area of the Gezira scheme. The Sudan Government may, therefore, use her right to withdraw water from the Nile for the irrigation of 20,000 feddans of summer crops in such other areas dependent on the Nile as she may find suitable. Thus, after the construction of the Sennar and Gebel Aulia Dams the Sudan will have the right to irrigate by pumps from the Nile 80,000 feddans of summer crops north of Khartoum, in the provinces of Khartoum, Berber, Dongola, and Halfa, and 20,000 feddans anywhere else in the Nile basin, as well as the free-flow system in the Gezira as described below.

"The Gezira scheme is so designed that 300,000 feddans can be developed without using any water naturally flowing in the Blue Nile after January 18 in any year. In most years Egypt can spare water from the Nile after this date, and the Gezira scheme need not draw on the storage in the Sennar reservoir till later than January 18. The area under cultivation may, therefore, be increased beyond 300,000 feddans, provided the cultivators are prepared to suffer an occasional shortage in the event of the occurrence of a very low year. The Sudan may, therefore, be permitted to withdraw water from the Blue Nile after January 18 to such a date as corresponds to the first use of storage water at Aswan to supplement a shortage in the natural river supply for Egypt.

"The eventual development of the Gezira to a cultivated area of 1,000,000 feddans is contingent on the construction of the Upper Blue Nile Dam. This dam will be built by Egypt and paid for by her in the first place. Egypt will use all the water, so provided at the beginning, but the waters from the Upper Blue Nile Dam will, as and when required for the development of the Gezira, be allocated in increasing quantity to the Sudan, who shall then pay a share of the cost of the dam in proportion to the water she receives from it. The Sudan may, instead of using such water from the Blue Nile, use the same quantity of a less amount by pumping from the White Nile for such period as she may wish.

"At present it is difficult to form any reliable estimate of the relative proportions required by Egypt and the Sudan

of the water to be furnished by the construction of the other works contemplated in 'Nile Control,' but it is recognised that when the time arrives the Sudan shall share in the water derived from these new sources. The Sudan Government will then be called upon to pay an equitable share of the cost of the new works proportionate to the volume of water used.

"As differences of opinion may arise in regard to the interpretation or application in practice of the above suggestions, the Commission recommends that a Board, consisting of two members, representing Egypt and the Sudan respectively, with an independent chairman, should be appointed, and all differences of opinion referred to it."

It is sincerely to be hoped that the publication of this report will set a term for all time to the unfortunate controversy which has for so long been waged around the Irrigation projects drawn up by Sir Murdoch MacDonald and the Ministry of Public Works, and that the public feeling which was aroused in Egypt to the point that it became an acute political question will now be definitely allayed.

The impartiality of the London Committee, which sat on the question in the summer of 1918, was attacked in an inexcusable manner, considering the eminent position in the engineering world held by every one of its members, and we now have a Commission of absolutely independent men, nominated by such independent bodies as the Governments of India and the United States and Cambridge University, confirming in every detail the findings of the London Commission, and asserting that the grave charges levelled at Sir Murdoch MacDonald are without foundation, and that the projects set forth in that much-disputed document "Nile Control" can safely be put into operation in their original form.

No greater vindication of the ability and integrity of Sir Murdoch MacDonald and his very able staff of the Ministry of Public Works could be wished for, and the memory of the anxious and trying ordeal through which they have had to pass during the past couple of years will undoubtedly be tempered by the knowledge, and the personal satisfaction attaching thereto, that their gigantic schemes for the development of Egypt and the Sudan have been passed as sound by the greatest irrigation authorities in the world.

INDIA'S COAL SHORTAGE.

Stricter Export Policy.

The serious shortage of coal in India, due to labour difficulties, and the deficiency of railway rolling stock, is being met by the Government of India by the stringent restriction of exports. The following official statement sets forth the position:—

The Government of India regret to announce that the shortage of coal in India has compelled them to enforce a stricter export policy. The stock of railway coal is dangerously low, and industries in many parts of the country are experiencing difficulties in obtaining coal. Six large jute mills at Calcutta, employing 30,000 men, have had to close down owing to lack of coal. The shortage is due partly to inadequate labour supplies and other local labour troubles, and partly to a deficiency in railway rolling stock—3,025 wagons are required daily. Only 2,500 are now available, and there is no early prospect of increasing the number beyond 2,700. The Government of India have consequently found it necessary to stop exports to Sabang and Singapore immediately, and to allow no bunker coal to go to Aden after the end of January. Fifty thousand tons of bunker coal will be exported to Colombo this month, 42,000 in February and 25,000 in March. After the end of March Colombo can no longer rely upon India for bunker coal, but the Ceylon railways will still be supplied from India. Exports to all other ports were stopped some months ago.

Steamers leaving Indian ports for the West will in future be allowed bunkers only sufficient to take them three days' journey beyond Port Said, and similar restrictions will be enforced in the case of ships proceeding eastwards. By this means it is hoped by the end of March to reduce demands on the Bengal coalfields by 200 wagons per day, but even so the available wagons will not be sufficient to meet the internal requirements of India. The Government of India greatly regret the inconvenience to which the above-mentioned ports will be put, but trust that they will be able to secure coal either from the United Kingdom or from Japan.

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TURKEY'S FINANCES.

CRITICAL POSITION.

A special report on the Ottoman Public Debt for the thirty-seventh financial period (March 1, 1918, to February 28, 1919), by Sir Adam Block, representative of the British and Dutch bondholders, has just been issued. The delay in its publication has been due to the impossibility of obtaining definite figures from the provinces. Many districts were in the military occupation of foreign armies, and in others local disturbances and conflicts have caused a partial, if not complete rupture of all communications with the Central Administration. Sir Adam Block returned to Constantinople early in November, 1918, and his French and Italian colleagues arrived shortly afterwards. The German and Austrian delegates left forthwith, and the Council now consists of the British, French and Turkish delegates, and the delegates of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Bad as the state of Turkey was at the end of the war, and continued to be in the first months of the Armistice, the gross receipts were superior to those of the preceding year. All the revenues, except the silk revenues, showed an increase. The increase in receipts is due almost entirely to the rise in values of the articles taxed. It must be remembered that the £T paper and its exchange value is so depreciated that there can be no real comparison with former years, and the receipts are insufficient to cover the payment of the coupons in London or Paris.

The complete accounts for the year 1919-20, are not yet to hand, but it is nevertheless possible to state that the receipts, in spite of difficulties of every kind, have been coming in fairly well right up to the Greek occupation of Smyrna, on May 15, 1919. Since that time, owing to the Nationalist movement, the whole situation has changed, and, Anatolia being now cut off from the Central Administration, there has been a very serious fall in receipts. Sir Adam Block states that there can be no improvement in the fiscal situation until order is restored in Anatolia, and the bondholders, with their important stake in the country, are naturally impatient at the delay in finding any remedy for the political and economic confusion existing in Turkey. Although two years have passed since the Armistice was concluded, the Peace Treaty was not signed until August 10, 1920, and still awaits ratification.

Meanwhile, the state of Turkey has gone from bad to worse. If the existing state of things is allowed to continue the situation, already critical, will be compromised beyond repair, to the detriment not only of the bondholders, but of the Great Powers interested in the trade and financial stability of the country, and who look to the amelioration of the finances in order to obtain payment for the cost of their Armies of Occupation, and for reparation to their subjects for losses suffered during the war. It is incumbent on the Allied Powers to decide on their policy, and to put it into execution without further delay.

The question of greatest interest to the bondholders is when and how the coupons in arrear are to be paid, and what funds are available for the payment of the coupons, suspended, as far as the subjects of the Allied Powers are concerned, since September, 1914.

The payment of the coupons cannot be resumed till the Peace Treaty is put into execution and peace is restored between the Allied Powers and the Turkish Government.

Taking the unpaid coupons to be those of 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, and March, 1920 (11 coupons), the sum required for the Unified Debt, £stg6,906,032. To meet this liability the Debt Council has the following resources: (1) The amounts deposited in German and Austrian banks equivalent at pre-war rates of exchange to £stg7,904,935, and at present rate to £stg811,677. (2) The amounts in the hands of the Debt Council in Constantinople, London and Paris equivalent at pre-war rates to £stg7,377,858, and at present rate (420 piastres to the £stg.) to £stg2,613,189.

As regards the former, a claim has been lodged with the Clearing House established under the Treaty of Versailles for the repayment at the pre-war rate of exchange of the amount deposited in German banks, and if this is received it would be sufficient to discharge all the arrears on the Unified bonds. The matter is at present under consideration, and it is hoped that the funds collected on behalf of the bondholders by their own representatives for the purpose of paying them their coupons, and which were deposited in Germany in gold, should be repaid in that medium, and not in depreciated marks. Until this important question is decided it is impossible to make any definite arrangement. If the sums actually in the Council's hands at present, as above mentioned, were realised at the present rate of exchange, they would only be sufficient to pay about three-eighths of the arrears of interest on the Unified bonds, and if this were done it would probably be necessary to issue Funding Certificates for the balance.

TRADE AND RUPEE EXCHANGE.

AN UNCERTAIN OUTLOOK.

By "Gold Mohur."

The recently published trade returns indicate a severe shrinkage in exports, and Lancashire manufacturers have been chiefly affected. The stagnation is due to several causes, but the principal factor is the slump in exchange, although there can be no doubt that the overloaded condition of the principal markets has also contributed to the depression.

Within the past year wide fluctuations have been recorded in rupee exchange, and high-water mark was reached when the rate was rushed up to 2s. 11d. When Government announced their adoption of the Currency Commission Report it was assumed that steps would be taken to maintain the rupee round about the level of 2s. recommended by the committee.

Unfortunately, owing to a poor monsoon, the volume of exports from India this season has been quite inadequate to redress the balance of trade, and when Government, owing to depleted balances, were forced to abandon their sales of Reverse Councils, exchange fell away to under 1s. 5d. Since then its movements have been comparatively unimportant. On any signs of weakness exporters from India have shown considerable anxiety to sell their bills, and in the absence of cover on the other side of the book, banks raised their rates. This had the effect of penalising exporters, so that they ceased to operate, and during the ensuing lull rates fell away again. Thus we notice during the past ten days the same conditions repeated—a lower exchange enabled exports to be profitably made to this country, and of cotton to Japan, which caused rates to stiffen to 1s. 6½d., and again the downward tendency asserted itself.

It is worth while drawing attention to these fluctuations in order to show that provided there was a large exportable surplus from India to markets prepared to pay for it, a reasonable rise in exchange would naturally be established, but whether any upward movement would gather sufficient force to bring it within sight of the 2s. level is extremely doubtful. On the other hand, the Indian importers have a grievance which they have lost no opportunity of proclaiming. Relying upon the pledge implied by the Government acceptance of the Currency Commission Report, they maintain that they were justified in expecting a 2s. rupee, and they have flatly refused to honour their obligations unless this rate be conceded. They have cancelled, or sought to cancel, orders wholesale which were placed in Manchester many months ago. They decline to accept their bills, and warehouses and godowns at all the principal centres are full of rejected goods. Hence the depression in Lancashire and Yorkshire, where many firms have been badly hit.

The serious drop in cotton values coupled with the fall in exchange will entail losses of 40 or 50 per cent., probably more on some consignments, and a deadlock has now ensued which many firms on this side are positively afraid to face. Some are, perhaps prudently, shouldering a part of the burden by granting liberal allowances in order to recover payment for their goods; others are hesitating, but may have to follow their neighbours and cut the loss. Meanwhile, a time is approaching when cheaper cotton is bound to attract fresh orders, but as long as warehouses in India are congested with high-priced goods, it will be almost impossible to arrange further shipments until the present stocks are paid for and cleared off. A few Indian firms are in the fortunate position of holding small stocks, thanks to their shrewdness in settling exchange well over 2s. Some of those lucky dealers have been buying special lines in Manchester during the past six weeks at prices 60 per cent. under those ruling six months ago.

The future is most uncertain; if the volume of exports is unable to give sufficient impetus to exchange to raise it above present levels during these months when the shipping season from India should be at its height, what may be expected when the export trade slackens in April and May? Is the Currency Report to be thrown overboard, and are we to go back to the old parity of sixteen pence? This may prove to be the solution of the present difficulty.

Greece expects a deficit of 986,000,000 drachmae (£19,720,000) for 1920-21, as compared with one for 399,000,000 drachmae for 1919-20.

The Bank of Bombay has declared a dividend of 15 per cent., a bonus of 7 per cent., transferred to reserve fund 5 lakhs, and carried forward 4½ lakhs of rupees.

The statistics issued by the Ministry of Finance of Georgia show that the State revenue is increasing monthly. For October the revenue amounted to 305,000,000 roubles, or twice the amount estimated in the Budget.

The numbers are announced of the bonds of the Kingdom of Greece Five per Cent. National Loan of 1907 drawn for repayment at par on December 18, and payable January 15 at Hambro's Bank of Northern Commerce or the Ionian Bank.

ENGINEERING.

Scientific Welding.

If attention has not already been called in these notes to the great importance from an engineering point of view of scientific welding it has not been by reason of any scepticism regarding its value. There has been far too much talk, especially during the latter stages of the war, regarding "defective castings filled up with metal" and of "damaged parts patched up and painted over," the impression given being that metal so healed was weak and unreliable, and that the whole thing was a device on the part of unscrupulous engineers to gain money at the expense, may be, of soldiers' or sailors' lives.

Nothing could be further from the truth than to associate scientific welding with "faking." A defective casting, a damaged part, a cracked piece of machinery may now be repaired with one or the other of the autogenous welding systems so as to be even stronger than a perfect part of the same kind just issued from stores. Of course, there is welding and welding, just as there are welders and welders. I am speaking of scientific systems, and of work carried out by trained and skilled men; I am not referring to the work of unskilled operatives handling possibly incorrectly adjusted welding plant in an ignorant manner. I have seen broken parts built up and repaired with infinite patience and consummate skill so as to give a result closely approximating to the perfect. I have seen, on the other hand, straightforward jobs muddled through and finished in a style that would disgrace a first year's apprentice in a good works. Everything depends on skill and knowledge, and for that reason welding work should be sent to a really high-class firm to be done, and not given to anybody who possesses and claims to be able to handle a blowpipe.

It is in regard to broken parts of machinery generally, and scored motor-car cylinders in particular, that scientific welding plays so useful a part. One of the most highly developed systems is that known as the Barimar metallurgical process, by the aid of which an almost unbelievable number of castings, that would otherwise have had to be scrapped, have been repaired. My friend Mr. C. W. Brett, who is one of our leading experts, tells me that in pre-war days the only reliable method of rendering scored cylinders thoroughly efficient was to weld up the scored places, regrind the bores, and fit entirely new pistons complete. As may be expected, such a process was costly in the extreme, and the work usually occupied a month or six weeks. To-day large quantities of cylinders scored in this way are being successfully treated by Messrs. Barimar, Ltd., at a price which is only about 10 or 20 per cent. of the cost of the old method, and the work can generally be completed in about a couple of days. A further point, and one which is of paramount importance, is that when cylinders are dealt with according to the new method they do not have to be welded or reground, and the filling of new pistons is consequently entirely unnecessary.

Good Progress.

In spite of the serious setbacks caused during the past year by trade disputes and the resultant high price of all kinds of raw materials, the year was really one of the most prosperous known in the British motor industry. It is true that it started with a boom and finished with what was suspiciously like a slump, but a good deal of solid work was done which will make its effect felt in future years. Production was at a remarkably high rate, and a considerable percentage of the total car output is to be credited to the remarkable but apparently greatly underestimated work of the Austin Motor Co., Ltd., whose sales turnover for the year, I happen to know, was just about £5,000,000.

This is by far the biggest output attained by any automobile firm in the British Isles for this or any preceding year in the annals of the trade. Prospects for 1921 are also most encouraging, contracts with distributors having been made for Austin cars and tractors to the amount of £8,000,000 for delivery within the year.

Motor Touring in Italy.

The Automobile Association states that the importation of motor-cars into Italy is now forbidden. An exception is made in favour of motor-cars covered by Triptyques. This exception, however, is made only on the express condition that cars temporarily imported by means of Triptyques, which are issued by the A.A. to members, shall not be sold or kept in Italy. Any person contravening this prohibition will render himself liable to prosecution for the importation of forbidden merchandise. At the expiration of three months the tax must be paid and the Triptyque is then available for a further term of three months. Before the end of the six months it is absolutely necessary that the car be re-exported.

Whilst on this subject, I may point out that the considerable increase of late in the activities of the Engineering Department of the Automobile Association, in connection with

the inspection, the purchase, repair work, or extensive reconditioning of cars and lorries, suggests that members only require to be made conversant with the fact that this assistance is available—especially where the disbursement of considerable sums of money is involved—in order to make more use of this benefit of A.A. membership. Technical advice and help is given free in consultation or in correspondence, while nominal fees only are charged for inspections. A staff of expert engineers is exclusively engaged on this work, and although the examination of vehicles is confined to members, in certain cases this is extended to non-members.

LANCASHIRE AND EGYPTIAN COTTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of the 6th inst. you* remark with regard to Egyptian cotton that Lancashire can scarcely expect the fellahin to grow cotton solely for the benefit of Lancashire spinners at unremunerative prices, and that the best way is to find some means of raising the buying prices. Now, what is the position? Prior to the war Upper Egyptian was about 8d. per lb., and Sakellaridis about 11d., and average American cotton 7d. The bulk of the business done last season was on the basis of about 35d. for Sakel, 30d. for Upper, and 20d. for American, and later in the season these prices were put up to 112d., 96d., and 42d. respectively.

I think the position of the cotton trade to-day, not only in Lancashire, but also in all other cotton spinning countries, shows that the world cannot and will not pay anything like these high prices, which were caused largely by pyramidal speculations, that brought about the inevitable reaction, with the present deplorable losses to all concerned. To-day's prices are Upper 17d., Sakel 24d., American 15d., which are considered high enough, but as the rent of cotton-growing land in Egypt averages to-day something like £50 per feddan, against about £6 per feddan in 1914, and as it requires two feddans to grow a bale of 720 lb., you will see the difficulty of growing cotton on an economic basis.

Lancashire has not, as you appear to suggest, a monopoly of the Egyptian cotton trade, but has to compete with other countries, and other similar growths of cotton; for instance, the State of Arizona, U.S.A., has this season produced 100,000 bales of long stapled Egyptian style against only 50,000 bales last season.

Had a Rent Restriction Act similar to that in this country been passed in Egypt it would have gone a long way to ameliorate the condition now so unhappily existing. —Yours faithfully,

FRED A. TOMLINSON,

President, Manchester Cotton Association, Ltd.

Dugdale Chambers, 22, St. Mary's Gate, Manchester.

January 11.

* The reference is to comments by our Cairo Correspondent appearing in THE NEAR EAST of January 6, on page 22.

Sir Henry Ledgard has been appointed a member of the Committee of Inquiry into Indian Railways, as the representative of European commercial interests in India, instead of Mr. B. A. White, of Calcutta, who is unable to serve owing to illness.

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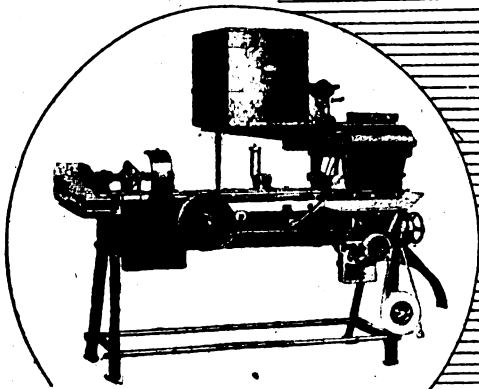
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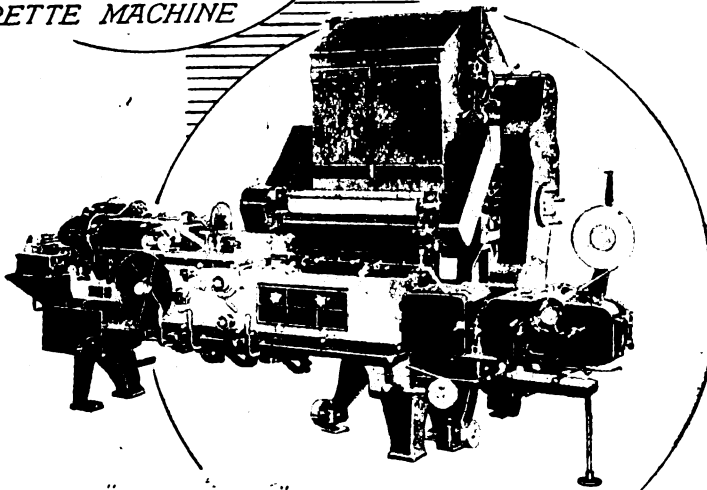


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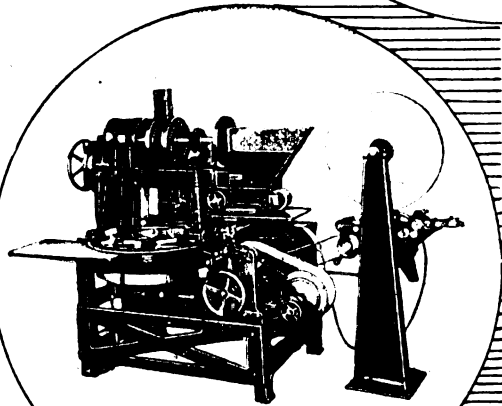
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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Business Restricted.

Dried Fruit.—The improvement in business recorded last week has not been maintained. The demand for currants has slackened off, and it would appear that buyers have now satisfied the greater part of their immediate requirements. In most cases prices show a considerable decline. There has not been much doing in sultanias, and the same remark applies to figs and dates. As we have pointed out previously, the quality of the two last-named commodities leaves little to be desired, and it is astonishing that buyers should so far have shown so little interest in them.

Sugar.—Prices have remained unchanged. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 62s. to 66s., and white Mauritius has been done at 71s. Home refined has met with a good demand at the official prices.

Coffee.—The market has remained steady. Costa Rica has been done at 120s.; Indian is unchanged at 106s. and Mocha at 170s. is also unaltered. The futures market has been quiet. Quotations are:—March, 49s.; May, 48s. 6d.; July, 50s.; September, 50s.; December, 51s.

Oilcakes.—There has been a slight rise in prices. Linseed cake is 6d. up, and cottonseed cake is 1s. up at 19s. and 11s. 6d. respectively. At the same period last year linseed cake was done at 25s. and cottonseed cake at 18s. Groundnut cake has come to business at from 14s. to 14s. 6d., and palm kernel has been done at 8s. to 9s.

Oilseeds.—The position is unchanged. Indian linseed is the same at 22s. 6d. Rapeseed is also unaltered with Toria at 20s. and bold Ferozepore at 19s.

Seed Oils.—Prices have declined a little. Linseed oil at 36s. has lost 3s. Other transactions include crude rape oil at 59s.; refined cotton oil at 45s.; and the Egyptian variety at 34s. Turpentine is unchanged at 100s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 215s. 3d. cwt.; butter, 336s. cwt.; cheese, 161s. cwt.; eggs, 44s. per 120.; chillies, 127s. 6d. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 100s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 111s. cwt.; East Indian bold, 112s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 116s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochinchina), 42s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 220s. cwt.; lard, 167s. 9d. cwt.; nutmegs, 11d. per 110's to 180's; pepper (Singapore, black), 4½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 152s. cwt.; sultanias (Smyrna), 136s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 91s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 72s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 76s. cwt.; Mauritius, 70s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 24s. 3d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 22s. 6d. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), £7 5s. ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 6½d. lb.; Java, 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 114s. 9d. qr.; wheat (English white), 80s. qr.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer: First 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4d. lb.; bulls (first), 4½d. lb.; bulls (second), 3½d. lb.; kips (first), 6½d. lb.; kips (second), 5½d. lb.; kips (third), 4½d. lb.; horse-hides, 7s. 6d. to 22s.

Metals.—Aluminium, £165 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £72 10s. ton; copper (electro, wire bars), £83 ton; gold bars, 114s. 0½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 220s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 260s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 2s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 2s. 6d. unit; molybdenite, 60s. unit; nickel, £215 ton; platinum, 440s. oz.; quicksilver, £12 15s. bottle; silver bars, 42d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 18s. 9d. ton; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; tin (standard), £208 ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 33s. box; wolfram, 17s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £45 ton.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 4½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 10½d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 1½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £25 8s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £65 ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 2½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £21 ton; borax crystals, 38s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 195s. cwt.; potassium: bichromate, 1s. 3½d. lb.; chlorate, 7½d. lb.; caustic, £75 ton; nitrate, £60 ton; permanganate, 2s. 10½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 6½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £27 15s. ton; Sodium: crystals, 150s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 ton; bichromate, 9½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £10 15s. ton; chlorate, 5d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £27 ton; hyposulphite, £27 10s. ton; prussiate, 11½d. lb.; nitrate, £21 15s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £39 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 4s. 7½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 9½d. oz.; red lead, £46 15s. ton; white dry lead, £52 10s. ton; white ground lead, £62 2s. 6d. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 10.79d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian, Sakellaridis), 23.00d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £22 10s. ton; rape (Toria), £20 10s. ton; soya beans, £15 5s. ton; palm kernels, £24 12s. 6d. ton; Oils: linseed, £40 ton; soya, £40 ton; cotton (crude), £37 10s. ton; olive, 16s. 6d. gallon; ground nut, £47 ton; palm, £45 10s. ton; rape (crude), £70 ton; petroleum, 2s. 3d. gallon; turpentine, 100s. cwt.; Rubber: plantation No. 1 crepe, 1s. 1½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 11½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 0½d. lb.

IVORY IN 1920.

Messrs. Hale and Son, in their annual report, state:—

The year under review has been remarkable for greater fluctuations in prices than at any other time of which there is any record. This was owing to the small quantities catalogued at the commencement of the year, and the strong demand at the January auction through American competition and the fashion for ivory then prevailing, when prices were forced up £50 to £100 per cwt. This advance was lost at the subsequent auctions. Larger imports came forward from all quarters, and prices at the close of the year are lower than this time last year, being about the same as those ruling in July, 1919. The imports from Zanzibar and Egypt have been larger of all descriptions, and principally soft ivory, and a fair amount of West Coast and Central African of the hard description.

At the January sales Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, and East African soft were in small supply, and all kinds including scrivellos advanced £50 to £100 per cwt. Hard grain, none offered, but this description from other parts advanced £50 to £90 per cwt. Billiard ball pieces and ball scrivellos were £20 to £50 per cwt. higher. Cut hollows also advanced £40 to £50 per cwt. In April, when larger supplies were brought forward, soft, large, and medium tusks declined £40 to £60 per cwt., and hard were £30 to £50 per cwt. lower. Cut ball pieces and ball scrivellos, £15 to £20 per cwt. lower. Scrivellos declined £30 to £40 per cwt., and cut hollows £15 to £20 per cwt. In July prices further receded, soft large and medium tusks were £30 to £50 per cwt. lower, and hard £20 to £40 per cwt. down. Cut ball pieces, ball scrivellos, cut points for balls and cut hollows were £10 to £20 per cwt. lower. Scrivellos were £10 to £20 per cwt. lower. In October soft large and medium tusks declined on the average £8 to £10 per cwt. Hard was steady to a little easier. Cut ball pieces, ball scrivellos, and cut points for balls were firm to rather higher, ordinary scrivellos £5 to £8 per cwt. lower.

Egyptian ivory has been in fair supply throughout the year. Prices for both the soft and hard description advanced in January £50 to £100 per cwt., and ball scrivellos £30 to £50 per cwt. In April the decline averaged £40 to £60 per cwt. Ball scrivellos £20, and ordinary scrivellos £20 to £30 per cwt. lower. In July soft grain declined £30 to £50, and hard £20 to £40 per cwt. In October soft declined £3 to £10 per cwt., whilst hard was steady to a little easier.

REVIEW OF WOOL SITUATION

Messrs. G. and W. Townend, in their annual wool report, state that the past year has witnessed the climax of the long and almost continuous advance in wool prices which has marked the past six years. The growing stringency of the money markets, the largely increased capital required to finance the enhanced prices, and, above all, the long-drawn-out delay in the political and economic re-settlement of Europe, have combined to call an abrupt halt to advancing prices and to initiate a decline which, commencing in April, has proceeded with increasing rapidity during the later months. This drastic reduction in prices will, however, hasten the recovery of confidence and the resumption of normal trading, and there are already welcome signs that the problem of the European exchanges is being at last grappled with in ways that promise some early practical results.

The total offerings have been:—Government-owned wools, about 1,600,000 bales; privately-owned wools, about 147,000 bales. Clearances during the earlier months were exceedingly satisfactory, but during the latter half of the year withdrawals have been increasingly heavy, amounting at the November and December sales to about 60 per cent. The market, as the result of world upheaval, finds itself confronted by conditions and problems altogether abnormal, in which favourable and unfavourable factors are out of all ordinary proportion. The Home and American markets are at the moment overstocked with manufactured goods; but, on the other hand, still larger wool-using populations are almost devoid of woollen material of any description. The normal supply of wool is barely sufficient for the world's requirements, but the present supply is almost a full year in excess. Inflated prices, which had become so serious a handicap on business and finance, have, by the drastic reductions of the past few months, already been so far adjusted to existing conditions as to be no longer a necessary bar to confidence and enterprise, and have been brought back to what may be considered, in view of the depreciation of currency and the permanently increased costs of production, an approximately normal level. The depression of the past few months has been of unexampled severity, but at the close of the year there are not wanting some definite grounds for the belief that the worst of the depression is already past.

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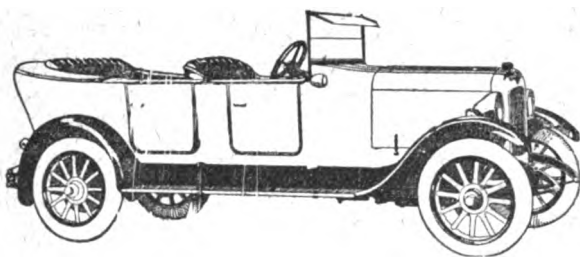
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FOREIGN PRODUCE PROSPECTS IN 1921.

In their annual report for 1920, Messrs. Bigland, Sons and Jeffreys state:—

The year 1919 will long be remembered by merchants, manufacturers, and producers of raw materials as the year of the greatest advance in prices of commodities ever recorded. The phenomenal rise of prices continued into the spring of 1920; the average of the maximum figures reached its height in February-March. A decline then commenced which has reached what we may now call a *débâcle* in the closing months of 1920. No such record decline in prices has ever previously occurred in the statistical history of the staples of commerce, for the simple reason that never before have figures soared to the tremendous height which made possible such a decline as we have had to face during the past few months. The fall has been greater than the total average pre-war price of most of the articles in question. Our readers and clients will, therefore, readily agree that it is exceptionally difficult to make a reasoned statement covering the outlook and to make any forecast for 1921.

Our forecast for 1921 is that business will be difficult to negotiate—that we shall all have to work hard to pay our taxes—that profits will be very meagre, and that great timidity on the part of merchants will restrict oversea trade; therefore it will be a year lacking in enterprise, with few new developments. During this waiting period all traders should conserve their energies for the activities which are sure to develop when the present financial stringency is past.

CULTIVATION IN THE SUDAN.

The following are further extracts from the C.E.B. report for October:

Berber Province.—The Nile has continued to fall more gradually than last year, thus giving the people time to get back from the rain crops for Saluka cultivation. Reports from the Atmur continue to be good. There seems to be a certain amount of stem-borer in the dura, but locusts have been few and far between. Apart from the few locusts and some boll-worm, the principal trouble has been the green Andat beetle. An attempt is being made, on the recommendation of the Government Entomologist, to combat this by turning out the village children with bowls of water and a paraffin film on it.

Blue Nile Province.—Considerable damage was done to the crops in parts of the province, more especially the southern part, by very late showers. Reports show that the crops in some parts are not quite so good as was anticipated, especially in the Medani and Managil districts, but there is very little doubt that the crop, taken as a whole, will be a very large one. It is the extent of the cultivation more than the average quality of the crop that is the feature of this year's harvest.

Kassala Province.—The cultivation reports are all satisfactory, though some damage has been caused to sesame in Gedaref and Mefaza by Andat fly. The Gash ceased to flow on October 1; but two further flushes came down during the first week of the month. The crops on the irrigated areas and also the Gash Delta are doing well.

Red Sea Province.—There has been more rain in the hills, and the prospects of a good dura crop are promising. Grazing should also be above the average.

Khartoum Province.—The rain crops throughout the province are excellent, particularly those at the tail end of the Gezireh alongside the Blue Nile boundary; also the crops between Kadaru and Gubba stations.

Upper Nile Province.—Crops are promising. Some damage is reported from various places, attributable possibly to excess of rains or possibly to some flies, of which endeavours are being made to obtain specimens.

White Nile Province.—Detailed reports from inspectors show that the weeding of crops at the weeding season was greatly interfered with by the prevalence of malaria, and consequently the yields have not been as good as the heaviness of the rains would otherwise have justified.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 10:—During the week ended January 1 crop prospects generally fair, but rain urgently required in the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Central Provinces, Bombay, in the unirrigated area of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and in parts of Central India and Madras.

Bombay cotton market irregular. Fine M.G. Oomra, March, Rs. 266. Piece-goods market lifeless, as before, with prices nominally steady. Calcutta jute and gunny markets steady, but little business passing. Freight rates on jute and gunnies have been reduced. No change in bank rates.

Coal exports to Sabang and Singapore stopped immediately and to Aden by end of January. Colombo will receive 50,000 tons in January, 40,000 in February, and 25,000 in March, after which supplies will cease, but reduced supplies will continue for Ceylon Government railways. Steamers proceeding westwards will be bunkered only as far as Port Said and three days further, while restrictions to similar effect will be placed on steamers proceeding eastwards.

DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their report dated January 11, state:—

Currants.—It is not possible to record any real increase of activity, although the tone of the market has been slightly better. Some interest has been taken in speciality parcels. Bags of the dry character Zante, landed per Brescia, have received some attention, and sales at 80s. to 82s. have taken place; also in good quality shade dried Vostizza it has been possible to make some progress at 95s. to 98s., and up to 102s. has been paid for the finest quality. Other growths are neglected with the exception of a little business reported in bags cleaned Amalias at 65s. Government holdings of old fruit at the reduction are selling fairly at 32s. to 45s. Quotations are:—Pyrgos, 68s. to 70s.; Amalias, 70s. to 74s.; Patras, 73s. to 78s.; Gulf and Panariti, 80s. to 90s.; Zante, 75s. to 82s.; Vostizza, 90s. to 102s. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date 17,690 tons.

Valencia Raisins.—A small consignment of selected, per Valkyrian, has been marketed, but no sales are reported.

Sultanas.—No revival is in evidence, and the little trade pressing is at late rates. Quotations are:—Smyrna, 135s. to 145s.; Greeks, 135s. to 140s.; Afghans, red, 95s. to 100s.; Afghans, yellow, 110s. to 120s.

Figs.—Layers about cleared, Naturals dragging sale at 40s. to 50s.

Now that the most active period of the season is over we shall for the present issue our report on the first Tuesday in the month.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ended January 13, state:—The past week has been decidedly interesting, the early part bringing a marked improvement in the demand for Egyptian cotton. It is well, however, to guard against a feeling of undue optimism, although after such a prolonged period of stagnation such a feeling is easily acquired. One swallow does not make a summer, and two days of good business need not necessarily indicate a trade boom; nevertheless, the week under review leaves us with the impression that there is "more doing," and this in spite of the dicta of several usually well-informed authorities who persist in the "flash in the pan" theory. The line of argument pursued by the latter is that spinners are being forced into the market in order to keep their machinery moving at the mills, and that there is really nothing behind it. This may be so, but it does not seem quite to explain the broader inquiry experienced here. A feature of the week was the number of bids made which did not lead to business. It gave one the impression that spinners had at last decided on a line of resistance and meant to hold to it. Another feature was the appearance in our market of several "outsiders," that is to say, spinners who normally do not buy Egyptian, excepting for an occasional mixing, and none of whom have been seen in our market for some considerable time. Sakellaridis and Uppers here have about shared the honours of the inquiry; of the former 1. 35—42 were chiefly in request, and of the latter T. 1—4 were generally asked for. Low cotton, both Sakellaridis and Upper, received a little more attention, and on one day 250 bales of Sudan cotton changed hands. Prices, in spite of the conservative views of spinners, have shown an all-round stiffening. A certain "bullish" sentiment has, no doubt, percolated into the Egyptian market, from the fact that the American markets have been showing a steady improvement of late, and this, of course, must be given its full value. For example, to-day's total sales were given as 10,000 bales, which includes everything. This figure has not been seen here for months past, and caused quite a sensation, although for this season of the year it should cause no comment in normal times. Manchester reports this week have been much more cheerful, but—and here we wish to strike a note of warning—their bearing was principally on the American market, and not on ours, except for one day, when Egyptian spinnings attracted more attention. We again advise caution, but, be the cause what it may, there is certainly more doing in the spot department. Total sales 1,750 (including 250 bales Sudan). Quotations are raised 2d. per lb. Fully good fair Sakellaridis 23.00d.

SMYRNA OPIUM REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended December 31:—The sales this week on our market amount to six cases at from 14s. 6d. to 15s. per lb. for manufacturing qualities. The exchange is 560 piastres per pound sterling for cheque, and 0.62 dollars for one Turkish pound of 100 piastres. The arrivals are 896 cases, against 1,325 at same date last year, and our stock is now 840 cases.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Week ended January 9: Gensah, nil; Hurgada, 3,592 tons (previous week, 3,216 tons).

British Burmah Petroleum.—A cablegram has been received reporting that the total production of crude oil by this company and the Rangoon Oil Company amounted to 60,234 barrels for December.

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Paris. In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Bank of Athens, Banque d'Economie Nationale, Banque d'Orient.

COMPANY MEETINGS.**STEUA ROMANA (BRITISH).****Important Holding in the Roumanian Company.**

The statutory meeting of the Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., was held on January 13 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Albert Gerald Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., presiding in the unavoidable absence abroad of Sir Charles Greenway, Bart., the chairman of the company.

The Secretary (Mr. John A. Roney) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' certificate,

The Chairman said: This notice is given for the purpose of complying with the provisions of the Companies Acts, and may therefore be regarded as merely formal. You have all received a copy of the report containing the particulars which the directors are required to lay before shareholders at the first and, as it is called, statutory meeting, and I assume that with your permission we may take the report as read. You will see that under the heading of receipts the company has received £1,410,511 in respect of subscriptions to its shares, all of which, I may remind you, have been taken up. Bank interest amounts to £5,153 8s. 7d. On the payments side we have £1,027,724 13s. 9d., representing amounts paid to the original vendors of the shares in the Roumanian company (called the Steaua Roumana Societe Anonyme pour l'Industrie du Petrole), the acquisition of which represents the first and most important object of our existence.

I may, perhaps, explain for the benefit of those who are unacquainted with the circumstances, that the payments we have to make under this heading—and which we are gradually clearing off—represent not only the purchase price of the shares which are being purchased for our own account, but also a proportion of an advance which we and the French banking group associated with us in the main transaction agreed to make to the five large Roumanian banks who participated in the purchase.

Position of Groups.

Roughly speaking, the three groups own just over half the shares in the Steaua Roumana, of which our company takes one-quarter (making one-eighth of the whole), the French group one-quarter and the Roumanian banks one-half. The French and ourselves are completing the payment of the Roumanian proportion of the purchase price by way of advance to them, and these advances are secured by the deposit of their shares, half with us and half with the French group. Preliminary expenses stand at present at £34,254 2s., and it is not expected that this figure will materially increase. This is well within our original estimate of £45,000. I may perhaps remind you that this is an item which in ours, as in all other cases of companies registered since last summer, is necessarily larger than in the case of earlier registrations owing to the heavy increase in capital duty, which, as you know, was quadrupled by the last Finance Act. Interest on calls paid in advance, £12,909 19s. 9d., calls for no comment, and the remaining items speak for themselves. Under

the circumstances there are no resolutions to put before the meeting, but if there are any questions that shareholders would like to ask I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ability. As the main object is that of a holding company, and we only came into existence three months ago, there is nothing of special interest to report at this stage.

Management of Property.

Our efforts at the present time, in conjunction with our French associates, are directed to the examination of the technical conditions under which the Roumanian Company's undertaking is being worked, and, through the representatives whom we have respectively appointed, assisting those who are responsible for its conduct in Roumania. In addition, our company and the French group are represented on the board by 10 out of 21 members, and on the managing committee by four out of eight members. Our own representative is Mr. G. S. de M. Rogers, who was selected for us by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and I am sure that our interests could not be in better hands. It is satisfactory to note from the particulars furnished in the Roumanian papers that the production from the company's wells has lately shown an increase, and we hope that with the more extensive drilling programme which is being prepared this increase will grow rapidly in the near future.

Position of Roumanian Company.

The ordinary general meeting of the Steaua Roumana Societe Anonyme pour l'Industrie du Petrole was held in Bucharest on December 15, 1920, at which the annual report of the directors and of the auditors for the year 1919 were submitted. It is interesting to the shareholders of the Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., to note that the net profit of the Roumanian Company for the year 1919 was 26,782,623 lei, and that a dividend of 20 per cent., or 100 lei per share, has been declared for the year 1919. At the same meeting it was decided to increase the capital of the Roumanian Company to 300,000,000 lei by the issue of 200,000,000 in new shares of 500 lei each, to be issued at a premium of 25 lei at the rate of two new shares for every existing one held. The holding of the British Company in the Roumanian Company will thus be trebled by the exercise of its right to subscribe to the new shares, for which purpose we have ample funds.

The Chairman having replied to some questions the proceedings terminated.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.**Steaua Romana (British).**

The statutory report states that the company was registered on October 12, 1920, with a nominal capital of £2,025,000, divided into 2,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each and 500,000 deferred shares of 1s. each. The total number of shares allotted to December 31, 1920, is 2,000,000 ordinary shares and 500,000 deferred shares, all of which have been allotted subject to the payment of the whole amount thereof in cash. The total amount of cash received in respect of the said 2,000,000 ordinary shares is £1,385,511, and in respect of the 500,000 deferred shares is £25,000. The preliminary expenses are estimated at £45,000.

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SUDAN RESEARCH FARM.

In the report of the Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum, for the year ended December 31, 1919, Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, C.B.E., the principal, reports as follows on the work of the Central Research Farm:—

Mr. Sawyer was detached from the Farm to make an agricultural survey of the Southern Provinces, and has since been appointed Assistant Administrator in charge of Agriculture in Palestine. The original pioneer work which he has carried out both at Shambat and in the south will, I believe, prove of permanent value to this country.

Major Nathan, O.B.E., who returned from Palestine last May, has been in charge of the Farm and the pumping schemes since that date. The greater part of the Farm has been left fallow during the last season, but an excellent cotton crop has been grown on the Shambat pumping scheme, which was disposed of locally at £E22 the kantar (about 315 lb.) unginned; at Tuti the cotton crop of 1918-19 proved a comparative failure, and no cotton was planted in the 1919-20 season, but other crops, in particular dura and ground nuts, yielded a very good return. Major Nathan has done some very good work on the Farm.

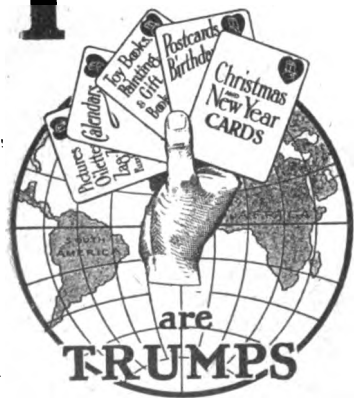
The results of the work of the year 1919 are summarised as follows:—

"(a) Cotton.—The numerous types bred in the past at Khartoum North have been reduced to seven, of which a large number of strains are undergoing purification. Hopes are entertained that cottons rivaling Sakel in length and fineness, but constitutionally stronger, may be on the market in the near future.

"(b) Wheat.—No new hybrids have been made this season, but a large assortment of foreign types have been introduced, and are at the moment under observation. As a result of the previous year's work, six Australian varieties were introduced by the Agriculture Department for trial on a commercial scale. Early maturing wheats bred by Mr. Massey are also being grown on sufficiently large scale to enable a test of their rust resistant properties, and also to ensure fair comparison with local varieties.

"(c) Introductions. — A considerable number of economic plants have been introduced, and in some cases distributed to likely quarters. Maize, beans, peas, lucerne, melons, tobacco, oats, barley, capsicums, groundnuts, sesame and sorghums are all under cultivation in experimental plots."

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Markets Generally Inactive.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday night.

During the past week business has been of disappointing dimensions, and in most markets a sagging tendency has been in evidence. Conditions at the moment are too adverse for any pronounced improvement to be possible. There is, for one thing, the industrial position at home, while abroad the week has seen the development of several unfavourable factors. In the circumstances, it is rather surprising that prices should have been maintained as well as they have been.

On the whole, the gilt-edged section has been fairly strong, and the various Government stocks have closed to-day on a firm note. Foreign bonds have been featureless, with some few exceptions, in which changes have been to the advantage of holders. Argentines have been a rather strong spot.

There has been little doing in Industrials, and there have been few notable changes. Shipping shares have been very quiet, but Oils, on the other hand, have been the medium of a certain amount of activity. Rubbers, after their recent spurt, have again lapsed into dullness. In Mines an interesting feature has been the rise in Chartered on the prospects of a favourable award.

Near Eastern securities have been inactive and weak. Government Funds have been variable. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. are unchanged at 60, but Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. 1855 are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 67. On the other hand, Greek Guaranteed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. 1898 are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 57.

Greek securities have, in most cases, shown improvement. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan and 5 per cent. 1884 issues have both risen one point to 41 $\frac{1}{2}$. The 5 per cent. 1890 Loan and Fundings both remain unchanged at 40. The 1910 Loan has lost 9 points at 31, at which there were sellers, while the 1914 Loan at 39 has gained $\frac{1}{2}$. The 1902 Loan is a point up at 35.

Banks have displayed little activity. Agricultural 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Bonds are the same at 53, and the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds at 55 are unchanged. Imperial Ottoman Banks are half a point up at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, and National Bank of Egypt at 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ have risen $\frac{1}{4}$. Land Banks are unchanged at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

There have been a number of changes in Land Shares. Beheras have shed $\frac{1}{4}$ at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, but the Preference shares remain unchanged at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments have remained unaltered at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$, while Egyptian Consolidated Lands have gained 3d. to 1s. 9d. Delta Lands at 9s. 9d. and Gharbieh Lands at 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ have remained unchanged. New Egyptians are the same at 23s. 6d., while Union Foncières are 1-16 up at 2 13-16. Sudan Plantations have lost $\frac{1}{8}$ at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

TRACTOR TRIALS IN BULGARIA.

H.M. Commercial Commissioner in Sofia reports that a competition for motor tractors is to be held in April next, under the auspices of the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture. A small strong tractor, capable of dealing with rough ground, and able to operate within confined spaces, is the type likely to meet with success. It is suggested that firms desirous of competing should communicate with the Banque Agricole de Bulgarie, Sofia, Bulgaria, the correspondence being in either the French, German, or Russian language.

There is reported to be a surplus of cattle in Croatia, and prices have fallen considerably.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Business Increasing.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

Without there being any general increase of business in the market, demand tends to broaden, and many producers during the past week have sold more freely than for several months back. The feeling is growing that more favourable opportunities of purchasing will not be met with in the near future. Enterprise, however, is somewhat checked by the financial stringency, whilst some merchants are handicapped by not having yet distributed dear goods bought a long time ago. Lancashire spinners are now purchasing Egyptian cotton on a freer scale. Prices are better held. Increased activity is also showing itself in Egyptian yarns, but orders are placed very irregularly. At the time of writing it is not sure whether organised short time in this section will be continued, but some firms want to be allowed to run machinery as they wish. In piece goods for Egypt inquiry has been rather better, and some fair lines have been booked in grey shirtings. Printing and finishing cloths are now attracting rather more attention for the outlets of the Levant. Most exporters, however, are not in a position to purchase speculatively. There is a little anxiety with regard to financial affairs in Egypt. In cloth for India the larger inquiry has been well maintained. So far most of the buying has been in light fabrics such as dhooties, but offers in grey shirtings are improving. Of the several outlets Calcutta is the best. For China there have been a few more attempts at trade, especially in bleaching descriptions. Only occasional lines have been mentioned for South America. The outlook for manufacturers as a body is brighter, and some firms are arranging to restart looms that have been stopped for many months. In American yarns for home use an increased turnover has taken place, especially in ring beams, and prices are firmer. Rather more trade has been about in bundles for India, and in extra hard descriptions for the Near East.

A large quantity of flour-milling machinery and equipment is required in Transylvania and the Roumanian district of Banat.

During November 3,000 tons of wax were exported to England from Panderma.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended December 20 amounted to £E14,472, making the total for the year £E365,626.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{8}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	50'50-51'50
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	131-137
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1'5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bucharest	Lei to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	275-285
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1'5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	570-595
New York	Dollars to £	4'86 $\frac{1}{2}$	3'73 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3'75
Paris	Francs to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	60'30-61'25
Prague	Kronen to £	24'02	275-310
Rome	Lire to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	108-109 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sofia	Levas to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	315
Teheran	Krans to £	50	36
Vienna	Kronen to £	24'02	1,800-2,000
Warsaw	Marks to £	20'43	2,900-3,100

In some cases quotations are nominal.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

PORT CONSTRUCTION IN MOROCCO.

In a recent report H.M. Consul-General at Tangier gives some interesting particulars of the progress of port development in Morocco.

A new section of quay at Kenitra, 224 metres long, with open storage ground at the rear, has been authorised for contract. Two cranes to carry three tons each have been installed and are ready for service.

At Rabat-Salee a warehouse, 54 metres by 16 metres on the open ground adjacent to the Custom House, has been completed and opened. The erection of a third warehouse, to be constructed on the same enclosure, has been put up for contract. Work is continued on the metalled roadway which will connect the quarries of Sidi Bou Knadel and Oued Akrech with the jetties south of Mehedia and Kenitra.

The large jetty at Casablanca has an extreme length of three-quarters of the P.M.1180 to the P.M.1234, and its guarding wall from P.M.1074 to P.M.1152. The work on the foundation of the wall of the quay approaching the large jetty continues; 208 metres have been actually finished. The building and filling up of the open-storage grounds of the Boulevards Font de Mer and Sidi Kairouani continues. The laying of the carriage way of Sidi Abderhamen has also been continued, and a commencement has been made with the installation of the building equipment necessary for the construction of this road.

Construction of two temporary bridges (or platforms) at Fedhala is in progress, and on completion should facilitate the embarking and landing of merchandise. The purchase of the naval material necessary is being carried out by the company in operation. The completion of existing work at Safi continues; also the preliminary work on the construction of the port for small barques. The port for small barques at Mogador is nearly completed with the exception of the clearing of the sandbanks, etc., for which purpose a dredger has been put into operation.

THE PORT OF CONSTANTZA.

The Chamber of Commerce of Constantza has reported to the Roumanian Ministry of Industry and Commerce as follows on the situation of the Black Sea port of Constantza: (1) All the quays have been entirely cleared of wrecks. (2) No. 2 grain warehouse, with 30,000 tons capacity, is in full working order, but No 1 warehouse, of the same capacity, is working only partially. (3) The equipment for oil export is in working order with the exception that instead of 40 tanks of 5,000 cubic metres capacity (as before the war), there are at present only 27 tanks. (4) The lighting plants, power, water drains, etc. have been repaired and are in the same working order as before the war. (5) Storehouses of 10,691 square metres accommodation are ready to receive any kind of goods from arriving steamers or trains. (6) A 40-ton crane has been set up on the quay. There are no smaller cranes, but those on the steamers can easily be used. (7) All railways serving the port have been repaired.

TURKISH FREIGHT RATES.

By a recent decision of the Allied High Commissioners the Inter-Allied Railway Commission is to be notified that rates may be increased by 25 per cent. above tariff charges, and that similarly, the Chirket-i-Harié Steamship Company has been notified that its rates are to be increased by 60 per cent.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Assyria, for Bombay (Liverpool, February 2).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Leicestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 29); s.s. Gloucestershire, for Rangoon (London, February 2); s.s. Herefordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 16).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Lord Broughton, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, January 22).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Mackenzie, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 27); s.s. Banffshire, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 27).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika and Constantinople (Liverpool, January 22); s.s. Antinoe, for Gibraltar, Messina, etc. (Liverpool, January 27, and Swansea, February 1).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Maronian, for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, January 22); s.s. Polo, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 5).

Ellerman City Line.—S.s. City of Exeter, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, January 20); s.s. City of Glasgow, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 31); s.s. City of York, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 14).

Ellerman's Hall Line.—S.s. City of Birmingham, for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, January 29); s.s. City of London, for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, February 10).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Venetian, for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (London, January 22); s.s. Bulgarian, for Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna (London, January 26).

Glen Line.—S.s. Pembrokeshire, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (London, February 3); s.s. Gleniffer, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (London, February 17); s.s. Glenegyle, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (London, March 3).

Golden Star Line.—S.s. Mediterranean Star, for Genoa, Naples, Alexandria, and Piræus (leaves Marseilles February 8).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Musician, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 3); s.s. Defender, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 17); s.s. Merchant, for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, Zanzibar, etc. (Glasgow, February 10, and Birkenhead, February 17).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Arracan (freight only), for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 9).

Holt Line.—S.s. Atreus, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, January 27); s.s. Hyson, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, January 27); s.s. Jason, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, January 27); s.s. Idomeneus, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, January 27); s.s. Elsinor, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, February 3).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Cundall, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza (Liverpool, January 22); s.s. Aviemore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, January 29).

Moss Line.—S.s. Limoges, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 12).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Assyrian, for Malta and Alexandria (also taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Jaffa, Haifa, Messina, Port Said, and Cyprus, etc. (Liverpool, January 29).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Dongola, for Bombay (London, January 28); s.s. Novara, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 5); s.s. China, for Bombay (London, February 11); s.s. Nellore, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 11); s.s. Kalyan, for Bombay (London, February 18); s.s. Soudan, for Bombay (London, February 18); s.s. Somali, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 25).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Hatimura, for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 22); s.s. Tremere, for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 5); s.s. Lena, for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 19); s.s. Morvada, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 25).

Prince Line.—S.s. Glendhu, for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Syrian coast and Cyprus ports (Manchester, January 25); s.s. Glenshiel, for Malta and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Syrian coast and Cyprus ports (London, January 30).

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THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Decoration of M. Gounaris.

In conferring a high decoration upon M. Gounaris "for valuable services to the country and the Throne" King Constantine has taken a step calculated to make the well-wishers of Greece despair of any early improvement in the Greek situation. No one disputes the right of the King to reward those who have served him well, and no one would wish to interfere in a purely domestic concern of this nature; but the fact that the reward has been conferred publicly at this time will confirm in their estimate of King Constantine all those who hold that what they regard as his stupidity and obstinacy constitute a danger to the future peace of the Near East. M. Gounaris is not *persona grata* with the Entente Governments, and there is no reason why he should be. By conferring upon him the highest honour at his disposal King Constantine has shown either that he is determined to do all that he can to flout the Powers or that he is entirely lacking in ordinary intelligence. If the King is so beholden to M. Gounaris, it would have been quite simple to have informed him of the fact and to have deferred the public acknowledgment until a more convenient season. Those who are striving for a satisfactory adjustment of the present strained relations between the Entente Governments and Greece will be tempted to feel that they are not likely to receive any help from King Constantine, and that, if they succeed, it will be in spite of him. The fact that M. Gounaris allowed the King to make the award is a measure of his statesmanship and of the value of the "services" that he has rendered or is likely to render to his country.

Party Politics in Bulgaria.

M. Stambolisky has returned to Bulgaria after his long tour abroad, and there is every indication that his presence is urgently needed in the country. It is a severe tax, both on the people and on the other members of the Ministry, to have the Prime Minister absent for any considerable length of time, for the most perfect system of communication with the travelling head of the Government is no adequate substitute for daily personal touch. There is inevitably a tendency to mark time until he returns, with the result that a number of matters of varying degrees of urgency are postponed. M. Stambolisky, it is to be feared, will find this to be the case in Bulgaria. He will pick up the reins of government again, however, with the knowledge that the whole nation recognises that the object of his tour has been brilliantly gained. Apart from this admission

it is doubtful whether party politics will be prepared to make much allowance. The Agrarian Party in power has had to feel its way, and with all the administrative experience on the side of the Opposition it is bound to have to face severe criticism. Nothing would be worse for Bulgaria at this stage than a long spell of political instability, and it is to be hoped that M. Stambolisky will have profited by his tour to realise that Party considerations are as nothing compared with good government, and that some expedients which offer a quick way of raising money are not necessarily sound statecraft, and may not provide the largest revenue in the long run.

The Mail Service to the Near East.

Any improvement in the mail service to South-Eastern Europe would seem to be entirely fortuitous, as it is liable to be interrupted by a fresh spell of delays, during which correspondence may take twenty days to reach Sofia or Constantinople. The journey from London to these capitals, it may be pointed out, can be completed well within the week, but letters posted in England on and before December 18 were not delivered in Constantinople before January 8. As a rule the newspaper post fares still worse: sometimes it will reach its destination several days before letters posted on the same date. The British Post Office disowns all responsibility. Mailbags are dispatched to Paris to be conveyed by the Simplon-Orient Express, but it would seem to be nobody's business to see whether they are placed on that train. Consequently, little, if any, of the daily mail matter from England appears to travel eastward by the express service, with the result that when, as recently, all other trains between Serbia and Bulgaria cease running the bulk of the English mail fails to reach the latter country. In view of the fact that this state of affairs has now lasted over two years, it might be thought that the British Post Office would have felt constrained from a sense of self-respect, if not from consideration for British interests, to have devised a more satisfactory arrangement with the French postal authorities.

The Egyptian Nationalists.

It has been evident for some little time past that the Egyptian Nationalists are less united now than they were a little while ago. There is no open breach, but opinion is divided regarding the absolute necessity of inserting in the Treaty a specific statement that the British Protectorate is abolished. Zaghloul Pasha appears to have caused some uneasiness among his followers by giving too many interviews to foreign news-

paper representatives, to whom he has made somewhat conflicting statements as to his views. On the other hand, Adly Yeghen Pasha, who does not appear to have made any public pronouncement on the subject, appears nevertheless to be regarded by a steadily increasing number of Egyptians as a possible leader of the Moderates, if Zaghloul and the Extremists should follow a course which might threaten to undo all the good that has been accomplished by the Milner negotiations. He would be a bold man who would venture to prophesy whether the rift will become wider or the differences be overcome; but it would undoubtedly be a good thing for Egypt if some of those who claim that they have been entrusted with the mission of negotiating on her behalf were to think less of their personal importance and to show less anxiety to take the centre of the stage on every possible occasion.

A Mare's Nest in Egypt.

Our Cairo Correspondent reports, in a letter published on another page, certain arrests which, it was thought at the time he wrote, might lead to the discovery of another widespread conspiracy or a second Society of Vengeance. Fortunately the suspicion has not been justified, and telegrams despatched last week make it clear that the informer in the case was himself the maker of bombs discovered; while according to some reports the said bombs are actually mere "dummies." The student responsible for this false alarm appears to have acted with the intention of getting his personal enemies into trouble and in the hope of obtaining rewards for his information. Such conduct, with its blend of low cunning and short-sightedness, is typical of the student who provides the bulk of the "strikers" when his class marks its disapproval of anything or anybody by taking a holiday, and who "demonstrates" on the slightest provocation or no provocation at all. It is a pity that in Egypt, as in India, he has generally been taken too seriously. But, of course, when he takes to attempting to assassinate Ministers, or even to planting dummy bombs on the premises of anybody against whom he happens to have a grudge, he becomes a serious pest, and should be treated as such.

Armenia's New Friends.

A statement issued recently by the Armenian Bureau in London pointed out that Armenia, in yielding to Soviet Russia, did so "solely for the sake of preserving the physical existence of the Armenian people." It would be impossible to question the truth of that statement, and it would be not only ungenerous, but unfair, to blame the Armenians for acting as they did. They had most certainly had their fair share of fighting, and were at the point of exhaustion; and their appeals for help, military or diplomatic, met with no response from Europe or America; surrender to the Bolsheviks, or, rather, to Bolshevism, was the only course open to them—and they took it. But it has not saved them. The Bolsheviks, it is true, afforded them some little protection against the Kemalists, but it was only in order to secure more loot for themselves, and upon the whole it is probable that the Armenians now regret more than ever that they were unable to come to some arrangement with Angora rather than with Moscow. For we learn now that Bolshevik requisitioning in Armenia was conducted on such a scale that at last the peasants rose in revolt in an endeavour to save the remnants of their stores. The natural result followed: the rising was suppressed with the aid of troops from Baku; and, their tragic fortune clinging to them still, the Armenian peasants were so brutally handled that the Commissar responsible, one Orjanikidze, was actually censured by Moscow.

The Yemen Fighting.

The latest news of the fighting between the forces of the Imam of Sanaa, under Mahmoud Nedim Bey, and those of the Idrissi, the ruler of Asir, is that the former have been defeated and driven out of the Idrissi's country. The threat to Hodeidah is thus removed, and it is possible that we shall hear nothing more of the old-standing rivalry for some time. But it is equally possible that we may hear a great deal more of it, and in the near future. For we have to recognise that the

Arab world is in a state of considerable excitement still; and, as we remarked last week, the presence of the ex-Governor of the Yemen with the Imam's troops is significant. It is true that Mahmoud Nedim Bey, though he was formerly in Turkish Government service, is a Syrian, not a Turk; but even so, it is very doubtful whether he would have made an acceptable leader to any Arab force two years, or even one year, ago. To-day, it seems, his former service is forgotten; only his nationality remembered. The really interesting thing for us to know would be whether his sympathies are actually with the Arabs or with the Turks, and whether he is bent on keeping southern Arabia in a state of unrest simply in order to embarrass the Allies. There remains, of course, the chance that he has been playing his hand entirely for his own benefit.

Confusing Reports from Persia.

A telegram sent to *The Times* by its Teheran correspondent on January 18 announced that the Sipahdar's Cabinet had "again resigned," and that its resignation "has this time been accepted." The Sipahdar, it seems, had withdrawn his resignation, owing to representations made by Teheran merchants, with whom he is described as being "extremely popular owing to his negotiations with the Moscow Soviet." But the telegrams announcing his resignation continue to be followed, at very brief intervals, by others announcing that he has again accepted office; and at the moment of writing it seems that he is engaged in forming a fresh Cabinet. It is also reported that the Bolsheviks have left Resht, and are making preparations to quit Enzeli on the signature of an agreement with Persia. This may be connected in some way with the awakening of the Shiah world to the dangers of Bolshevism, which is reported from Nejed and Kerbella; but it is more probably a subtle move in the Bolshevik game. For the moment it is possible to congratulate the Shah and his subjects, but we cannot persuade ourselves that that Bolshevik greed will leave Persia to itself for very long, or that Persia unaided will be able to keep off the inevitable advance; and in view of the failure to ratify the Anglo-Persian Agreement, and of the certainty that our troops will, therefore, be withdrawn at least from Northern Persia as soon as it is practicable to move them, the prospect is, upon the whole, not a pleasing one. A withdrawal southwards of the Shah, his Court, and his Government, as suggested in our columns last November, would still seem to us to be a sound and practical move.

Indian Ministers.

Now that the full list of the new Indian Ministers has at last been published in this country it is possible to form some idea of the immediate prospects of the dyarchic system of administration, and on this point our first impressions are definitely favourable. It is, of course, true that the Ministers are inexperienced in conducting public business, though most of them are practised critics of its conduct by others; but a beginning has to be made, and the list shows in every province men who are likely to learn their work quickly, as well as to hold their own in debate against any possible opposition. The outstanding names are Sir Surendranath Bannerji, in Bengal; Mr. Paranjpye, the well-known educationist, in Bombay; and Mr. Chintamani, in the United Provinces, the last-named a practical journalist, who has "come on" in recent years more rapidly than almost any statesman in the country. As yet there are no Prime Ministers, and we suppose the leadership of each team is left to settle itself, as it is likely to do, but their absence may be a source of temporary weakness, and there may be a few resignations by-and-by owing to inadequate appreciation of the need for team-work. That lesson, however, will be learned in time, and meanwhile we see no reason to doubt that the "transferred subjects" of the King-Emperor's business will be administered reasonably well.

The Situation in Madras.

From some points of view the most striking feature of the list is the selection in Madras of three "non-brahmin" Ministers, supported by a large majority of

the provincial legislature. As our readers will remember, the "non-brahmins," representing the great bulk of the population, feared that brahmin influence would suffice to carry the elections; they refused even to state their case before the Southborough Committee, and they protested bitterly against Lord Meston's award, but eventually they made the best of it, and now they find themselves in power, possibly to their own surprise. Some of the brahmin leaders have urged that one at least of the three Ministers should have been chosen from the minority, but Madras is scarcely yet ripe for such a coalition, and we think that a definitely party government at this stage will make for the political progress of the Presidency. The brahmins will learn that their hitherto unquestioned ascendancy is shattered; the victorious party will soon find out that they cannot do without their opponents' great abilities; and we anticipate that, after a certain amount of bickering, the course of politics in this region will be as equable as in any other part of India.

Calcutta Students' Strike.

The most unpleasant feature of last week's news from India was the intimation that a large number of students in Calcutta had "come out," and discontinued their studies pending the grant of what they have been taught to call Home Rule. One had hoped that the recent failure of the attempts to bring out the Hindu and Moslem Universities would have given a setback to this form of agitation, but young Bengal, with all its admirable qualities, is a little weak in the sense of discipline, and so the new Ministers have an early chance of showing their capacities in a region where the old bureaucratic administration has won few laurels. We have watched these students' strikes for about twenty years, and we are convinced that they have been handled far too tenderly: the telegraph has been kept busy, high officials have rushed to the spot, anxious only to see that the students had no shadow of a grievance, and the inducements offered to them to return to work have bred a general idea that such a strike does harm to people other than the lads and their families. The eradication of that mistaken idea will not be an easy task, but it is a task essential to the progress of real education, and we hope that Ministers in Bengal will take up a strong position from the outset.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

Home and Foreign Politics.

The Prime Minister is in Paris, discussing the German reparations with M. Briand, the new French Prime Minister. The Germans, as usual, appear to be putting up a wall of indignation and terror at the prospect of the indemnity; it finds a few echoes in the Press here, but, outside the *Westminster Gazette* and the *Daily News*, it has no real defenders, and the public at large do not in the least believe in these pictures of an impoverished and bankrupt Germany being driven into the arms of Bolshevism by the Allies. It is the opinion of practically every Englishman who has been in Germany since the Armistice, and of Germans themselves in their candid moments, that the whole German character and tradition is fundamentally opposed to Bolshevism.

At home, as we get nearer the opening of Parliament, the rumours of splits, secessions, and troubles within the Coalition increase. But clubmen and political journalists are credulous souls. Somebody once remarked many years ago that the third session of a Parliament was the critical one for a Government, for the obvious reason that it has by that time offended some of its friends, satisfied others, exhausted its early enthusiasm and excited opponents, and generally begun to feel the swing of the pendulum. But that generalisation, which fitted the sixties, seventies, and eighties of last century, and may, for all I know, have fitted the House of Commons under Simon de Montfort, is still trotted out regularly as an eternal truth, and facts are busily sought for to suit the theory.

But in the present day the facts are rather stubborn. It is perfectly true that Coalition Unionists and Liberals have not entirely coalesced; but they are still a happier family than Independent Liberals and Labour, who detest each other more than they do the Government. There is also some little division between the ordinary Conservative, who hates the idea of any reform, and thinks things are very well as they are, and the young Tory school—they will not call themselves Conservatives—who believe in "sane reform," sanity being, of course, the measures of which they approve. These are really the salt of the Tory party; before the war they had a union which called itself the Unionist Social Reform Committee, which certainly influenced opinion and legislation. That organisation seems to have disappeared, and most of those who composed it now hold high office in the State; but other thinking young Tories have come forward, and are beginning to carry weight. Naturally they have to overcome the inertia of the ordinary Conservative; he would fight them to the death if they were Liberals, but as they are usually Tories of good family whose natural doom is the House of Lords the middle-class Conservative merely mutters that boys will be boys, and admits that perhaps it is as well to have some brains in the party after all.

The idea that these young Tories will secede and enter Mr. Asquith's wigwam is ludicrous; and even the political gossips have never ventured to suggest that they will worship in the Labour tabernacle. The Coalition, then, is not likely to fall to pieces from within. It will encounter a good deal of stormy weather this year, but the craft on the whole is more seaworthy than it was a twelvemonth ago.

The Cost of Living—

The cost of living is now quite definitely falling, and it has declined in two successive months. But every month last year it went up until December, and it is now just about what it was in October, 1920, and very far above the figure of last January. The exact figures, as published by the Board of Trade, are of interest; they represent the increase per cent. over the cost of living in July, 1914. Since the end of 1919 they run: January, 1920, 125 per cent.; February and March, 130; April, 132; May, 141; June, 150; July, 152; August, 155; September, 161; October, 154; November, 176; December, 169; January, 1921, 165. It is anticipated that there will be another drop in February. But it will take a considerable time to get back to the figures of a year ago, for forthcoming threatened increases of rates are likely to nullify a good many points in the reduced cost of food. But still, as Galileo remarked about something else, it moves.

—And Wages.

The fall in the cost of food, if it should prove permanent and continuous, as we all hope, is bound to affect wages. Already some employers are talking of reductions. That, I think, is a little premature, seeing that the fall in the cost of living is small, recent, and not yet certainly stabilised. But there are not likely to be any demands, at least successful demands, for increases of wages when prices are falling; and in the long run a fall in one must be reflected by a fall in the other, as was the case with the rise.



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Unluckily, the usual acrimonious controversy on the subject shows signs of breaking out again. The employer says that wages should be reduced, the workman retorts that profits should be reduced; the employer retaliates that by the time the workman has had his wages and the Treasury its excess profits there are no profits left to reduce, and so on. I should have thought it would have been easy for a joint committee of master and man to have settled the question by a round-table inquiry, and I believe it is being done in some cases. But, of course, goodwill is necessary, and extremists on either side do not deal in goodwill.

I imagine the extremists in either camp are rather glad of the steady increase in unemployment—in the one case because it offers opportunities of lowering wages to the sweating point; in the other because, when men have empty stomachs, and still more when the children at home are hungry, they are likely to see red. There are not a great number of extremists of either sort, but in an economic crisis like the present they might become a source of danger.

Nationalising the Railways.

Mr. J. H. Thomas is becoming a prolific author. Only a few weeks ago his book, "When Labour Rules," was noticed in this column, and here he is again, with "The Red Light in the Railways" (Cassell). He believes in nationalisation, but not bureaucracy or confiscation; and he thinks nationalisation would be both efficient and economical. (It is rather unlucky that his book comes out just when the agitation against the increased charges for the nationalised telephones is at its height.) Even on the nationalised railways, however, he holds that the right to strike would still exist. One wonders if he would hold that view if he, as head of a Labour Government which had nationalised the railways, were faced with a railway strike. His book is worth reading, but it seems to me to be too hastily written, and to try too much to make the best of every conceivable world.

The Third Test Match.

We may have won the war, but we have certainly lost the ashes. Most English cricketers agree that it is not merely a matter of luck in winning the toss or getting the worst of the wicket; the Australian team has shown itself definitely our superior in three matches running. It is true that in the last one at Adelaide we did better than in the previous two, but there is very little doubt that the better team won, and sporting circles in London make no attempt to disguise the fact. The Australian superiority, too, seems to be all round, in batting, bowling, and fielding.

"The downfall of England," as the evening newspapers lugubriously call it on their placards, will add zest to the cricket season of the coming summer, when the Australians pay us a return visit. If they beat us at Lord's and the Oval as well as at Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, it will be time for us to take up croquet.

Mr. P. F. Warner has suggested in *The Times* that our cricket grounds are no longer large enough, and that the crowds in 1922 will be bigger than ever. Certainly I found the Oval uncomfortably crowded once or twice last year, and the trams and tubes which take one there were hopelessly congested on the big days. It should not be difficult to add to the accommodation in the three months before the season starts.

A Mild Winter.

The extraordinarily mild weather which we have had since Christmas has produced some curious contrasts. Because it is warm, the doctors hold that it is healthy, for a really cold snap at this time of year keeps them busy with old people, to whom a bad January is easily the most fatal month; but because it is wet the chemists hold that it is unhealthy, the demand for anti-rheumatic remedies having considerably increased. However that may be, I saw a party of children going primrosing in the woods on the East Coast on Sunday morning—a sight I do not recollect having seen before in January.

The Week's Books.

"The Letters of William James" (Longmans) are likely to have a far wider circulation than the recently published correspondence of his brother Henry; indeed,

in some ways I find them better than the philosophy which impresses one at first reading, but which later on often strikes one as rather thin. Pragmatism will hardly last, but the "Varieties of Religious Experience" will, and some of these letters deserve to live. His description of England is good: "I find the strongest impression I received was that of the singularly artificial, yet deeply vital and soundly healthy, character of the English social and political system as it now exists. It is one of the most bizarre outbursts of time, one of the most abnormal, in certain ways, and yet one of the most successful—this accumulation of individual initiatives all preserved."

Elsewhere he is less friendly: "The density of British unintellectuality is a spectacle for gods. One can't imagine it or describe it. One can only see it." Of Kipling he says: "It's strange that with so much sympathy with the insides of every living thing, brute or human, drunk or sober, he should have so little sympathy with those of a Yankee—who also is, in the last resort, one of God's creatures."

In the last years of his life, however, he was more appreciative. "And, on the whole, what a magnificent land and race is this Britain! Everything about them is of better quality than the corresponding thing in the U.S.—with but few exceptions, I imagine. The equilibrium is so well achieved, the human tone so cheery, blithe, and manly, and the manners so delightfully good. Not one unwholesome-looking man or woman does one meet here for 250 that one meets in America! Yet I believe (or suspect) that ours is eventually the bigger destiny, if we can only succeed in living up to it. Meanwhile, as my brother Henry once wrote, thank God for a world that holds so rich an England, so rare an Italy." A handsome compliment.

"The New State" (Longmans, Green), by Miss M. P. Follett, is a political study of group organisation which has achieved fame in the United States. It is introduced here with a long preface by Lord Haldane, and it appears, so far as I have examined it, fully to merit the very high praise he bestows upon it as a piece of political thought. It is not a work which one could venture to criticise without very careful study.

"Freedom and Liberty," by Mr. W. Benett (Oxford University Press) is an attempt to show that "the universal final end of ethics must be found in religion, and there only," and it contains, as a penultimate chapter, a statement of what in the author's opinion the final ends, religious and philosophic, consist. The book is the fruit of much hard thinking, but the author, unlike many ethical philosophers, has taken pains with his writing, and it is therefore not difficult to read.

"Studies in Islamic Poetry," by Mr. R. A. Nicholson (Cambridge University Press), contains a great deal of the verse of Ma'arri, both in the original and translation. As a complete stranger to Persian poetry, I was reminded curiously of both Lucretius and Omar Khayyam. The panegyrics and love-poems which are also discussed here, and of which specimens are given, are not much to my taste. Nor do they seem to appeal to Mr. Nicholson himself very greatly.

"Early Italian Literature" (Blackie) contains a reprint of much pre-Dante writing, with critical introductions by Dr. Ernesto Grillo. It will interest the specialist, but only the specialist, in that subject.

Mr. Arnold Bennett's new work, "Things that Have Interested Me" (Chatto and Windus), is hardly likely to satisfy his most ardent admirers. It is a collection of short papers, and it strikes me as rather raw material to throw at the head of the public.

There is a good deal of entertainment in Mr. Henry S. Salt's "Seventy Years Among Savages" (George Allen). Mr. Salt is a vegetarian, and the savages are we ordinary meat-eating Britons. But a diet of nuts and may, or whatever vegetarians eat, has by no means dulled the author's sense of humour.

OCCELLUS

Under the presidency of Es Seyd Ahmed, the former Sheikh of the Senussi, a Pan-Islamic Conference was held at Sivas early this month. It is reported that others present included the Emir Abdullah, Faisal's brother, an Emir of Kerbella, and also a representative of the Imam Yehia, the Zaidi Emir of Sanaa in the Yemen.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 3.

The Sultan.

The Sultan has received a mark of appreciation from the French Government, in the form of the Grand Cordon of the Legion d'Honneur, which M. Gaillard presented to him yesterday morning at Abdin Palace. His Highness leaves on the 11th for his Upper Egypt trip, in connection with which invitations continue to arrive from the various Provinces through which he will pass.

The Political Situation.

The political situation remains unchanged. The various factions continue to squabble in the vernacular Press over the relative merits of Zaghloul Pasha and Adly Pasha, and the proper attitude which should be adopted by true patriots in the event of the British Government adopting certain hypothetical lines of action. Beyond these polemics, which, though at first entertaining, are becoming somewhat boring to the average reader, there is nothing new in the situation, and everyone is waiting to see what the British Government will say in the House of Commons when Parliament reassembles.

Yuletide Festivities.

Yuletide has passed off happily and uneventfully. There were great festivities in the hotels, where the fun and frolic were kept up till a very early hour. Dinner parties were given at the Residency, followed by dancing, and the French Minister held his customary reception on New Year's Day, which was very well attended. An unusual feature of the holiday week was the very heavy downpour of rain, which somewhat interfered with social engagements.

The Tram Strike.

The tram strike continues, and, although a satisfactory solution was in sight at Christmas, the settlement has not been reached yet. The Government is concerting measures with the tramway company and other transport agencies to maintain communications with the suburbs, which are much inconvenienced by the present great reduction in the tram service.

A British Officials' Association.

In my letter of December 27 I gave briefly the views of the Egyptian and foreign communities upon the proposed Anglo-Egyptian Treaty. There is, however, a third element which will be very seriously affected by the Treaty. I refer to the foreign civil servants, whose engagements, according to Clause VII. of the Milner-Zaghloul Memorandum, may be terminated at the instance of either the officials themselves or the Egyptian Government at any time within two years after the coming into force of the Treaty, and the pension or compensation to be accorded to whom, in addition to that provided by the existing law, is to be laid down by the Treaty.

These officials have accepted without clamour the inevitable situation which the Treaty will bring into being for them. In view, however, of the vagueness of the reference in the Memorandum itself, and of the difficulties which will inevitably arise when it comes to the elaboration of the details, the British civil servants have formed themselves into an association under the designation "Association of British Officials in the Service of the Egyptian Government," the objects of which are:—To consider the possible effect of Clause VII. of the Anglo-Egyptian Draft Agreement upon the position of British officials in the service of the Egyptian Government; to present the views and interests of British officials in regard to the question of compensation; to institute, in particular, by means of technical sub-committees appointed therefor, the immediate study of the complicated issues involved in the drawing up of fair and reasonable measures of compensation which shall be just and equitable as between the very varied categories of officials concerned, and, as a result of such study, to be in a position when, in accordance with the assurance given, the opportunity is afforded to put forward a con-

sidered and authoritative presentation of the case of all British officials.

The document setting forth the objects of the association goes on to say that it has no political or semi-political object of any kind whatsoever, and that it is actuated solely by a desire to see that the treatment accorded to British officials may be based upon a detailed knowledge of the existing varied conditions of service, and that the data to this end shall be co-ordinated and made available in good time. In view of the misleading statements on this subject which have appeared in the local Press, it is only fair and right that the attitude of the British officials should be made clear, and in this connection it is interesting to note that both the French and the Italian officials in the service of the Egyptian Government have formed separate committees having the same object, and working in close touch with their British colleagues.

The Willcocks-Kenedy Action.

This week the criminal libel action against Sir William Willcocks and Colonel Ralston Kenedy was mentioned in the British Consular Court, when various applications were made to Judge Grain by both parties. It was agreed that, in order to meet its demand for permission to strike out certain clauses in the plea of justification, the defence should put in a fresh statement, and the application to take on commission the evidence of Mr. G. B. Ireland, formerly General Inspector of Irrigation, was granted. The date for the trial was provisionally fixed for January 24, but the point raised by the prosecution that the two cases should be consolidated and heard together was not decided. The defence protested at the publication of the Nile Projects Commission's Report at this particular juncture, on the score that this was deliberately done in order to influence the result of the trial; but Mr. Preston, the Prosecutor, was able to explain that the report was issued by authority, that Sir Murdoch MacDonald had had nothing to do with its publication, and that it would have appeared much earlier if there had not been such great delays in connection with the printing. It might be added that the local Press daily publishes copious extracts from the report, but that so far there has been little or no comment of any importance.

CAIRO, January 10.

The Sultan's Tour.

The Sultan left this morning for his Upper Egypt trip, motoring to Helouan, where, accompanied by the Prime Minister and his household, he went on board his steamer, the Arabia. Owing to the low state of the river it has been necessary to release a certain amount of water at the dam to enable the Sultania fleet to get up, but this will not, it is expected, affect the summer supply. As previously mentioned, his Highness will make a very extended tour of Upper Egypt; and, in addition to stopping at the principal towns, he will visit the antiquities at Luxor and the dam at Aswan. He is expected to be back in Cairo by February 18.

Lord Milner's Resignation.

Lord Allenby was due to leave on Saturday last for a visit to the Sudan, but at the last moment his departure was cancelled; the next day came the news of the resignation of Lord Milner; and out here these two events were at once connected. I understand that there is no direct connection between the two. Lord Allenby has put off his visit because certain questions are under consideration which render it desirable that he should be in closer touch with London than would have been the case had he gone to the Sudan. As soon as these questions are settled, however, he will proceed to the Sudan.

Lord Milner's resignation has not surprised many of us, who knew that he had intended retiring as soon as he had issued his report; but local Egyptian opinion, in spite of the Reuter telegram that the resignation has nothing to do with the Egyptian question, has made up its mind that one of the reasons the Secretary for the Colonies has resigned is that the Cabinet is opposed to the proposals he has made for the settlement of the

Egyptian question. All said and done, the resignation has not created much excitement, the minds of the majority of the people being too much occupied with the cotton market and the economic situation. There is, however, no doubt that it has come as an unpleasant surprise to the Complete Independence party, and that they are feeling exceedingly depressed and anxious as to the future. This is very evident from the attitude of the Zaghoulouist organs, which are once again beginning to talk a lot about maintaining a united front and not giving in until the last point has been won from the British Government.

Serious Government Defalcations.

A serious embezzlement has been discovered in the Ministry of the Interior. The sum involved is stated to be about £E3,000, mainly in connection with travelling allowances and Secret Service funds. The signatures of various officials have been forged, amongst them those of previous Prime Ministers. The official accused has been arrested, and Ahmed Zeki Pasha, the Secretary of the Council of Ministers, who passed these requisitions, has to-day been suspended. The defalcations have taken place over a period of years, and the Parquet is now engaged in investigating the extent to which they have been carried on and exactly how far the officials suspected of complicity are involved.

Another Conspiracy Case?

As yet there is no further news as to the sentences passed on the twenty-four men convicted in the Abdel Rahman Fahmy case. Meanwhile the authorities have in hand what may possibly prove to be another conspiracy case. Quite naturally, considerable secrecy is maintained, but it is known that the authorities recently made an important seizure of bombs, acids, and circulars, and that the Procureur-General is himself conducting the inquiry. Two men are at present under arrest. What leads one to attach importance to this case and to expect that it may throw a good deal of further light on the criminal organisations that have existed in this country during the past two years is the fact that one of the men arrested is Doctor Khaffaga, the husband of the American, Lucy Bromley, who, during the more active period of the political agitation in 1919-1920, made a practice of delivering inflammatory speeches at Al Azhar.

The Racing Season.

Racing continues to be one of the main attractions of the season, and so successful have the meetings been that the Heliopolis Racing Club have decided to hold an extra Sunday meeting every fortnight. Thus we shall from now onward until the end of March have a meeting every Sunday at Heliopolis and one every Saturday, alternately at Gezira and Heliopolis. A remarkable feature of the racing this year has been the success of the English jockeys; and it is interesting to note that Egyptian horse owners, including the Sultan, seem to prefer the latter to their own countrymen. Several of the latter are excellent jockeys, but have little chance, as they rarely get a first-class mount.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, January 5.

The Late Minister of Finance.

The late Minister of Finance, Kosta Stoyanovitch, was given a public funeral on the 4th. Although his financial measures provoked plenty of opposition and a great deal of criticism, both at home and abroad, it must be remembered that he was a democrat who succeeded a Radical minister, who doubtless followed the pleasing custom of embarrassing his successor. On taking

over his duties, he found empty coffers and urgent and imperious demands, and was obliged to undertake emergency measures against his own better judgment. It is generally agreed that he came out pretty well from a difficult and disagreeable task. Born at Bitolj (Monastir) in 1867, after a brilliant scholastic career, he finished his studies at Paris and Leipzig. He passed from an academic to a political career, and several times held the portfolios of Agriculture and of Finance. He was well reputed as a writer on economic subjects. At Corfu in 1915 he headed the opposition to his old party the Radicals, and afterwards was Economic Delegate for Serbia at the Paris Conference, where he did good work for his country. His greatest claim to recognition is that he carried through the customs war with Austria between 1906 and 1908, and by finding new markets, broke once and for all that subservience to Austria that had marked the Obrenovitch régime. This was really the first blow in the struggle for complete independence, which he lived to see crowned with success. Even his enemies respected his capacity and integrity, and his loss is a severe one for Yugoslavia.

Opposition to Communism.

The new Government has declared its intention of carrying out the firm policy of the Vesnitch Cabinet against the Communist plot. The mass of the workmen are satisfied, and it is generally held that they were not identified with the Bolshevik movement, which, in fact, can never take a real root in this land of peasant proprietors. At a meeting at Vukovar of the Communist party, 74 votes were given against a motion that the party continue to exist, and representative members from Slovenia, Croatia, Slavonia, Bosnia, and Serbia all protested. A number transferred their allegiance to the Socialist and others to the Agricultural Parties. Three Communist municipalities have abjured the party, and on all sides news comes in of other dissidents, who are well-intentioned men, inclined towards extreme Socialism, but disgusted with the anti-patriotic plot, and the proved inspiration from Moscow.

The authorities have discovered a despatch from Zinovief, President of the Executive Committee of the Third International, pointing out to the Communists of Yugoslavia that they should have an easy task before them to overthrow the State and bring about a revolution, as the State is yet hardly consolidated and in the throes of completing its union, and lacking in funds, and calling upon them to do all in their power to increase every small difference between Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, and Montenegrins. Such advice, coming from such a source, only irritates Yugoslavs, even if they are of Communist tendencies, and so defeats its own ends. It falls on fruitful soil only on the subsidised foreign agents who are now being mercilessly rounded up and expelled.

From Skoplje and from Uzhitsa we hear that the Communist municipalities, whose recent election was hailed with a flourish of trumpets by the Bolsheviks, have resigned and repudiated the party. At Vukar, a leader of the local Communists came into collision with the peasants, and was shot. In Bosnia there is a proposal to form a civil guard in the towns and villages, to protect the country against the Communists. In Belgrade, all officials and employees of the municipality have passed a resolution calling upon the Mayor to dismiss at once all officials and employees who are connected with the Communist party.

Probably in connection with the Communist plot is the latest Albanian attack upon the town of Prishtina, where they killed three gendarmes, some officials and citizens, looted and robbed and carried off some prominent townsmen as hostages into the mountains.

As the Communists are working in harmony with the so-called "black and yellows"—i.e., pro-Hapsburgites, and the Magyars, who have in common a hatred and fear of Yugoslavia, and all have been in touch with d'Annunzio, the end of the tragi-comedy at Fiume is another blow to their hopes, but has attracted less attention in Yugoslavia than would have been expected, partly because of the general excitement in the internal situation, and partly because the inevitable end was discounted. But it is pointed out in the Croat papers that neither Gigante nor the Croat renegade Host-Venturi

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can claim to represent the town. And at the same time it is interesting to note that the senator who is raising a lament in the Italian press on the "dolorous episode" of Zara is named Ghiglianovitch. The whole thing is undoubtedly connected with the general increase of Bolshevik activity, marked by the concentration of troops on the Roumanian frontier, and bound up with Anti-Entente movement, inspired from Berlin-Budapest.

ZAGREB, January 8.

Serbia and the Russian Refugees.

The Serbs have been criticised for their rather quixotic reception of so many Russian refugees, especially at a time when the country's finances are in by no means an ideal condition. It is also suggested that this *beau geste* may cost the country dear, for among so many there are sure to be Bolshevik agents; and, in fact, this appears to be the case. The authorities have had their eyes open, and now they have found some of them taking part in intrigue and propaganda, a nice reward for the hospitality which they have received. Consequently, a new section has been constituted at the Ministry of the Interior, which will deal entirely with the question of the Russian refugees. Many of them are valuable additions to the strength of the country, for during her eight years' fighting, Serbia lost an immense number of trained and professional men in all branches, which she could ill afford at any time, and consequently, Russian doctors, engineers, and business men are filling up many gaps in the social polity of the country to-day.

Vacant Posts.

The vacant portfolio of Finance has not been filled yet. The former Minister, M. Velkovitch, who fixed the ratio of krone to dinars permanently at four to one, declines, on the grounds that it is not an entirely Democratic Government. It has been offered to Dr. Vojce Marinkovitch, brother of the former Minister of Religion, who is known in London and is a trained financier. If he does not accept, it is thought that there will be a shuffling of the Democratic portfolios, that M. Drashkovitch will accept Finance, which would be well received in the country, and M. Pribitchevitch would return to his old post at the Interior. The Mohammedans have not yet decided to join the Cabinet, and three portfolios are held vacant for them. It is thought that they would prefer to see the rather democratic coalition break down and a more conservative one formed under M. Stoyan Protitch, as the Mussulmen of Bosnia, who are chiefly landowning begs, are essentially a conservative element.

Zagreb and England.

The Zagreb newspapers are paying a great deal of attention to affairs in England. The Irish question is followed with a good deal of detail, and plenty of references to "British tyranny," to "fire and sword" of the British Government, and an obvious sympathy for the "sinnfeinovtsi," as a small people struggling heroically for liberty. This smells of propaganda, as England and things British are very popular in Zagreb. A small evening paper, the other day, had nearly a column of caustic review of Mrs. Asquith's book, an account of plays now appearing in London, especially "O'Flaherty, V.C." and "G.H.Q. Love." Besides this, there was a long article on the question of unemployment in Britain, while another day there were two columns on the state of affairs in India.

Miscellaneous.

Dr. Momchilo Ninchitch, former Minister of Finance and later of Commerce, has been decorated with the Order of St. Sava, 1st Class.

M. Ilija Shumenkovitch, Councillor of the S.H.S. Legation in London, has resigned in order to stand for the Skupshtina in the Democratic interest.

The Ministry of Public Works has accepted a tender for twenty-five motor-cars from an unnamed foreign firm, subject to prompt delivery.

The Bosnian Mussulmen have resolved to support that Government which represents all three branches of the people. If they join the Cabinet, Dr. Mehmed Spaho and M. Korkut and Dr. Karamehmedovitch will

be candidates for portfolios. If the Slovene Clericals join, they will receive one portfolio, and the Mohammedans only two.

One effect of the revelations of the Communist plot has been that one deputy of that party has joined the Socialists and two have joined the Democrats.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, December 29.

The Situation.

The election of members to the Legislative Council has been fixed to take place on January 21, and lists of polling stations in the three electoral divisions of Cyprus, in case of a poll being required, have been published. Under normal conditions, which might have been hoped for, Cyprus should now be settling down to a period of really hopeful development. Her needs are manifest, and her grievances might now at last be dealt with by means of encouragement from the Colonial Office and co-operation from the representatives of the Cypriot people. Unfortunately, however, the outlook is far from promising. It might well be expected that, a definite reply having been given by the British Government to the party of "Union," the leaders might now at least rest on their oars, and await the outcome of Near East and connected tangles, and—what is of real importance to the island—devote themselves, after their long holiday, to the development of neglected local interests, especially that of agriculture and kindred industries.

The leaders of the agitation have done all that could be done in presenting their case. At a cost of many thousands of pounds—from Church and other funds—they have been absent from their duties in the Council on deputations to London, the last of which it was hoped and believed by their supporters would meet with success. It is high time that they should now realise the actual situation and prospect, and explain it truthfully to their constituents, instead of inciting them to take up political aims which lie quite outside their ken and concerns. Instead of this, the late members of Council (several of whom have plenty of leisure for their self-constituted task) have decided that they will seek re-election, and, if elected, as probably most of them will be, again resign in a body. If they should adhere to this very unwise resolution, a serious case for consideration would be presented to the Home Government.

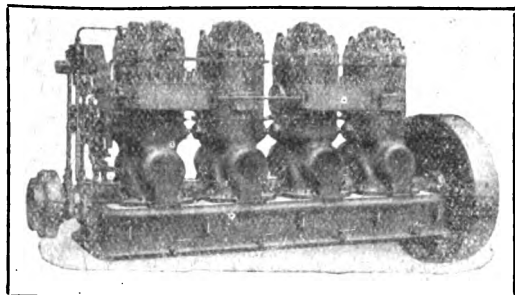
As regards their immediate programme, the leaders now dwell on that part of Colonel Amery's statement which hints that the cry for union came from a section of the people only, and did not express the feelings of the Cypriot Greeks as a whole. They now say that, in order to dispose finally of the question, it is advisable to undertake a village to village campaign which will place the matter beyond the possibility of doubt. It is hardly necessary to repeat that, under present conditions, the result of any plebiscite would only be "made to order," and according to plan; and for those who know these conditions the matter would therefore still remain where it is.

The agitators can always rely on a sympathetic and collaborating Press. The last issue of the *Phonētēs Kypros* (December 25) devotes two long columns to a parable which likens British policy, in theory and practice, to a distinguished preacher who discoursed on the text "he that hath two coats let him give to him that hath none." When a poor man begged for an old coat, he was repelled by the priest, who averred that the scripture applied to others, not to the preacher. In like manner England rejects the petition of poor Cyprus, while advocating "self-determination." Some papers just touch the suggestion that the return of King Constantine and the present attitude of the Greek people render the offer of Cyprus to Greece more than ever out of the question. If, it is argued, in 1915, when there were suspicions of pro-Germanism on the part of the King, the island was (conditionally) offered to Greece, how can there be an obstacle "now that all doubts as to the sincerity of his Anglophil sentiments have been dispelled," and seeing that Greek policy must always henceforth depend on close friendship with Great Britain!

General News.

An interesting football match between Greek and Turkish boys was played last week at Nicosia in a field near the Pedia river, behind the Agricultural School, before thousands of spectators. It was well contested, and ended in a draw. The meeting was quite typical of the friendly relations that should, and in almost all respects do exist, between the two communities. The only antagonism existing relates to the political agitation of the Greek union faction.

The Greek Archbishop has issued an encyclical regarding the mention of King Constantine's name in the churches. Some 800 Russian refugees have arrived at Polemidia Camp, Limassol. The total number may, it is said, be 2,000.



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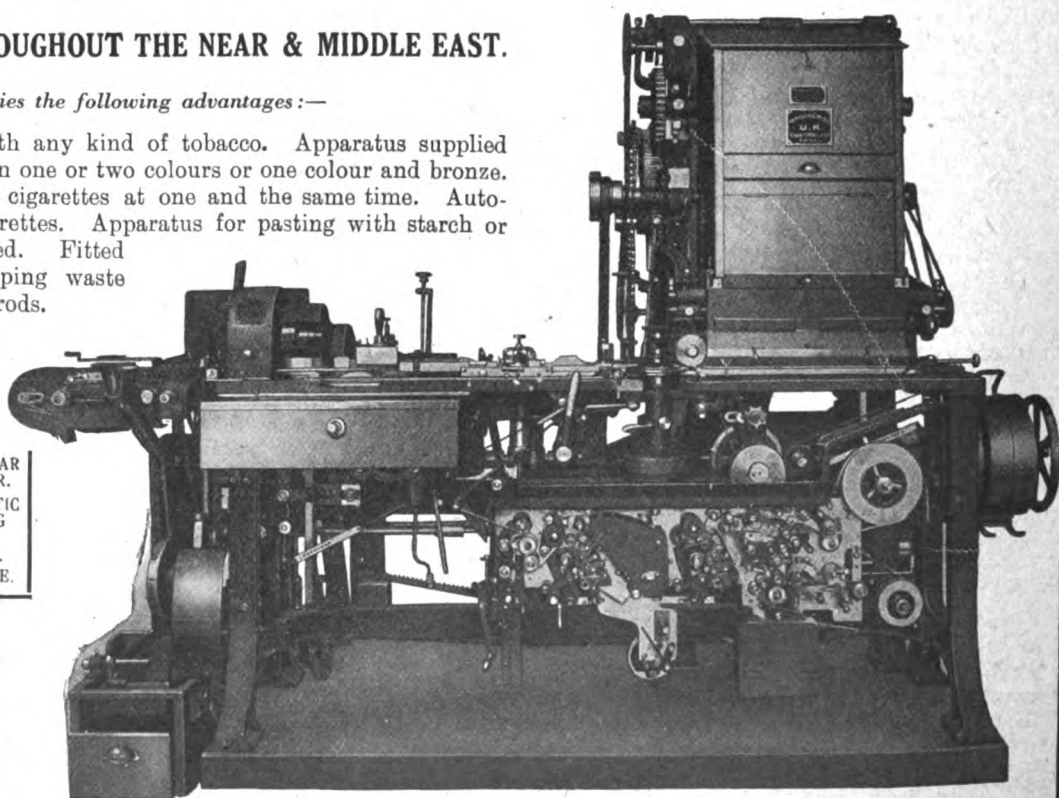
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FRANCE AND THE ARABS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The second column of your leading article in your number of January 6 contains a phrase (*in fine*), which runs thus: "It (the Franco-British Settlement of December 23, 1920) leaves unsettled the future relations between the French and the Arabs, towards whom the former are inclined to adopt an attitude wholly inconsistent with the principles underlying the League of Nations."

Allow me to point out: Firstly, that it does not seem that the general question of the relations between France and the Arabs was relevant in a settlement the main object of which was the fixing of the frontier between Syria and Palestine, unless Great Britain was prepared to admit that we should ask her to embody in the same document the definition of the policy she intended to follow towards the Arabs in Mesopotamia—a demand she would probably have waved aside as indiscreet. This does not mean that an exchange of views between the French and British Governments on questions relating to the Arabs may not be useful and even of the utmost importance. There are Frenchmen who, in their small sphere, have worked to that end, even during the war, when more immediate preoccupations were pressing on us. Secondly, that Frenchmen will be—to employ the most reticent form—utterly astounded to read, in the most important British weekly, having a large distribution in the Near East, that we are inclined to adopt towards the Arabs an attitude "wholly inconsistent with the principles underlying the League of Nations." Where is the foundation of this accusation? You often complain—and with reason—of the tone of a part of the French Press. Surely you ought not to fall into the same *travers*.

Though we are faced in Syria with a particularly difficult problem, among a bewildering complex of creeds, rites and races—though we are struggling with a situation which we inherited, and have to fight in Cilicia—we have managed to start a general plan of administration which takes into account, as far as possible, the rights of every important group, whether religious or ethnographic, proportionately to their importance. The Moslems of Damascus, and the Moslems of Aleppo (you had yourselves forseen *two Emirates*), the Christian of the Lebanon, the hill-tribes of the Nosairiyeh, and the Druse of the Hauran, each has had his right recognised, as far as strict justice is reconcilable with a working administration and with common-sense. We have nowhere, that I know, conceived, or applied, a system implicating that a local majority should be submitted to the will, or governed in the interest of, or gradually superseded by the encouraged immigration from the outside of a local minority, however respectable may be its claims.

Justice is an old—and, I think, on the whole, justified—boast of our nation. As was recalled at the Congrès Française de la Syrie, held in January, 1919, in Marseilles (whose connection with Syria dates back to the twelfth century), an old Arab author of the thirteenth or fourteenth century, wrote that the Moslems often left the lands under the yoke of the Emirs to come and live under "the Franks, in whose justice one could have confidence." And it was another Arab, Abd-el-Kader, who though beaten and exiled by us from Algeria, at Damascus, helped us to save the Christians at the time of the massacres of 1860. It is principally to his honour, of course; but perhaps it does not speak badly either for his former victors and their treatment of Arabs.

We have some knowledge of the Arabs; and, with due regard to the differences between Algiers and Damascus, we think we have not handled them so badly; and we have the proof of it during the war. That part played by the Arabs in the municipalities and in the Algerian Delegations; our recent extension of their political rights, can compare, we think, not unfavourably with the political rights accorded up to now, say, to the *fellah* in Egypt. The Arabic studies of our University at Algiers; the achievements of General Lyautey and the officers and civilians under his guidance in Morocco; and even of Frenchmen working privately in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, can be put forward without fear as an example of intelligent effort towards the comprehension of creeds, racial characteristics, and social organisations differing from our own. No other nation that I know of can boast of a *Père de Foucault*, a voluntary exile among the Touaregs, whose sole method of religious propaganda was the example of his life, without any *Preaching*

at all, and who was mourned by the tribesmen as a saint, though a Roumi.

It is strange that—on the ground of political liberty (and the question stands largely on a political ground)—it should be so often lost sight of that we have Negro deputies in the French Parliament. It is not a glaring fact that (if I may so express myself), but it ought to make people from the outside, especially friends, turn their pen at least seven times in their inkstand before they launch out such unwarrantable attacks as the one I am replying to.

To accuse us of being inclined to adopt, against any one, and especially towards politically weak races, an "attitude wholly inconsistent with the principles underlying the League of Nations" is (I am sorry to be constrained to use the term) a calumny; but it can leave perfectly calm the Nation of the Rights of Man. As I had the opportunity to point out in a recent lecture (December 1) in the University of Manchester, France is a very old protagonist indeed of the idea of the Society of Nations and of International peace in the foundation of justice. We had our working plan of the League ready by the end of 1917—more than a year before you—and, as I also made bold to prophesy on the same occasion: "I should not be astonished if the final wording of the pact, when the United States come in, as they must and certainly mean to, closely resembled the French scheme of 1917—which, for a country who is sometimes accused of not wishing the success of this great design, would not be a bad achievement."

As to the spirit in which we view the principles of the League of Nations, the way they were expounded by our delegates in Geneva, as clear as it was eloquent, and the part played by MM. Léon Bourgeois, Viviani and Hanotaux on the occasion was, I think I may say without undue pride and in perfect truth, second to none, as was the part our representative played in the great Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907. M. Léon Bourgeois' book: "La Société des Nations," now dates more than ten years back.

For an honest application to non-Europeans of the principles of gradual self-government, for the foundation of schools, and the diffusion of modern learning among alien races for the levelling up, as you say, you can count on the French. We are even perhaps apt to overdo things a little. The phrase I have protested against is the more objectionable.—I am, etc.,

HENRI BRENIER.

THE EGYPTIAN SITUATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of the 20th inst., Mr. Ormsby-Gore questions my description of Egypt as a Crown Colony, and, strictly speaking, he is, of course, right, as, while Cyprus was annexed, Egypt was only declared a Protectorate. But the Powers having accepted our Protectorate at Versailles, I thought that I was justified in stating that we started "from a Crown Colony basis." I meant, of course, as regards the Capitulations. At least, Sir Valentine Chirol told us, in the articles he contributed to *The Times*, that in declaring Egypt a Protectorate "the British Government were anxious to prove their desire, whilst bringing Egypt within the fold of the British Empire, to leave room for her future development on lines congenial to her people in the large commonwealth of nations that formed the British Empire." If at the time of the armistice this "desire" on the part of the Government had been further demonstrated by the reception of an Egyptian Delegation in London, or the despatch of a Milner to Egypt, what a lot of bloodshed and loss would have been saved! But to return to our declaration of a Protectorate: if it does not mean that we are free from the Capitulations, what does it mean? All the years I was in Egypt I understood that the declaration of a Protectorate would have freed us from the many troubles we were subject to owing to the Capitulations. But, judging from Sir Malcolm McIlwraith's articles in the *Fortnightly*, we must still go hat in hand to all the Powers for the approval of any legislation which affects Europeans. If this is so, all I can say is that we had much better have annexed Egypt when we annexed Cyprus; we could then have started out to grant self-government "on lines congenial to her people." But if a Protectorate means nothing, why is it that Tunisians and Algerians in Egypt are recognised as French subjects?—I am, etc.,

Biarritz, January 23.

COLES PASTA.

It is officially announced from Rangoon that all the villages in the Chin hills which took part in the rising in the Haka subdivision of Burma in 1917-18 have now come in, thus completing the submission of this area.

It has been decided to introduce as soon as possible the Gurkha felt hat for wear in peace by Gurkhas, Gharwalis, Kumaonis, men of the 2-73rd Malabar Infantry and units recruited in Burma with the exception of Kachins. The pagrees or pith hats in possession of these men will then be withdrawn.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Greece.

In the *Contemporary Review* for January, Professor Arnold J. Toynbee has an interesting article on "The Revulsion in Greece." He writes as one who was surprised by the result of the recent elections, and in asking the question, "What is going to happen now?" suggests that "the policy of the Allies will not determine, but, on the contrary, will be determined by, the local course of events in the region concerned." He proceeds:—

The Allied Governments' power of action in the Near East is at present feeble, for two reasons. In the first place, they have left the physical enforcement of the Treaty with Turkey to be determined by a trial of strength between the Greek forces in Anatolia and the Turkish Nationalist forces of Mustapha Kemal. Except for the garrison at Constantinople and the naval patrols, there are no Allied forces on the spot. The Allied Governments could persuade their citizen-soldiers to keep watch on the Rhine; they could not, and cannot, persuade them in any considerable numbers to volunteer for campaigns in the Near East after the termination of the Great War in Western Europe. Besides, every particle of military force which the Allied Governments have been able to muster in the Near East since the armistice with Turkey has been devoted, as far as possible, to war with the Bolsheviks, and the ill-success and unpopularity of these adventures in Russia have made it virtually impossible for them now to demand efforts from their people for dealing with Turkey, no matter how legitimate or how necessary in our own self-interest such efforts might be demonstrated to be. A few months ago, when the Turkish Nationalists were on the point of gaining military command over the Straits and Constantinople, the Allied Governments could only avert the blow by sanctioning a Greek offensive. And now they are no more able than they were then to impose their will in the Near East by military action of their own. If they had vetoed Constantine's return to the throne (they have wisely refrained from doing so), they could not have driven him out of Athens, once he had arrived there by aeroplane, by military force. If they had decided to revise the Treaty of Sèvres by decree from London or Paris, they could not have compelled the Greeks to evacuate Thrace or Western Anatolia. And having left the Treaty alone, at any rate for the moment, they will equally be unable to maintain it by force of arms, supposing it is violated in Western Anatolia (as it has been already in Armenia) by a successful military offensive on the part of the Turkish Nationalists. True, the Allied Governments possess, and are already exercising, the power of the purse, and hold in reserve the powers of blockade and of widespread diplomatic influence. These are tremendous weapons, but their effectiveness depends on time and on unanimity among the parties that wield them. And here we come to the second, and more serious, weakness in the counsels of the Allied Governments. Their joint diplomatic publications cover profound differences of aim and view. To put these differences very crudely, the French Government are pro-Turk, the Italian Government anti-Greek, the British Government pro-Venizelos, with a suspension of judgment about a Greece with other leaders. The French Government are pro-Turk for the same reason as their own French predecessors, as well as other Governments, before them. They are speculating on economic advantages, and they have discovered that if you elect to have Russia's enmity you are bound to seek Turkey's friendship. The Italian Government are anti-Greek, not from any irremediable race-hatred, but because they regard the rise of a new Mediterranean Power to the East of them with the same jealousy with which the recent rise of Italy herself has at times been regarded by France. The British Government are pro-Venizelos because British statesmen and high officials have admired his qualities

and succumbed to his charm—so unaffectedly that they have failed to reckon with the possibility of his disappearance from the scene. The *communiqués* regarding the inter-Allied Conferences that have already taken place enable us to prophesy with some assurance what line the resolution of these divergent forces will follow. The British Government will prevent the French and Italian Governments from formally revising the Treaty of Sèvres, coming to terms with the Turkish Nationalists, and giving them open countenance and support. The French and Italian Governments will prevent the British Government (supposing the British Government itself were inclined to such a course) from lending Mr. Rhalli the same financial and diplomatic support for the military enforcement of the Treaty as has been lent to Mr. Venizelos. The result will be that all three Allied Powers will incur the resentment of both the Greek and the Turkish peoples, and that the issue will be decided between the Greeks and Turks themselves, with no—or no avowed—help or hindrance from outside. Hence, what is happening in the Near East is of much greater political importance than what is happening in the Foreign Offices over here. If the Greek front in Anatolia breaks, the Treaty of Sèvres will revise itself in proportion to the change in the military situation. If the Greek front holds, the Treaty, in substance, will stand.

He then analyses the causes of the defeat of M. Venizelos, classifying them under three heads: the personal factor, the national factor, and the long mobilisation. And, in conclusion, he suggests a *via media* between Greece and Turkey.

It is, undoubtedly, unjust and impolitic for the Allied Governments to revise the Treaty over the Greek Government's head, whether they do it avowedly or by the indirect and more disingenuous method which they have chosen. But there is much to be said for a direct arrangement between the principal parties concerned, and there is a good precedent for this in the recent Adriatic settlement. The impracticable Treaty of London between Italy and the "Principal Allied Powers," to which the Yugoslavs were not a party, was in many ways parallel to the Treaty of Sèvres, which the Turkish Nationalists refuse to recognise. Is there not a case for a Greco-Turkish Treaty of Rapallo? Freedom of economic access to the port of Smyrna is as vital to Turkish Anatolia as access to Fiume is to Yugoslavia and Hungary. In both cases all the railways from the interior converge upon this one outlet on the coast. On the other hand, the large Greek population intermingled with the Turkish population along the Anatolian coastline has at least as strong a claim to national recognition as the much smaller Italian element on the eastern shores of the Adriatic. So long as the Greek front in Anatolia is intact, Greece is in a strong position for making a fair bargain, while her own decision in the elections and the subsequent withdrawal of Allied support are a warning to her that the situation cannot long continue in her favour. In abandoning a Treaty which her electors have pronounced to be a military burden beyond her strength, Greece might secure invaluable compensations: the security of her national minorities scattered through Anatolia, whom she can never hope to include in her own frontiers, however ambitiously drawn; and the trade of the Anatolian hinterland, which is the natural appanage of the maritime Power in the Aegean, and not of those Powers which have assigned themselves "spheres of economic interest" in Anatolia by the Tripartite Treaty which supplements the Treaty of Sèvres. The advantages to be expected by the Turks from a direct discussion with the Greeks are too obvious to need mention; but, apart from the immediate advantages to both parties in such an arrangement, there are wider and more permanent common interests which it would serve.

The underlying cause of the misfortunes of the Near Eastern peoples has been the intrigue and intervention of Great Powers from outside, and though since the Armistice these Powers have changed most of the lines and colours on the Near Eastern map, their own disturbing influence has been maintained. In fact, the settlement of 1918-20 has left the Near East in the condition in which Germany and Italy were left by the settlement of 1914-15, as a mosaic of independent States with impossible frontiers, mutually hostile, and lending themselves, as satellites, to the more dangerous mutual hostilities of the Great Powers around. This evil was removed in Germany and Italy during the nineteenth century by successful movements towards economic and political unification, which not only benefited those countries themselves, but eliminated a great danger to the peace of the world. In the twentieth century a similar movement towards unity in the Near East is surely inevitable. The "Little Entente" is a good beginning. Cannot Greece and Turkey fall into line?

The Greeks in Asia.

The *Glasgow Herald* of January 18 has an article on the obscure news that is filtering through concerning the doings of the Greeks against the Turks in Asia Minor. Upon the reported retreat of the Greeks it says:—

If the news of the Greek collapse is true it means that there is no fighting force on the spot to oppose the Kemalists, and that the attempt to counteract the Nationalist rebellion by Greek offensives has failed. In other words, there is nothing to prevent a real attempt to realise the Pan-Turkish dream. This is a serious situation not merely for our outposts in Middle Asia, but for the whole influence of Europe in the Islamic world, and may well portend an aggressive Islamic campaign that will convulse all Asia to the Chinese frontiers. And yet the sole contribution to the formation of an Allied policy is the declaration of the Rome Cabinet that no offensive action shall be undertaken to enforce the Sèvres Treaty!

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MUSICAL NOTES.

A New English Violinist.

It was under the above title that Mr. Alfred Barker gave (with Miss Minnie Hamblett as pianist) a recital at the Wigmore Hall on January 19. But of all creatures in the world the musical critic is probably the last to be caught by novelties; certainly his pleasures come as much from memories as from anticipations. Yet it was obvious at once that Mr. Barker is an experienced fiddler, with a technique which, though not impeccable, is fluent, a tone which is sometimes rich and always good, and a musical sense which generally informed sound interpretations. But his temperamental control is curiously uncertain; there were times in Elgar's sonata, especially in the middle movement, when a hurried scampering over the *accelerando* passages quite wrecked the dignity of his playing; and some wantonly careless work in a Bach concerto obscured the exquisite joinery of the whole thing. It is true that neither in the sonata nor in the concerto was he helped by his pianists, but for their deficiencies he was at least partly responsible. Mr. Barker is much above the ordinary run of recitalists, but at present his temperament appears to allow him only inconsistently to realise his potentialities.

From Miss Hamblett's poor work in the Elgar sonata, poor in accuracy, sympathy, and above all in rhythm, I should never have guessed that she could have showed such verve as a soloist. But there was any amount of spirit in her playing of pieces by Max Reger, Paul Juon, and E. D. Bancroft; except for the fact that she demonstrated where she should have suggested, these trifles were as well done as you might have wished.

An Ambitious Pianist.

There is much more virtue than is sometimes supposed in the choice of a good programme, and the selection by Mr. Lloyd Powell at his recital at the Wigmore Hall on January 20 of Bach, Couperin, Dandrien, Ireland, Chopin, Schubert-Liszt, Debussy, Howells, and Brahms-Paganini, showed that his ambitions, at any rate, were out of the common. The big works were John Ireland's fine Sonata in E minor, and the colossal variations of Brahms in a theme by Paganini (2nd set)—works which alone are almost sufficient to tire the ordinary pianist. Mr. Powell played these composers in the order given, and after the Ireland his playing suffered. Already, however, he had proved his worth: I liked well, for instance, his interpretation of Bach's "Wachet Auf" prelude (Busoni's transcription), except that he brought out the air, as do most young pianists, too prominently; and Dandrien's "Les Tourbillons" was brilliant in its delicacy. His reading, too, of Ireland's Sonata was both honest and heroic; there was a little narrowness in the slow movement, but on the whole its grand spaciousness was well represented. In a group of Chopin studies he caught the fancy of his audience, but there was certainly nothing remarkable about his playing here; rather the reverse, for wrong notes in Chopin are of much more grievous consequence than, say, in Ireland, and his indulgence in these could not be called conservative. Nearly all Schubert-Liszt things are rather boring; certainly in "The Erlking" and in "Hark, Hark, the Lark!" it is Liszt the pianist, not Liszt the musician, who is uppermost. Mr. Powell again played very well in Debussy's "Reflets sur l'eau" and in Herbert Howells' "Procession," but in the Brahms-Paganini, his bad pedalling, which was earlier shown in the Ireland, was the least of his sins. None but the greatest should in public attempt these variations; they are a test in which all but the Busonis and Lamonds are beaten before they start to play.

ANDANTE.

At a recent billiards match, played at Bombay between Mr. Clark McConachy, the New Zealand champion, and Inspector Baker, of the Bombay Police, Mr. McConachy made a break of 870.

The Governor of Malta has received a despatch from the Colonial Secretary expressing the desirability of the estimates for the ensuing financial year being framed, if possible, by the new Government. As the estimates must be passed before the end of March, it is thought that the establishment of responsible government in the island is imminent.

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THE LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

Cardinal Camassei, formerly Patriarch of Jerusalem, has died in Rome of angina pectoris shortly after celebrating Mass.

Monsignor Felipe Cumassei, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, was born at Rome, September 14, 1848. His early life was uneventful, and there is nothing of importance to chronicle in it until his election to the Archbishopric of Naksos in March, 1904. Here he worked for two years, until in 1906, to the undisguised surprise of himself and everybody else, he was appointed to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The aged Patriarch, Mons. Ludovico Piavi, had been for years in very feeble health, hardly ever able to go out even in a closed carriage. With his growing weakness the Franciscans, already the most powerful of the Latin monastic bodies in Jerusalem, had become practically supreme in everything, and it was no secret that they desired the appointment of one of their own order as Patriarch. Directly Mons. Piavi was dead, the seething discontent of the other orders flared up, all uniting to oppose the election of any nominee of the Franciscans. The Patriarchate remained vacant, and eventually the Pope intervened, and himself nominated a man who had no connection with any religious party at Jerusalem, and of whom all that was known was good. Mons. Cumassei was elected to this unenviable dignity on December 6, 1906. He had not schemed for it, nor wished for it; he was not willing to go.

He was plunged straightway into the stormy sea of Latin religious life in the Holy City. There was a good deal of jealousy, open and hidden, amongst the different orders; some were actually older foundations than others, some were older in the Holy Land; there were many nationalities represented in each House, and the whole situation was extremely difficult for a new-comer to grasp. The Patriarch was full of kindness; he honestly tried to deal fairly and impartially with all, but he was in no sense a strong man, and he was too sincere by nature to try to play off one order against another. In his anxious study of the many problems he was confronted with, it seemed to him that the native members of his Church were not always fairly dealt with by the monks. This is unfortunately only too true. The Latin Syrians have become terribly inert and dependent under the monkish system of doles of bread and free rooms; to struggle means to lose these advantages, and the few who have made any real stand against the oppressive rule of the monks have suffered severely for it. There was a good deal of discontent amongst the Latin Syrians, and Mons. Cumassei, by trying to better their lot, fell under their sway in a curious manner, but did not succeed in achieving any real reform. This brought him into disfavour with the monks generally, and he had not sufficient personality to impress himself upon either party.

He was a man of simple tastes and habits, and very kind-hearted. He was always accessible to his people, and was genuinely anxious to serve them. Probably he would have made a better parish priest than Patriarch of such a vexed place as Jerusalem. He saw the need for reform, but he was not strong enough to bring about any changes. To the end he kept up the curious custom of celebrating Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for the Franciscans three times each Lent, for which he received the sum of £50 after each service. But his natural goodness of heart won him a certain respect, and the Syrians as a whole liked him very much, though they were disappointed that he had not succeeded in doing more for them. It was one of his Syrian people who described him as "a very kind man, but a cipher." Probably no one was better aware of his failure, nor felt it more, than the forlorn Patriarch himself.

PALESTINE HONOURS SIR A. MOND.

A Jerusalem wire received by the Jewish Correspondence Bureau states:—

"The Council of Jerusalem Jews gave a reception to Dr. Chaim Weizman and Sir Alfred Mond on January 18. All the most representative Jews of Jerusalem were present, including Rabbi Myer, Rabbi Kuk, Mr. David Yellin, President of the Town Council, and Mr. M. Ussichkin, all of whom addressed the meeting. Sir Alfred Mond replied in a glowing speech, in which he said that Palestine was a land of great possibilities, and that no power on earth could hinder the Jews from building up their national home. In Palestine there was room to spare for a national home, and also for a flourishing Arab Commonwealth.

"Dr. Weizman and Sir Alfred Mond have now left Jerusalem for a tour of the Jewish colonies."

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OLD BAGHDAD: SOME PRE-WAR MEMORIES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

It may be asserted without fear of contradiction that before the war Baghdad and Mesopotamia were unknown to the Man-in-the-Street, or were at best associated in his mind only with dim memories of the "Arabian Nights" or—strange contrast!—the Bible. The war has done much to change all this, and to-day thousands of men who served in "Mesopotamia" know the land and its people far better than they know other lands and other peoples nearer home, and like or—more commonly—dislike them, according to their personal experience. Necessarily, they saw the country and the Arabs under abnormal conditions; Baghdad of the war period must have been, and Baghdad of to-day must be, a very different city from the Baghdad of Turkish rule. But the pre-war Baghdad had attractions of its own for some of us, and perhaps the following reminiscences of the old city may be of interest to some of those citizens of the Empire who made its acquaintance only yesterday, so to speak. Perhaps, too, they may recall some not unpleasant memories to others who, like myself, knew the place more than a quarter of a century ago.

With the aid of one of those Jann who in former days were so active in Baghdad, and, indeed, all over Irak-el-Arabi, let us, then, put back the hands of the clock some twenty or twenty-five years, and picture ourselves, having passed up the Persian Gulf, at Busreh, en route for Baghdad. We are inevitably impressed by the palm-lined Shatt-el-Arab, the great river formed by the junction at Gurnah (or Kurna) of the Tigris and the Euphrates; but we soon learn that the palms do not extend beyond the junction in this fashion, and that most of our river journey is to be through a barren enough land. We learn also that if we are wise we shall choose to travel by one of the English steamers plying on the river; and we act accordingly, ignoring the Turkish-owned boats and embarking on one that flies the Red Ensign.

Passengers, the mails, and cargo all being aboard, we start, steaming up the magnificent broad stretch of the united rivers until we arrive at Gurnah, where we enter the Tigris. The first stopping-place of importance is the "Tomb of the Prophet Ezra," which is built of blue and white tiles, and is thickly surrounded by date palms. It looks highly picturesque from the river as you are approaching it, but, like many places in the East, on close inspection it turns out to be tawdry and disappointing. The tomb itself is an oblong structure about 10 ft. high, 12 to 14 ft. long, and 6 ft. wide, and is covered in cedar wood. The panels of this great box were split and broken when I visited it, and the broken places had been used by pilgrims to the shrine as a sort of post-box, and were simply crammed with letters, petitions, and manuscripts addressed to the Prophet.

After leaving Ezra's Tomb we continue our voyage to Amarah. This we find to be a town of some importance, indeed, the most important on the Tigris until we reach Baghdad. It does an important grain trade, and exports large quantities of wool annually. There is a sect settled here known as "Subbies"—I forget of whom they claim to be the followers—who are most excellent silversmiths, able to copy any pattern you give them. They have a method of oxidising silver which they claim is known only

to themselves, and by them it is treasured as a secret, very jealously guarded and handed down from father to son.

The voyage after leaving Amarah lacks in interest slightly. On either side there appears arid desert, stretching as far as the eye can reach, and broken only by some straggling Arab encampments. But, should the atmospheric conditions prove favourable, you may see, away in the East, a sight that is worth going far to see. There, lying far away in the distance, stretched like the back of a gigantic whale, you see the mighty range of the Bakhtiari Mountains running across Persia, their tops clad in snow, which assumes the most tender shades of delicate colouring under the rays of the setting sun, and offers a picture equal to any that the most ardent or imaginative painter or poet could conceive.

The next place we come to is Kut, rendered famous by Townshend's memorable defence of it during the war. Here wool, gall, and gum are the staple sources of trade with the natives, and very important quantities are handled and shipped annually to India and England. Bales of Manchester goods are sent here direct, or re-shipped from Baghdad. These are sold readily to the Arab tribes whose encampments lie away back in the desert.

After Kut another thirty hours' steaming up river brings us to Baghdad. Approaching the city soon after sunrise, you can almost imagine you are coming to some fairyland. The sun shines on picturesque domed mosques and daintily pointed minarets, with airy galleries for the Muezzin, picked out in dark blue, white, and gold. It all appears too delicate, too fragile to be real. Alas! the illusion is cruelly dissipated when you arrive at your destination, and the steamer is anchored safely alongside the Baghdad Custom House.

Now your troubles commence. Customs officials, *hamals* (porters), *gouphagis*, boatmen and idlers come swarming on board, and unless you have someone to look after you you are pestered by the importunate on all sides. Your sense of smell, too, is assailed by odours with which one only meets in the East, most of which are far from fragrant.

At last you reach the bazaars. What a motley crowd! Arabs, Persians, Turks, Kurds, Chaldeans, Hindoos, Parsees—in fact, you may see representatives of every Eastern nationality under the sun. What a din! Shouts of "Barek!" ("Make way—Look out!") mingle with the noise of the water-carriers, clinking their metal cups against the earthen water jar and shouting "Moy! Moy!" ("Water! Water!") and a host of other cries. The big white donkeys for which Baghdad is noted come ambling by with heavy loads poised carelessly on their backs, held in position only by their equally careless drivers. It is a case of keeping a sharp look-out in order to avoid an unpleasant bump or more serious accident. And then the flies! One wonders whether the "grievous swarms of flies" mentioned in the eighth chapter of Exodus found a resting-place in Baghdad when they were "removed from Pharaoh."

There is one fairly good road in Baghdad which, starting at the North Gate, runs through the city to the South Gate. It is broad, and is kept cleaner than any of the others. But in the residential quarters the streets are very narrow. The closely-latticed windows of the houses, which jut out from the main walls about 8 or 10 ft. above the street level, very often nearly meet similar windows in the house opposite. Indeed, if the inhabitants be on friendly terms they sit in these windows, which have deep recesses covered with cushions, and talk to each other across the street as freely as if they were sitting in the same room together.

The hot weather usually sets in about the middle of May and lasts until the end of October. During those months

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you live in the underground rooms of your house, called "serdarbs," and derive some comfort from a punkah. Soon after sunset you go on the housetop, and there you dine. If the "shemal" be blowing, it is cool and pleasant; but should the wind be southerly you suffer much discomfort. At such times all sorts of uninvited guests swarm to your table—mosquitoes, sandflies, beetles, locusts, and a large green fly known as the "praying mantis," from the devotional attitude it assumes when feeding. These make you extinguish your lamp and beat a retreat. The best thing to do is to light your pipe, if you indulge in tobacco, crawl under your mosquito net, and go to bed. You can smoke and look up at the stars. They appear to be suspended on threads, hanging from a deep rich indigo-coloured curtain, and you can see distances between them: the flat appearance of a star-lit sky we see here in England is entirely absent in the East.

College. The death of Sir William Mather last September meant the removal of an invaluable member of the committee; and the death of Dr. Chalmers, though he had actually ceased to be a member of the staff some months before, was a great blow to his old friends in Khartoum. Dr. Beam, another valued member of the staff, died in Khartoum in 1919, and the college also lost its senior Egyptian official, Abdul Magid Bey Ibrahim, who had been Headmaster of the Kadis Section for many years.

An innovation which is likely to have excellent results is recorded by Sir Reginald Wingate. As the President and the Principal of the College are usually in England for a short time in the summer, it has been arranged to hold an extra meeting of the Governing Body, at which these officials can be present. As a result of the first of these meetings, steps have been taken to solve the problem of providing accommodation for the staff, the Sudan Government, as usual, doing everything possible to assist the authorities, with the result that a very satisfactory solution of the difficulty has been found.



THE MINARET OF THE MOSQUE JAMA AL-GHAZL, BUILT BY THE KHALIF AL MUSTANSIR A.H. 633 (A.D. 1235). IT IS THE OLDEST AND HIGHEST MINARET IN BAGHDAD.

Reproduced by kind permission of Mr. John Murray, C.F.O., from Sir E. Wallis Budge's book, "By Nile and Tigris," which was reviewed in "The Near East," October 21, 1920.

But, alas! it is not all calm and peace. Silence is broken by cries and noises from the city. The howling and barking of the pariah dogs; people quarrelling in the streets; women mourning and wailing their dead or shrieking as they sit around the bed of someone in *extremis* under the impression that by so doing they may be able to scare away "the dreaded one with the scythe."

Notwithstanding all these inimical influences, tired nature asserts herself in the end, and you fall into a troubled sleep, to be awakened just before dawn by the loud cry of the Muezzin, standing high up in the minaret of the mosque just near, calling the Faithful to prayers. You again fall asleep, but a little later are awakened by an imperious master—whom you dare not disregard—the sun. His majesty turns you out of your bed, whether you will or no. You go down to the coolest room in the house and have your morning tea, which you appreciate greatly after a long hot night on the housetop that has been far from restful.

GORDON COLLEGE, KHARTOUM.

The eighteenth annual report of the Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum, carries on the tale of good work unostentatiously done that has been told by previous reports. As the Chairman, Sir Reginald Wingate, remarks in his covering note: "As regards primary education, the standard, in spite of war difficulties, has been more than maintained, whilst real progress is reported in the sphere of elementary vernacular education . . ."; and again, in touching on the research work: "In spite of many setbacks consequent on the war much valuable work has been accomplished." Gordon College, in fact, since its foundation has done wonders and difficulties and setbacks seem to exercise on it a positively stimulating effect.

The report has to record some heavy losses sustained by the

Mr. Crowfoot, the Principal, is able to report that the vacancies in the staff, caused by the transfers of three officials, have all been filled by the promotion of "men born and bred in the Sudan." He adds: "As an illustration of the greater part which the latter are now playing in the country, and the resultant widening of the influence of the college, it may be mentioned that whereas the inspectorate of this department consisted in 1914 of one British official and three Egyptians, it now consists of two British inspectors, one Egyptian, and two from the Sudan. In the provinces the change is proceeding even more rapidly." Again we read: "The influence of the college is not confined to the Sudan. As an upshot of a visit paid us by the Commissioner for British Somaliland, the Colonial Office decided to send six boys, the sons of prominent Somali Sheikhs, to be trained in the Gordon College for future service in their own country. The boys arrived with two of the parents towards the end of December, and although their knowledge of Arabic is weak, they are already well reported on. The Resident of Bornu also visited the college last year with the object of selecting teachers to start a school for the Arab tribes of North-Eastern Nigeria, but, although several volunteered at first for the work, it was found impossible ultimately to induce them to leave their families, and the project has been for the time regretfully abandoned."

The prefectorial system has been further extended in the college, with results that seem to justify the experiment. The Boy Scouts are living up to their high reputation; and the College Dramatic Society "continues to give performances in Arabic once a month, and the plays, which are very cleverly written and acted, are attended by large audiences, and are very much appreciated. The authors are three boys of 16 and 17 years of age." The industrial workshops have overcome the difficulties caused by the war, and "with new developments taking place in many parts of the country we are temporarily faced with more requests for skilled labour than we can meet. Mr. Rhodes reports that over 300 boys trained in his workshops are now working for Government, and another 100 are known to be satisfactorily employed elsewhere."

In a word, the College and the Sudan are both making progress, and the report is one of the most satisfactory we have read.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

January 27 (New Style).
January 14 (Old Style).
Jumada 1, 17, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Shebat 18, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Dawson of Penn is leaving London to-day for Algiers.

M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, has returned to Sofia from his European tour.

Dr. Masaryk, President of Czecho-Slovakia, has been promoted M.A. in the University of Zagreb.

Colonel Leslie Wilson, M.P., and Mrs. Leslie Wilson left London last week for Paris en route for Algiers.

At the last meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Miss Gertrude L. Bell was elected Fellow.

Dr. Frederick Lasbrey, of Old Cairo, has been awarded the French Medal of the Reconnaissance Francaise.

M. Niclas Michel Vladesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, returned to London last week from Paris.

The Emperor of Japan has conferred upon Field-Marshal Lord Allenby the Order of the Rising Sun (First-class).

Prince Nicolas of Roumania has returned to England from the Continent, and has resumed his studies at Eton.

Prince Paul of Serbia took the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts at Oxford University on January 20.

Mr. James Dixon, late Inspector-General of the Burmese Police, of 7, St. Albans Road, Kensington, W., left property valued at £37,174.

Lord Reading, the new Viceroy, and Lady Reading will sail for India from Marseilles on March 19. They will leave London on March 17.

Sir Donald Campbell Johnstone, of The Nook, Holford Road, Hampstead, N.W., formerly Chief Judge of the Punjab, afterwards of Cairo, left £10,033.

M. W. M. Petrovitch, Secretary to the Yugoslav Ministry of Education, and formerly Secretary at the Legation here, has arrived in London from Belgrade.

Lieutenant-General Sir Philip Chetwode and Lady Chetwode have left 7, Sussex Place, and moved to 20, Sussex Place, Regent's Park, which is now their permanent address.

Colonel Frederick de Bude Young, 22nd Lancers, Indian Army, of the Devonshire Club, S.W., founder of the Comrades of the Great War, who died in King's College Hospital, left £5,820.

At a recent meeting of the Senate of London University thanks were accorded to the Serbian Government for a grant of £250 a year towards the maintenance of a Serbian lecturer at King's College.

Major-General J. R. Vaughan, Commandant, Staff College, Quetta, sailed from Marseilles last week by the P. and O. steamer "Malwa" for India. Mrs. Vaughan and her daughter will not leave for India until the spring.

Mrs. Hugh Poynter's "Around the Shores of Asia" is on the point of publication, and may, indeed, have made its appearance by the time these lines are in print. Her second book, "When Turkey was Turkey," will probably be published in March.

The marriage of Eliezer Yellin, eldest son of Mr. David Yellin, O.B.E., Vice-President of the Municipality of Jerusalem, with Thelma, daughter of Mr. Herbert Bentwich, of 21, Cavendish Road West, N.W.8, will take place at Jerusalem on March 15.

It has been decided to raise funds for a memorial in the Kohat Church to Colonel T. H. Foulkes, of the Indian Medical Service, and Mrs. Foulkes, who were shot by tribesmen last November. Subscriptions may be sent to the agent, Alliance Bank of Simla, Lahore.

Mr. Frank Watson Shaw, of Russley, Wokingham, Berks, and Bombay, India, who died at Minehead on August 22, has left estate of the value of £96,456. Probate is granted to his brother Alexander Moore Shaw, of West George Street, Glasgow. The testator leaves the whole of the property to his wife absolutely.

The Cunard liner Aquitania left Liverpool on January 22 for New York with nearly 3,000 passengers. Among the passengers were Prince Bibesco, lately appointed Roumanian Minister at Washington, and Princess Bibesco, daughter and son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Asquith, the latter of whom journeyed to Liverpool to bid them good-bye.

In memory of Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. L. Edwards, King's Royal Rifles, late Military Secretary to the Sirdar, a service was held in Khartoum Cathedral on December 31 last. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Khartoum and Cairo, the Right Rev. Llewellyn Gwynne. Among those at the service were the Sirdar and Lady Stack, the brother officers of Colonel Edwards, and a number of Moslem officers, who attended to pay respect "to the memory of one whom they loved."

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Mirza Abdul-Ghaffar Khan, Counsellor of the Persian Legation in London, has been appointed Persian Minister in Stockholm.

Mohammed Ali Khan has been appointed Counsellor to the Persian Legation in London. He was formerly First Secretary to the Legation in Petrograd.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (January 9):—M. Naum, the Greek Minister at Bucharest, has been called to Athens to give certain information. It is rumoured that he will not return to Bucharest, being suspected by the new Greek Government of having pro-Venizelist views. For the time being, the Greek Government will send M. Theotokis, son of the former Prime Minister and former Minister at Berlin (one of those who followed King Constantine into exile). This gentleman is coming on an extraordinary mission to attend the Royal Weddings, after which he will probably be appointed Minister at Bucharest.

OBITUARY.

A telegram from Bombay announces the death of the Hon. Rao Bahadur Mudholkar, C.I.E., member of the Central Provinces Legislative Council.

The death has occurred at Felpham, near Bognor, of Lady Birdwood, widow of Sir George Birdwood, the eminent Anglo-Indian. She was eighty-nine years of age.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (January 3):—Social circles received a great shock last week in the news of the death of Mme. R. Rolo, which occurred while she was dancing at her house on Boxing Night. Mme. Rolo was a well-known figure in Cairo society, and was Mistress of the Robes to her Highness the Sultana. Her funeral was

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attended by representatives of the Sultan and the High Commissioner, and by a very large number of European and Egyptian notables.

Sir Arthur George Macpherson, K.C.I.E., formerly a Judge of the High Court of Calcutta, has died at Exmouth at the age of 92. In 1859 he was made first Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Three years later, after the passing of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, he was elected as the first Legislative Secretary to the Government of Bengal and on occasion acted as Under-Secretary in the Legislative Department of the Government of India. He was appointed to the Calcutta High Court Bench in 1865, and held the position with general acceptance for a dozen years, also at one period as Acting Chief Justice. He was made Legal Adviser to the Secretary of State for India in 1869, and three years later Secretary of the Judicial and Public Department of the India Office.

NEW STAMPS FOR 1921.

The following are extracts from an article in *The Times* of January 13 under the above heading:—

Several long-delayed issues are due to make their appearance early in 1921, notably the first unified stamps for Yugoslavia, a permanent issue for Palestine, and a picturesque issue for Italian Tyrol. A centenary issue will be that which marks the 100 years' freedom of Greece from the Turkish yoke. New stamps for Syria under the French mandate, for the Spanish air-post service, and for Bessarabia are also announced for early issue.

The first and probably the last definite postage stamps of the Armenian Republic reached London this week, comprising the values 3 roubles green, 5 roubles red, and 10 roubles blue, handsomely engraved and recess-printed in Paris with the device of an eagle carrying a short sword and trampling upon a viper. The same design is common to all values, and those originally prepared, with views of Mount Ararat, etc., have not, so far as is known, proceeded beyond the proof stage. The inscriptions are in both English and Arabic.

D'Annunzio's brief tenure of the Croatian islands of Arbe and Veglia will be perpetuated in the stamp album by stamps of the so-called "Legionnaire" series overprinted with the names of the islands for local use, in addition to the superscription "Reggenza Italiana del Carnaro."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Yalta, in the Crimea, has been renamed "Krasnoarmeisk" (Red Army).

According to reports received at Delhi, a satisfactory settlement has been effected with the Afridis.

French Senegalese troops are reported to have been employed to suppress a mutiny among some of General Wrangel's Cossacks at Chatalja.

Over 30,000 deaths were caused by the recent earthquakes in Albania, and there are thousands of refugees in need of shelter, food, and clothing.

According to news from Aden, the dethroned Emperor of Ethiopia, Lij Yasu, has been elected King of Tigre, one of the regions of Abyssinia.

General Gouraud, Commander-in-Chief of the French Army of the Levant, has inaugurated an air mail service between Aleppo and Alexandretta.

Thirty-three village sheikhs have submitted to the French column operating in the recently disturbed area in Syria, and French prisoners have been released.

Mr. Israel Cohen, who has been touring China and Japan on behalf of the Palestine Restoration Fund, has raised £21,000 in those countries, and is now on his way to Java and India.

An appeal is again made for light reading matter for British soldiers in camp and hospital in Mesopotamia and Persia. Newspapers and magazines will be circulated if posted to the Y.M.C.A., Baghdad.

The Armenian Refugees Fund, of 96, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, appeals for funds to relieve the distress of 200,000 Armenians who have fled before the Turkish occupation of the Kars and Alexandropol districts.

The newly-formed Armenian Soviet Government is reported to have sent an ultimatum to the Nationalist Turks demanding their withdrawal to the 1914 frontier, and asking for reparation for damage done and goods pillaged during the recent invasion.

Edhem Bey, operating on his own account against Mustapha Kemal Pasha, is reported to have captured Kutahia on January 11, with two Nationalist division commanders, 600 prisoners, and much material. He is supposed to be contemplating an attack on Eskishehr from the south.

Calcutta taxicab drivers, who are out on strike, refused to resume work, although the Government appointed a special committee to advise upon future regulations. The Government therefore decided to suspend the licences of all drivers who did not return to work by last Saturday.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1921.

FRANCE AND THE ARABS.

In a letter published on another page M. Henri Brenier, who writes with authority on Franco-Syrian affairs, takes exception to the view very widely held in Great Britain that the French attitude towards the Arabs is wholly inconsistent with the principles underlying the League of Nations. He points out that France is an old protagonist of the idea of the League of Nations and of international peace on the foundation of justice, and he cites the successful handling of an Arab population in Algeria. It was very far from our intention in advocating an equitable settlement in the Middle East to suggest that France had not been eminently successful in building up her colonial empire, and, unfortunately M. Brenier entirely ignores the immediate occasion of the remarks to which he takes exception. His silence on the point will confirm many in their belief that the French people as a whole are ignorant of much that has been done in their name in Syria. If we find it necessary to criticise French policy in this particular, it is because it stands out in such sharp contrast with French traditions, because Great Britain is also involved, and because we are convinced that the world will not be able to settle down to a lasting peace if glaring injustices are permitted in Europe or just beyond its borders. In dealing with Syria it would seem as if France were unable to consider the question from any other point of view than that of her pre-war interests. Reference is constantly being made to the amount of French capital invested in the Ottoman Empire; France, it is pointed out, headed the list of countries that received Syrian exports, although no mention is made of the fact that she did not retain this pre-eminence when the whole trade of the country was taken into consideration; France's educational efforts and her religious status are also insisted upon. Before the war the French case would have been above challenge; to-day, in the light of the Allies' declarations and what we have called the spirit of the League of Nations, all these arguments are beside the point if they override the principle of self-determination. That principle, we admit, is capable of being strained *ad absurdum*; but the question that the Allies, and especially the French people, ought to consider is whether the principle does not hold good in the case of the Arab kingdom of Syria.

Syria and Mesopotamia, as M. Brenier recognises, have much in common. To-day, Great Britain as Mandatory Power in the latter is concerned to set up an Arab administration under an Arab ruler. The first step that France took in regard to the exercise of her mandate in Syria was to suppress by force of arms an elected Arab ruler. Officially she is pleased with herself for having done so, and imagines that she has established a hold on Syria after her own liking—mandate, or no mandate—that offers a prospect of making good her pre-war commitments. But it is difficult to believe that this action will conduce to peace in the Middle East, or is in the real interests of France. By the terms of the Anglo-French Declaration of November 11, 1918, the two Powers announced in regard to their

policies in Syria and Mesopotamia that their aim was "the establishment of Governments and national administrations deriving their authority from the initiative and free choice of the indigenous populations," adding that "far from wishing to impose on the populations of these regions any particular institution, they are only concerned to ensure by their support and by adequate assistance the regular working of Governments and administrations freely chosen by themselves." As a result of negotiations extending over 1915 and into 1916, an undertaking was entered into between Great Britain and King Hussein on behalf of the Arabs that Arab jurisdiction should be recognised over an area extending from the Persian Gulf to Cilicia. Lebanon and Beyrout, with its coast, were left to France, but there can be no doubt that both the contracting parties understood that the Eastern portion of Syria, including the towns of Damascus, Homs, Hama and Aleppo, would fall within Arab territory. This point was confirmed after the Armistice by the arrangement which placed these four towns under the administration of the Emir Faisal, while General Allenby remained responsible for the administration of Syria as a whole. Immediately the British troops were withdrawn, however, the French Army, under General Gouraud, would seem to have concentrated its attention on the Eastern zone, with the inevitable result. The position was certainly difficult. The Arabs made no secret of their dislike of the French, and desired that the mandate over them should be in British hands. This was impossible, in view of the agreement between Great Britain and France, entered into after the understanding with King Hussein, but there was good reason to believe that under the conciliatory rule of the Emir Faisal the French mandate would work smoothly. General Gouraud had other aims in view. A military expedition effected the conquest of the eastern zone and the Emir was deposed.

Now, no one will claim that the Arabs were altogether blameless; but it is impossible to read the ultimatum presented to the Damascus Government and to recall that General Gouraud excused his final step on the ground that the Arab acceptance of his terms had not reached him before the expiration of the time-limit (midnight), although it had been handed to the French officer concerned more than six hours previously, without feeling that, whatever may be the policy of the Paris Government or the traditions of France, French action in Syria has been wholly at variance with the spirit and aims which the Allies declared to be theirs in compassing the defeat of Germany and Austria. No amount of successful administration is likely to wipe out the resentment caused by the forceful seizure of Arab territory which French troops previously had neither conquered nor occupied. Unfortunately, the responsibility is not solely France's, nor will be the penalty for the wrong-doing. Great Britain has connived at France's action, with the result that it will go forth throughout the East that the word of the British Government is no longer to be trusted. It is impossible to expect the Arab mind to appreciate the dilemma into which the mis-handling of the whole Near and Middle Eastern problem has brought Great Britain; but we ought at least to have been able to count upon our French Allies not to aggravate an already complicated situation. As things are, it can only be hoped that the necessity of maintaining a large army in Syria will ultimately compel the French people to review the actions of their representatives in that country and to take steps to prevent their mandate becoming the storm-centre of the Middle East.

THE NEAR EAST.

VOLUME XVIII. (JULY 1 — DECEMBER 23, 1920.)

Covers for binding "The Near East," Volume XVIII. six months' issues—July 1-December 23, 1920, green cloth boards, can be had on application to "The Near East" Office, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2. Price, 5s. 6d. post free.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE NEW JERUSALEM." By G. K. Chesterton. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 12s. 6d. net.)

II.—"THE EYE OF ZEITOUN." By Talbot Mundy. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 8s. 6d. net.)

I.—G.K.C. AND JERUSALEM.

There was a time when we hoped that Mr. G. K. Chesterton would write his best book, that the high romance of "Napoleon of Notting Hill," or of "The Man Who Was Thursday," would be fused with the rich imagination of his "Crimes of England," or of his "Short History," that all his brilliance that has blazed on so many things would be concentrated on one subject. And now we know that he will never write a best book. For his style has become too intimately slipshod; his flippancies are too often inevitable; his digressions too often assume gigantic and even important dimensions; and his absolute, though jocular incapacity to keep to the rails, while adding to his charm, detracts, sometimes seriously, from the greatness of his work. In other words, the bubbling flow of his gallant hilarities sometimes muddies the clearer stream of his serious thought.

We accept Mr. Chesterton then for what he is, a real poet, who is sometimes the versifier, a fine writer, whose bad outmeasures, but does not overbalance, his good, and a great journalist who even now has not forgotten the art of "turning out" paragraphs. This said, we may preface this review by remarking, for those who wish it, that there is a surprising amount of information concerning Jerusalem in this book: the author does not, of course, talk on the Holy City, but he does talk about it, and sometimes it is the very centre of his thoughts. This, as we say, is unexpected; but unfortunately, there are also in it the usual and illegitimate things—Guild-Socialism, St. George and the Dragon, Mr. H. G. Wells, Mr. Ezra Pound, Capitalism, The Albert Memorial, Psycho-Analysis—and the other stock topics which, when treated by Mr. Chesterton in a newspaper, are most intriguing, but which are scarcely so breathlessly exciting when found (or rather encountered) in a book on the Holy Land. So that this work, though in many places beautiful, rich, and grand, really is a disappointment. It is true that just criticism is disarmed by the amusing (because obvious) prefatory note that "this book is only an uncomfortably large notebook"; it is true that the conditions under which it was written and produced made proportion and unity almost impossible; but all the same we are, because Mr. Chesterton is so fine a man, and had so fine a subject, disgruntled.

However, having marked down the manifest deficiencies, we have nothing but praise for and agreement with the rest of the book. Illumination of obscure things is here plentiful; explanation of inexcusable matters is generously offered; and the justification of his own elusive position is done perfectly. Some pages are simply profound (G. K. C. would say profoundly simple); and in passing fits of earnest solemnity depths are reached that are movingly mystical. In this mad medley there comes after pages of perhaps cheap reasoning a paragraph of gorgeous sense; after reams of superb philosophical irrelevancies a block of sound psychology. It is one of the delights of "The New Jerusalem" that though one can expect the bad patches, the good ones crop up unexpectedly all over the place. For instance, in a strangely tolerant and rambling chapter on "The Way of the Desert," we find these words on Islam which surely discover the truth, the very core of the matter:—

The philosophy of the desert can only begin over again. It cannot grow; it cannot have what Protestants call progress and Catholics call development. There is death and hell in the desert when it does begin over again. There is always the possibility that a new prophet will rediscover the old truth, will find again written on the red sands the secret of the obvious. But it will always be the same secret, for which thousands of these simple and serious and splendidly valiant men will die. The highest message of Mahomet is a piece of divine tautology. The very cry that God is God is a repetition of words, like the repetitions of wide sands and rolling skies.

On his travels to and from Jerusalem Mr. Chesterton found what he set out to discover; the truth as he conceived it was in him before he started, but the meaning of the truth his fancies while pondering on Jerusalem alone enabled him to disentangle from the maze of facts and lies which enshrouded it. Suddenly and naturally the impulse of the Crusades was made plain to him, the existence of the curious Christians at Jerusalem made intelligible, the reasons of the failure of the Middle Ages given to him. He knew beforehand the phrases which contain the truth, but not until he had actually seen the facts from which the phrases derive did he really understand them. In some

very brilliant writing upon the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, for instance, there occurs this very poetic intuition; he is speaking of the red columns of Constantine in that Church from which goes "the dark stairway" that descends under canopies of rock to the stable where Christ was born:—

Never have I felt so vividly the great fact of our history; that the Christian religion is like a huge bridge across a boundless sea, which alone connects us with the men who made the world, and yet have utterly vanished from the world. To put it curtly and very crudely, on this point alone it was possible to sympathise with a Roman and not merely to admire him. . . . I can never recapture in words the waves of sympathy with strange things that went through me in that twilight of the tall pillars, like giants robed in purple, standing still and looking down into that dark hole in the ground. Here halted that imperial civilisation, when it had marched in triumph through the whole world; here, in the evening of its days, it came trailing in all its panoply in the pathway of the three kings. For it came following not only a falling, but a fallen, star, and one that dived before them into a birthplace darker than a grave. And the lord of the laurels, clad in his sombre crimson, looked down into that darkness, and then looked up, and saw that all the stars in his own sky were dead. They were deities no longer, but only a brilliant dust, scattered down the vain void of Lucretius.

It is in the magnificently rhetorical statement of such verities as these that Mr. Chesterton is without a peer in modern English literature.

To end a review of this book without discussing the author's attitude towards the Jewish problem is impossible. He has for long been reviled and lauded as an anti-Semite—a not very intelligent or intelligible phrase. An anti-Semite properly speaking is one who is hostile to the Jews in any place or form, and Mr. Chesterton's position has, of course, never been within a thousand miles of this. His attitude on this question has been indeed, and is, perfectly consistent and comprehensible, and it is one of the few problems that he has faced fairly and squarely. In Palestine, he points out, there is no "problem" of the Jew; for there he is recognised as a foreigner, as something distinct, for instance, from an Englishman, or a Frenchman, or a Turk. It is in Western Europe that the distinction has been slurred; it is there consequently that the fact that the Jew is a problem has, until recently, been difficult to understand. But events have certainly proved the soundness of Chesterton's position, and the possibility of the realisation of his constant desire "to give Jews the dignity and status of a separate nation," his desire that "so far as possible Jews should be represented by Jews, should live in a society of Jews, should be judged by Jews and ruled by Jews." His plan is to establish groups or cantons of Jews both within and without Palestine. We call this a feasible, a tolerant, and an enlightened plan; but we do not think it will be followed.

This is not the place to speak of the main things in the book; the vivid historical and passionate Christian spirit, the sense of the permanence of the Roman Empire, the confidence in the superiority of Western civilisation, and so on; for all these are the very stuff of Mr. Chesterton's thought, and may be found in almost all his works. But we may say that because rather than in spite of these concepts we meet, not impartiality certainly, for that is a vice which the author never indulged in and which the war has happily helped to kill, but that rare and admirable justice and a sense of the fitness of things which inform all that will survive of this splendid writer.

II.—ROMANCE IN ARMENIA.

Mr. Talbot Mundy has devised a good plot, in which he arranges that three Englishmen, an American, an American girl, and a Sikh who has turned Mohammedan shall all help Kagig, the chief and "Eye of Zeitoun," and his people in the defence of that mountain stronghold in Armenia

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against the cruel onslaught of the Turks. And the people whom he has chosen to carry out his plot also seem just right.

But, except for some of the descriptions of scenery, we feel that he might really have done better if he had outlined the situation and given us a brief summary of the characters of the four friends (the three Englishmen and the American), of whom Lord Montdidier, known as Monty, is the leader, and of those whom they meet in their adventure, and left us to imagine the rest. This is because, in spite of his exciting plot and his evident affection for the people he has created, he does not at all succeed in making those people live, and the more he tells us about them the less real they become. He has indicated fairly plainly the kind of personality which he means each of them to possess, but he has not so contrived that each does actually possess it.

This fact produced in us an irritating sense that there was some way in which better use could be made of good material, and out of this arose the thought that here, at any rate, is a novel which could with real advantage be adapted to the use of the cinema, and which would not lose in the process, but would gain something. We should still have the plot and the inspiring mountain scenery, and the actors and actresses might be able to give to the characters the definite personalities which they now lack. Then perhaps the scene where Monty, chivalrous and brave to the last, falls on the ramparts of what had been the castle of his Crusader ancestors would really touch us, which in the novel it so curiously just fails to do.

Mr. Mundy's prose and also his verse, of which there are examples between each chapter, seemed to us to owe a great deal to an evident admiration for the work of Mr. Rudyard Kipling.

The author's attempt to introduce a farcical element in the person of Mr. Peter Measel is quite distressingly unsuccessful.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A Handbook of Orchestration." By Florence G. Fidler. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

"The Siwi Language." By W. Seymour Walker, F.R.G.S. With a foreword by H. E. Wilson Pasha. Illustrated. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

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

—OMAR KHAYYAM.

My reference to that succulent Turkish dish, *Imâm Bâ-yildi*, gave rise to a correspondence which I for one found very interesting. It has also produced from one correspondent a practical recipe for preparing the dish; and though I do not think it would be an easy matter to obtain egg-plants in this country at the present season, I dare say some of my readers may be glad to have the instructions. Here they are:—

Imâm-Bâ-yildi.—Cut 6 ripe egg-plants into 4 slices length-ways (without separating the stalks). Sprinkle them with salt, and let them remain 5 or 10 minutes. Peel and cut 5 or 6 onions into rather thick slices, and fry them partly brown in butter or olive oil. Lay half of them in a stew-pan, over which place the egg-plants, and place the other half of the onions over them. Add 6 peeled cloves of garlic, and a pint of water, or more. Place the pan on the fire and let it simmer till the egg-plants are soft. Dish up carefully and serve hot.

The same kind correspondent sends another recipe for a dish of egg-plants, which is also very savoury. It is called *Bédinjân Pâshashi*, and is prepared thus:—Cut egg-plants, as required, into slices about $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick, place them in salt water for about 10 minutes. Then dip them in flour, fry them in butter a nice brown, and arrange them in a baking dish. Pound 3 or 4 cloves of garlic in a mortar, add a little salt and a small cup of wine vinegar. Stir this well with a wooden spoon and pour it over the egg-plants. Place the dish on a moderate charcoal fire until the liquor is absorbed. Take off and serve.

My attention is called by a reader to an advertisement that appeared in the London papers a few days ago. It begins: "Sanitary Inspector required for the Persian Gulf." My correspondent thinks that the gentleman who secures the post is likely to have his hands full, the Persian Gulf being a largish place; and suggests that in matters of sanitation it has much to learn. I suspect that the duties of the post will not be quite so wide as my correspondent affects to believe, and that the successful applicant is likely to be required to tackle only one of the ports—probably *Busreh*! But in other respects I find myself in most cordial agreement with my correspondent. The Persian Gulf is an interesting sea, and many of its ports are extremely picturesque—though my opinion will probably not be endorsed by all readers; but, writing from memory, I am inclined to say that they could all do with some sanitation—in fact, with quite a lot of it. Anybody who has landed at, say, *Bunder Abbas* or *Muskat*, and picked his way about, will, I am sure, agree with me.

Whether sanitation is an unmixed blessing—in the East, at any rate—I am not quite sure. I have heard men who ought to know something about the subject declare that the introduction of drains into an Oriental city is usually followed by an outbreak of all sorts of diseases; and, on the other hand, the extraordinary immunity from disease of some of the least "sanitary" cities I have visited would take a lot of explaining by sanitary experts. Quite recently a friend was arguing that in killing off a hundred thousand harmful microbes we probably killed off a hundred and twenty thousand beneficial ones, and I don't see any good reason for contradicting him. So, after all, I hardly know whether to congratulate the P.G. on being about to have a sanitary inspector, or to commiserate with it. Of course, it might be well to keep my pity for the inspector; for the Gulf, with its choice assortment of "indescribables," might quite well kill him off before he got started on the bacilli and things.

"Oriental ineligible," are, I see, to be "rounded up" in the United States, and, apparently, deported. Orientals of the "Far" variety never have been particularly welcome in the States, I suppose, but those from the Nearer East are not regarded with so much disfavour; and I suspect that the latter will be less closely overhauled by the Deport Agents. But ineligible *are* ineligible, whether they hail from Japan or China, or from Syria or Egypt, and, as I noted lately, the Nearer East has been in bad odour in France lately, so why not in America now? One has to be very guarded in one's comments these days, but I must admit that I should like to see Great Britain taking a leaf out of America's book, and getting rid of *her* ineligible foreign extraction. As it is, she seems bent on exporting her decent labouring men and replacing them by the scum of Eastern Europe, and of a good many other parts of the world, too!

CORSAIR.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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France and Roumania.

Our Bucharest Correspondent gives this week full details of the French deal with Roumania from which it will be seen that our Allies have made ample capital out of the indecision on this side which gave them their chance. France has agreed to give Roumania a loan of 200 million francs, and Roumania in return is to export an equivalent amount of her staple products. Half the loan is to be advanced immediately, and the balance will be advanced as soon as the delivery of the goods begins. For both countries the advantage of the arrangement is obvious, especially so in the case of France. Roumania is able to realise in advance a portion of her potential exports to meet her financial engagements, while France, in addition to carrying through a deal which promises to be extremely profitable, has the added satisfaction of knowing that the loan is to be utilised to meet the coupons in arrears on the Roumanian National Debt and those that will shortly fall due—the bulk of which, as I pointed out last week, are held in France. And yet our French friends have not infrequently called us a *business nation*!

Egypt's Economic Crisis.

For some weeks the economic position of Egypt has been growing steadily worse, but serious as conditions are there now, it is to be feared that the country has still to undergo the worst of the crisis. Previous experience has shown that depression in other centres has its repercussion in Egypt long afterwards, and it is to be expected, therefore, that the effects of the present stagnation in the United Kingdom and other countries will only be felt by Egypt in a few months. Then, if conditions do not improve in the meantime, the country may be faced with a really grave position. Of course, if cotton rose and if neighbouring markets were in a position to absorb Egypt's surplus stocks, the position would be immediately relieved, but neither event is likely in the immediate future, and the former contingency is especially improbable.

Need for Confidence.

A factor which does not inspire confidence in the outlook is the character of the Egyptian business community. The average trader is too easily moved to depression. It is, indeed, really a kind of second nature with him to take the gloomiest view of the outlook. In present circumstances when grounds for optimism are so very hard to find, the risk of a flood of depression affecting the market may well be imagined. Those who know the extraordinary recuperative powers of the country—evidenced time and again when the position appeared on the surface to be most unfavourable—can have no doubt that Egypt will eventually emerge successfully from the present crisis; but obviously the rapidity of the recuperative process will depend very largely on the present attitude of the business community.

The Egyptian Season.

Despite the dismal commercial outlook, the season in Egypt seems likely to regain something of its former brilliance this year. I imagine that the Sultan's decision to charter a tourist steamer for a voyage on the Nile, recorded by our Cairo Correspondent in another column, was due as much as anything to a desire to further the return to the normal. If so, it was an excellent conception, and is bound to give a decided fillip to the tourist season. Our correspondent omitted to mention the owners of the steamer, but I think that most people could have guessed the name if it had not been revealed in a telegram this week that the vessel which His Highness has engaged is Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son's Arabia. Of course, it was bound to be Cook's in the Nile Valley, for while the famous firm has rivals of the extremely forceful type, now as before the war it is the "man from Cook's" who leads the way.

Co-operation or Corner?

The latest development in the Egyptian cotton position is recorded by Reuter's Cairo correspondent, who states that a co-operative syndicate has been formed to hold 2,000,000 kantars of cotton in the hope that it may be possible by such a measure to raise the price of the commodity. The phrase "co-operative syndicate" sounds very well, but when similar transactions have been attempted by our cousins over the water that has not been the term that has

been applied to them. In plain English, the Egyptian project would appear to represent an attempt to bring about a "corner." Such a scheme could not be carried through without very substantial financial support, as the amount of cotton in question represents about half of the crop in some years. According to the correspondent, the syndicate is apparently acting on the assumption that the banks will advance the necessary funds; but experts doubt whether its members have sufficient knowledge of the world's markets to carry out such an operation.

An Ill-Advised Policy.

The unfortunate position in which Egypt has been placed by the "slump" in cotton is clearly recognised in this country, and there is the fullest sympathy for the unfortunate cultivators. But the way to remedy the position is not by a scheme such as that proposed. It might afford temporary relief, though even that is far from certain, and it is much more likely that immediate disaster would overtake the enterprise, and it is the likelihood of that eventuality which makes it all but certain that the banks will have nothing to do with any such proposition. But even if it were temporarily successful, the only substantial result would be to strengthen the movement to render the United Kingdom less dependent on this source of supply. But as I have suggested, I do not imagine that the project will come to anything.

Germany Again.

One would imagine that the numerous orders that have fallen to foreign firms recently which in pre-war conditions would have been obtained by British firms, must be giving Labour in this country "furiously to think." This is likely to be particularly the case with regard to the latest instances that have come to light. This time it is Germany that is the successful rival, large orders having been placed with that country from Egypt for railway carriage and wagon tyres and for wagon wheels and axles. Of course, apart from labour conditions, the exchange makes it an impossibility for us to compete with Germany at the present time, but there are other considerations besides obtaining goods at the lowest price, and one would have thought that every effort would have been made to give British firms the preference, even if it meant paying considerably more, rather than place orders with Germany.

British Coal Exports.

As I expected, the decision of the Indian Government to restrict coal exports has quickly made its influence felt in this country. Inquiries have been received during the past few days for large quantities of Welsh coal, and for the time being there looks like being a revival of the export trade. It cannot be too strongly emphasised, however, that there can be no prospect of any permanent expansion of the British coal trade so long as the present high prices are maintained. They must come down if the United Kingdom is to regain its position as the supplier of this commodity to the world's markets, and the sooner this happens the better for the commercial interests of the country in general, for there is no getting away from the fact that the impossibility of obtaining British coal at anything approaching reasonable rates has been extremely detrimental to us abroad.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 3.

Interesting Tractor Trials.

An interesting series of tractor trials took place this week near Benha. These are the first to be arranged in this country on any scale lending itself to the comparison of results, and the trials attracted quite a large number of the more important members of the agricultural community. Rain interfered with the last day's work, but sufficient data was forthcoming from the first three days to enable the judges to give their verdict, which will be made public shortly. In view of the serious labour problem in this country, any process which will result in economies in labour and expense will be very welcome even to those who are most conservative in their methods, and these trials, while they will show which designs are best fitted for the peculiar local conditions, and what improvements are required to meet the latter, will, at the same time, have had the excellent effect of demonstrating to the larger landed elements the efficiency of mechanical contrivances and the advantage which the latter offer in the case of larger estates over the methods hitherto employed.

CAIRO, January 10.

Egyptian Industries.

The Egyptian Industries Exhibition since its opening on the 30th ultimo has attracted a very large number of visitors, Egyptians as well as Europeans, all of whom have expressed their appreciation of the object and their pleasure at the comprehensiveness of the exhibition and the excellence of the articles shown. An important question which might well receive the attention of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry is the channel through which the public can get into touch with those whose handiwork is exposed at this exhibition. As regards exhibitors whose establishments are in Cairo there is no difficulty, for intending purchasers can make a note of the address affixed to the exhibit and can go straight to the workshops. It is, however, an entirely different matter in regard to articles produced in the provinces, which are quite as numerous as those produced in Cairo or Alexandria, and the Bureau of Commerce and Industry would undoubtedly be conferring a benefit on all concerned—in fact, such a departure would seem quite naturally to fall within the scope of its mandate—if it were to open an office where orders for articles produced in the provinces could be taken and transmitted to the manufacturers, or through which it would be possible for the consumer to get into touch with the provincial producer.

[The exhibition is described in an article from our Cairo Correspondent, which is given on page 121.]

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, January 9.

Locomotives for Private Concerns.

The Ministers' Council, together with the Administration of the railways, have decided to solve the question of the transport of fuel and victuals for the various towns, villages, factories, etc., by granting them the right to buy locomotives on their own account, while the State will place at their

disposal the number of trucks required. The State has pledged itself not to requisition them or to cause any restrictions.

Credit Balances of Former Enemy Subjects.

The Minister of Finance has sent a circular order to all the banks of the Old Kingdom and the new provinces instructing them to hand over all credit balances belonging to former enemy subjects, in compliance with the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

France's Loan to Roumania.

Details are now available regarding the loan of 200 million francs which the Roumanian Minister of Finance has contracted in Paris with several banks, under the auspices of the French Government. The French banks will advance immediately to Roumania the sum of 100 million francs, and the balance will be paid as soon as the Roumanian Government begins to deliver the goods to be sold to the French Ministry of Supplies. Roumania undertakes to export to France maize, rye, barley, petroleum and timber, and is under an obligation to commence exporting in August, 1921. It has the option of exporting before that time should there be anything available, such as maize.

Of the net proceeds of exported goods, one-third will be retained on account of advances made, and the remaining two-thirds will be paid, so that in payment of the loan Roumania will export to France goods to the value of 600 million lei. The price which the French Government will have to pay will be the current price quoted at Antwerp when the goods are loaded at the Roumanian ports. No date has been fixed for the repayment of the loan, but 6 per cent. interest will be reckoned until the final payment. This loan will be used to pay the coupons in arrears of the National Debt and the Treasury Bonds which have fallen due.

Purchase of Army Equipment.

The Roumanian Government has purchased from France a large consignment of army clothing and boots to the value of 98 million francs, payable in Treasury bonds in five years. This consignment was originally destined for the Crimea, but, as General Wrangel's army evacuated after the goods had been shipped, they were then offered to the Roumanian Government, who were in need of such articles to complete their own stocks, and, in view of the advantageous conditions of the offer, it was readily accepted. The goods will be landed at one of the Roumanian ports within a few days.

Fulfilment of Government Pledge.

It seems that the Government has at last fixed the date when the remainder of the 40 per cent. due to the people of Transylvania, Bukovina, and Bessarabia, who have exchanged their crowns and roubles respectively into lei, should be paid. According to the original arrangement, the State should have begun to pay the amount on December 1, but for certain reasons it has been delayed, and the date has now been fixed for February 1. This delay has caused considerable harm to the people of the above-mentioned provinces as well as to the whole country, as it is one of the main reasons for the shortage of ready cash. In view of the approaching settlement everyone is expecting that shortly the financial stringency will be eased to a certain extent.

The Exchange Problem.

At the meeting of the "Valuta" Commission, which took place at the Ministry of Finance, several important measures were decided upon to improve the present rate of exchange:

1. Imports to be restricted to the possible minimum, and only machinery and industrial articles necessary for reconstruction work to be allowed to enter the country.
2. Exports to be permitted to the utmost extent possible.
3. The banks to be prevented from speculating with the rate of exchange.

New Postal Rates.

As the Roumanian Post Office has to pay to other countries for the transport of foreign correspondence in the respective foreign currencies, the Government has decided, in order to compensate for the depreciated rate of exchange, to increase the postal rates for foreign correspondence as from January 1 as follows:—Letters, for the first 20 grammes, 2 lei, and for every extra 20 grammes or fractions thereof, 1.20 lei; postcards, 1 lei; printed matter, for every 50 grammes, 40 bani (maximum weight 2 kilos); business documents, up to 20 grammes, 2 lei; for every extra 50 grammes or fractions thereof, 40 bani; samples, up to 100 grammes, 80 bani; for every extra 50 grammes or fraction, 40 bani (maximum weight 350 grammes); newspapers and magazines, etc., for every number or for every 50 grammes, 10 bani; for all registered matter, an extra 2 lei.

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EXHIBITION OF EGYPTIAN INDUSTRIES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, January 4.

The Sultan this week officially opened the first exhibition of Egyptian industries, which has been organised by the recently created Bureau of Commerce and Industry. We have in the past had many shows of Egypt's arts and crafts, but this is the first occasion where Egyptian industrial products have been grouped together in such a comprehensive manner, and certainly it is the first time that most people have realised how diverse are the industrial activities of the country.

At the same time one is struck by the impetus which the war and the consequent shutting down of external markets have given to local enterprise. Who would ever have thought a few years ago that, for instance, motor-car tyres, rubber-tubing, surgical apparatus, ink, gramophone discs, kitchen utensils, cups and saucers, European clothing, to name only a few articles at random, could be obtained from local manufacturers; and yet not only can they be so obtained, but they are to be bought at what are relatively moderate prices.

The "Société des Industries Egyptiennes" show some excellently made motor-tyres, rubber-tubing, and rubber goods of every description. Ibrahim Eff. Lamy's exhibit of ink and sealing wax is of high quality. Mr. Costis has a very varied supply of pottery, household and fancy, of excellent glaze. The leather exhibit of Mr. Deary includes portmanteaux, kit-bags, gun and cartridge cases, etc., all made by Egyptian workmen and equal to the best European workmanship. Messrs. Hassan Aly, of Cairo, show some very well-turned-out surgical apparatus, geysers, and radiators.

The centre of attraction was the silk room, where there were a series of show-cases of most beautiful silks of both ancient and modern designs, all manufactured on hand-looms by Mohamed Abdel Fattah El Hommosany of Mehalla El Kebir, a collection of the most exquisite Kashmir shawls, and silk lengths of every description, all of equally good texture and finish. The specimens of the trappings of the Holy Carpet and its accessories, which fill part of the wall in this room, are an illustration of the lengths to which the fine art of gold and silver embroidery has been brought in Egypt.

The exhibit of cotton and woollen fabrics was very interesting, and demonstrated that the Egyptian weaver has by no means lost his cunning, but that, on the contrary, he is making rapid progress. There were some very well-made bed-spreads from Mehalla El Kebir and Qualiub, some wonderful native head-dresses of glorious colouring, which might easily be used for draperies, and numerous show-cases containing cotton dress fabrics, towelling, and flannels, which were every bit as good as what Manchester supplies to this country, while the specimens of tweed suitings indicated that local enterprise, if it continues as it is doing, will soon be able to cater for the variegated taste of the "Young Egypt" in the matter of clothes.

The rope and twine exhibit showed a vast improvement on what one had seen in the past. Some were made from flax, but most of the specimens shown were made out of "sisal" which promises in the future to be one of Egypt's most useful and valuable products. The wicker chairs, tables, and general furniture shown were of very good

finish, while the matting made out of "samar" was excellent, some of the specimens comparing most favourably, both as regards prices and workmanship, with the best Japanese designs. A revelation in diversity of design, in workmanship, and in price was certainly the basket work, most of it being made out of palm leaves.

The various Government Departments interested in industrial work are well represented. The Coastguard and Fisheries Service show an excellent selection of sponges found in Egyptian waters. The Egyptian Prisons have a general exhibit made by its inmates ranging from saddlery and harness work to brushes and agricultural tools. The Egyptian State Railways have a most attractive exhibit in the shape of a model tank engine propelled by electricity, and made entirely by Egyptian workmen, in the railway workshops. The Mines Department shows the different minerals, ores, and oils obtainable in Egypt, and in the latter connection perhaps one of the most interesting exhibits was that of two brothers, Messrs. Nessim, who claim to have found in Upper Egypt the source of the colours used in the temples of Ancient Egypt and supposed to have been lost, and who show some of the results of their research work.

Messrs. Compton and Co., who, during the war, set up a factory at Shubra where only Egyptian workmen are employed, show what the latter are able to do in the matter of ready-made clothing and uniforms; while in practically every room and down the passages are excellent rugs of every description made by the Amria Bedouin, who, thanks to the interest taken in them by the late Miss Baird, have been enabled to turn into a profitable trade what at the beginning of the war was merely a home industry.

The Sudan has a room to itself in which are exhibited native basket work, ostrich feathers, ivory work, leather bags and saddle bags of curious design, as well as the various grains which that wonderful country produces; there is a fine collection of the best of the Muski brass-workers' and copper-smiths' art, while the enterprising Elhamia Trade School has a wonderful exhibit of inlaid furniture.

The above is of necessity but a cursory review of the articles seen at this exhibition, but it is sufficient to indicate the industrial activities of the country and the future possibilities of their development. Most of the articles shown bore ridiculously cheap prices, and they should command a ready sale once their existence is known.

While, owing to the lack of fuel and raw material, especially minerals, Egypt cannot engage in the bigger industries which exist in other countries, there is no reason why she should not produce all her requirements in the everyday articles, for which there is a big demand throughout the country, and the impression gained from this first exhibition is that she is on the high road to doing so.

What Egyptian industry has suffered from in the past has been lack of publicity, lack of support and encouragement, and lack of guidance. The necessary publicity will henceforward be afforded by this exhibition, which is to become a permanent feature, and will, at the suggestion of the Sultan, be removed to more spacious premises as soon as they can be found, and by the connection which the Bureau of Commerce and Industry will be able to establish between the local producer and consumers in and outside Egypt. The Bureau will also be in a position to indicate the directions in which Government can give the support and encouragement, financial as well as moral, which it has promised, while, in conjunction with the Department of Technical Industries, the Bureau should be able to afford the necessary guidance to enable the workers to improve in finish and

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design so as to cater for the markets, which are, so to speak, at their door.

The writer cannot close this review without offering his hearty congratulations to the Bureau of Commerce and Industry and its able Controller, Mr. J. F. G. Hopkins, on the success of the exhibition. The latter clearly indicates that the Bureau, in spite of the short time that has elapsed since its creation, is already in close touch with local industries even in the remotest parts of the country, and that it thoroughly understands, and is competent to carry out, the very responsible task laid upon its shoulders. We shall expect to find Egyptian industries making giant strides in the near future under its direction.

ZAGREB TIMBER MARKET.

We have received from the London office of the Banque Franco-Serb the following particulars regarding the Zagreb timber market forwarded to the bank from its Zagreb branch:—

Considerable quantities of wood are available here, especially beech, oak, and fir (pine is not grown), but merchants engaged in the production and export of fir do not usually deal in oak. No stock actually exists in English dimensions, but the mills would be very pleased to take orders at reasonable prices. The Fiume question still appears complicated, and we cannot count on using this port for some time, so that shipments must still be made via Trieste. Considerable quantities of our wood have been shipped to Egypt, and that country is actually one of the largest buyers from us. As far as we can hear, no market has been opened directly with England.

The Banque Franco-Serb has the names of several firms which are prepared to export oak, beech, and timber, and will be glad to communicate them to any readers of THE NEAR EAST who may be interested.

ROUMANIAN 4% LOAN OF 1908.

The Roumanian Government is prepared to pay the outstanding interest of its Four per Cent. Loan of 1908 in respect of bonds held by British subjects prior to August 1, 1914. Holders of such bonds are therefore requested to lodge the necessary particulars of their holdings with Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co., 145, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3, on or before February 5, and to produce at the same time documentary evidence to prove that the bonds have been in their continuous possession since August 1, 1914. The Roumanian Government undertakes to pay the overdue coupons in French francs, and to remit to Messrs. Schröder and Co. the funds necessary for this purpose as soon as the approximate amount required has been ascertained.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at November 30, 1920, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)	2,925,000
Reserve Fund:	
Statutory Reserve	1,462,500
Special Reserve	487,500
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	15,831,663
Mixed Tribunals	2,138,351
Egyptian Government	1,557,610
Bankers' Accounts	929,201
Cheques and Bills payable	1,009,759
Sundry other Accounts	1,649,801

£E27,991,385

	£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	10,480,584
Sundry Securities	225,603
Advances on Merchandise	1,588,534
Advances on Securities	2,147,324
Advances otherwise Secured	1,890,067
Sundry other Advances	596,234
Bills of Exchange	1,326,360
Local Bills Discounted	161,300
Buildings and Furniture	235,121
Money at call and at short notice	862,875
Bankers' Accounts	775,651
Egyptian Government	4,206,822
Sudan Government	79,116
Sundry other Accounts	688,778

£E2,255,058

Notes	27,127
Gold	444,831
Silver, Nickel, etc.	

2,727,016

£E27,991,385

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Notes Issued	41,700,000

£E41,700,000

Gold	£E3,333,190
*British Treasury Bills	17,516,810

£E.

Securities:—	
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	£E431,305
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds ..	20,418,695

20,850,000

£E41,700,000

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

THE PRICE OF SILVER.

RELATION OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

A hundred years ago, when Great Britain adopted the gold standard, the value of silver was five shillings an ounce. With the discovery of fresh mines and the production of silver as a by-product its value gradually depreciated, until in 1914 it stood at two shillings the ounce. During the war the price rapidly increased until the British and American Governments intervened and fixed the value once more at five shillings. As soon as this control was removed silver again began to soar, and actually touched seven shillings the ounce. Reaction set in, and to-day it is back to 3s. 3d. or 3s. 4d. What then is the real position in regard to silver? How does supply compare with demand? The subject is one of the widest possible interest to the whole business world.

In 1918 the United States Congress passed the Pittman Act which fixed at one dollar per ounce the price at which the United States Treasury was to make purchases of silver to replace the Sherman dollars sold to the India Government, and in July, 1919, Senator Pittman, who is supposed to have a profound knowledge of the American silver position, is reported to have declared that the world's demand for silver was double the production, and to have expressed the opinion that for the next twenty years prices would range between 1 dollar and 1.29 dollars per ounce, the established parity of the American silver dollar. At the same time there appeared in the *American Mining Journal* an article according to which the world's consumption of silver (in millions of ounces) was as follows: Subsidiary coinage 60, Arts 75, India 150, China 40, Africa 25, total 350 million ounces. Against this figure the world's production was set at 180 million ounces, showing an annual shortage of 170 million ounces.

Now according to a report of the United States Bureau of Mines the world's production of silver for the six years 1913-18 was in thousands of ounces, as follows: 225,380, 168,430, 184,170, 168,810, 174,160, 197,380. The last total was made up from six sources: America, 151,610; Central and South America, 1,846; Australasia, 1,000; Asia, 936; Europe, 687; and Africa, 108 ounces. To the total from America the United States contributed 67,810,100 ounces, Mexico 62,517,000 ounces, and Canada 21,284,600 ounces. In view of the fact that Mexico is now producing some 20 per cent. more than the amount with which it was credited in 1918, and that other countries are likely to show also considerable increases, it is reasonable to believe that the actual world production is already and will remain at a much higher figure than the 197 million ounces of 1918.

Now if we turn to the American estimate of the world's consumption we shall be following expert British opinion if we state that the American figures are absurdly exaggerated. As Great Britain's subsidiary coinage has been reduced from 925 fine to 500 fine, and has already been issued, the metal required being obtained as a by-product from British ore-smelters, the only subsidiary coinage to provide for is that of the United States, and the requirement for this are reported to be 12 million ounces. America, again, is the only country using silver to-day to any extent for Arts purposes, and according to report the amount entailed had dropped to less than 25 million ounces. It is difficult to know on what basis an estimate of 150 million ounces is allocated as India's annual consumption, and if current imports are any criterion we shall be nearer the mark in placing the amount at 30 million ounces.

Thus, if the American estimates for China and Africa are left unchallenged as far as the aggregate is concerned, it will probably be more accurate to assess the world's consumption, after making all allowances, at well below 150 million ounces, while the production, taking into account the sales of silver from the Continent representing melted coinage, will be in the neighbourhood of 230 million ounces or more. It does not follow, however, from this that the position of silver is hopeless. There are too many cross currents at work to warrant dogmatism on this point. The speculative element in regard to silver transactions has to be reckoned with, and there are considerable interests involved which will work hard to prevent silver falling to the lowest depths. Finally, China has it in her power to steady her own exchange when the world produce market begins to awaken from its present lethargy.

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce has received the following cablegram from the Delhi Piece-goods Association:—"Seriousness of the situation here not realised in Manchester. Importers urge you to take steps to suspend further new business for six months."

The French Air Mail for Morocco leaves Toulouse on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, and in order to be included in it, packets should be posted in this country in time for despatch from London in the mail for Paris closed at the G.P.O., London, at 3 p.m. (printed papers, etc., 2.30 p.m.) on Saturdays, Mondays, and Thursdays.

CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

OUTLOOK FOR BRITISH ENTERPRISE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Little seems to be known in commercial circles in England, except perhaps in Manchester, of the trade conditions in Bulgaria. This letter will consequently throw some light where light is needed, as the details given are from first-hand knowledge.

M. Stambolisky's visit to England was well advertised, and immediately set some firms thinking about this country's possibilities. Several representatives of English houses put in an appearance in Bulgaria very soon after his visit, obviously inspired by his favourable speeches; but I think without much result. Bulgaria, like all other countries, is passing through troublous times, and the same tendencies towards inflated credits, a superfluity of Government control, and a general decline of purchasing power of the paper currency is as evident here as elsewhere. Added to these difficulties, the Government began a period of prosecution against the more wealthy members of the community, and spread the net wide enough to include anybody who had made any considerable sum during the war period. It was considered a crime to have made money out of the national necessity—an idea with which many Englishmen will agree. But many merchants have been, and are still, kept in durance for long periods, without any charges being brought against them. This has had a very unsettling effect on trade conditions, and large sums of money have apparently left the country for other and safer lodgment. It is noteworthy that the Jewish merchant, who occupies a leading place in the trade of the country, is hardly represented, if at all, in the long list of those incarcerated.

For the first four months of the year a complete paralysis prevailed owing to a serious railway strike. The handling of this strike by M. Stambolisky's Government was a lesson to Westerners, and might conceivably be taken as a model by them. The country rallied to the support of the Government, and many of the strikers are now sadder and wiser men. Transport conditions are now more or less normal. Trains do not run as quickly as before the war, owing to the permanent way being in need of new rails and the rolling-stock of repair, but every effort is being made to keep things moving, and with success. The difference between the railway efficiency of this country and that of Yugoslavia and Roumania is very noticeable to travellers who have recently passed through the different countries, the conditions of transport in the two latter States being deplorable.

The rate of exchange has fluctuated very violently during the year, beginning at 200, rising to 350, falling again to 170, and, after further violent fluctuation, rising to the present price of 320. The increase in the value during July and August was due to the inauguration of a considerable grain export up the Danube to the riparian countries on its northern banks; but the good effect caused was destroyed by the repressive measures of the Government and by considerable imports during September and October. The Government Department in control of grain export has been very unsuccessful in its handling, owing to inefficiency and other causes. Many shippers who tried to secure cargoes were sent away by the absurdly high prices asked, and as a result of various other difficulties. Many well-informed people have again and again made representations to members of the Agricultural party in power that they want to concentrate on their export more than anything else, in order to get their exchange to a more normal level; but the advice has not met with much success. The prices of all cereals have now been reduced, however, and the situation seems to be improving. Large tobacco exports took place during December, and there are large quantities still left to come. The year's crops were very heavy, especially maize; and when exports of this begin in the spring the exchange may be expected to stiffen.

The market position generally is not like that of Constantinople, where there is a glut of most commodities. Great quantities of goods have certainly come in, but not more than the country can absorb. The absence of buyers in all sections, owing to the heavy fall in producing countries, is causing the merchant to hold his hand until the situation becomes clearer, as he is afraid of being undercut; also the fact that goods have been offered from Constantinople in some instances far below their cost. The clearing up of the situation is awaited, and when it comes a better demand is sure to show itself. A certain number of institutions which have come into existence during the last few years are now feeling the pinch.

The co-operative societies are not at the moment too prosperous, but they are mostly sound concerns, and they

have proved their place as a factor for good in the national economic life. Great inconvenience is caused by the lack of currency, especially notes of large denomination, owing to hoarding by peasants. Large quantities are held by dealers also in neighbouring countries as security against purchases made there.

The prospects of English trade are good in certain directions if manufacturers will only realise that in a country like Bulgaria credit is necessary, and that their competitors in other countries are prepared to, and do, extend this privilege. An effort should be made by firms to try to get the shipping companies trading with the Black Sea to reduce their freight charges. The writer has seen recently quotations of 50s. per ton Hamburg to Varna, while for the same goods £7 10s. is charged from Liverpool to Varna. This anomaly ought to be removed.

The National Stores, started under Government auspices, have proved a distinct failure, owing to inefficient handling, and are an object-lesson to advocates of Government trading. A committee is sitting upon their affairs.

A British Chamber of Commerce has lately been inaugurated in Sofia with Englishmen in control, which will endeavour to prove itself a live concern. It is hoped that English firms interested in this country will become members. The Chamber will be in the position to give reliable local information and to push British interests in a country which has been in the past overlooked.

A final note to those who interest themselves in Bulgaria, and who wish to establish permanent connections is: do not quote without engagement and with uncertain dates of delivery. The competition in all branches of trade is already keen, and will become more so. Other nationalities are ready and anxious to trade, and most of them, owing to the weakness of their different exchanges, can offer goods at more advantageous prices in local currency than Englishmen can. Consequently to handicap offers with restrictions can only have one termination, and that is that no business will result. It is true that British goods are more appreciated than any other, and Bulgarians know that quite well, but they will not pay the big difference which in many instances exists if the cheaper article from Germany or Belgium will fulfil the purpose for which it is required.

A DUNLOP CALENDAR.

We have received from the Dunlop Company a calendar for the current year which is unique in advertising. Produced by Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., in conjunction with the Dunlop Company's advertising department, it is indeed in every way a credit to British advertising. It depicts a typical London night scene in the vicinity of Piccadilly Circus, and is done in oil facsimile of such excellence that it will undoubtedly be mistaken by many for an original. We understand that the accompanying date pad has been produced in practically every language, not excepting Chinese, for world-wide distribution to all the customers upon the Company's register.

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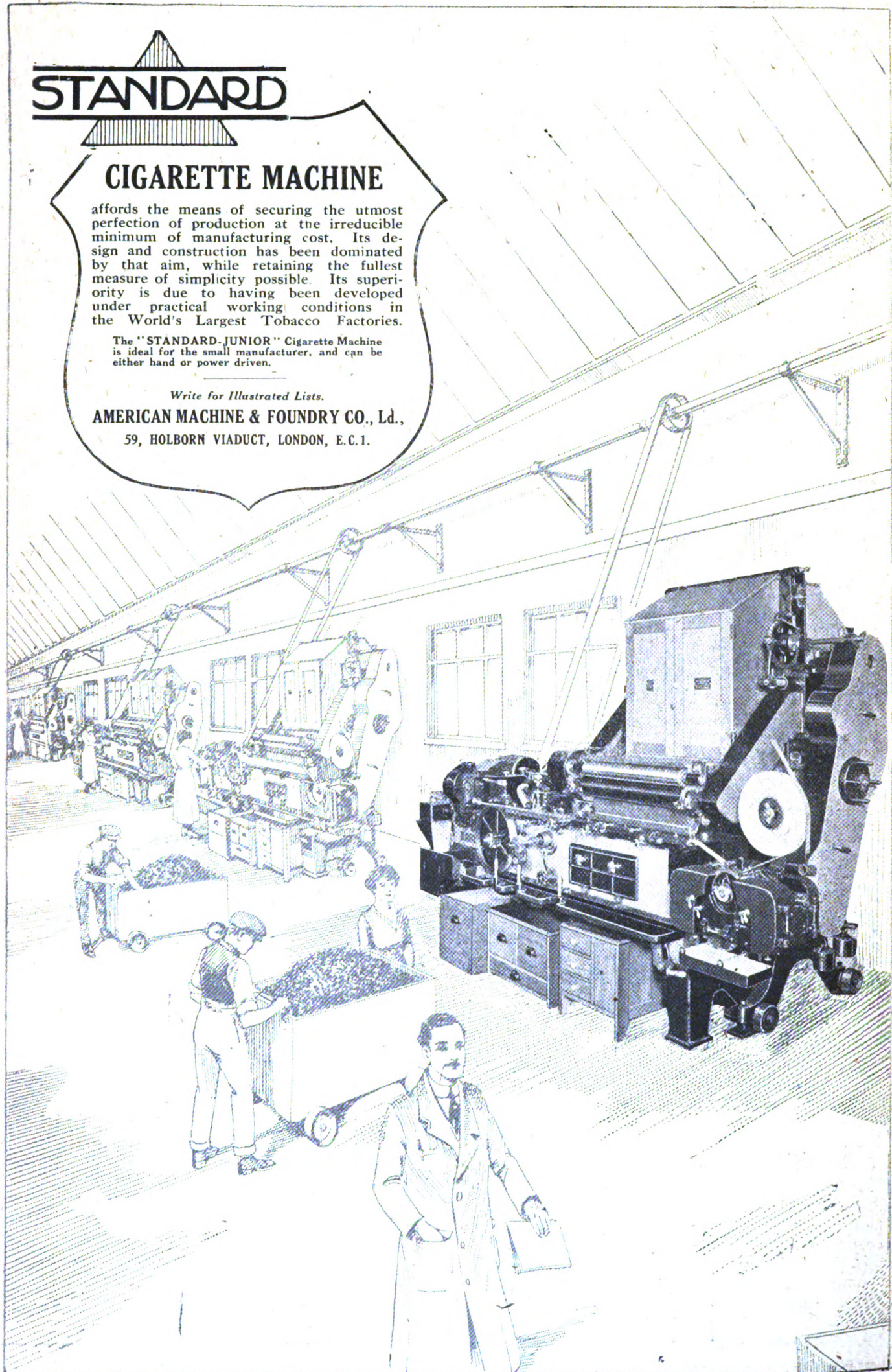
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ENGINEERING.

ENGINEERING SAFETY.

On several occasions the subject of safety appliances for use in connection with engineering and other plant has been dealt with in the columns of THE NEAR EAST. In view of a recent statement made, which was to the effect that it was not sufficient to protect a workman from machinery, but that he must also be protected from himself, it is of interest to note that the returns of the British "Safety First" Association show that about 75 per cent. of the accidents occurring in industrial establishments are due to carelessness, thoughtlessness and ignorance. Of the balance a proportion appears due to that peculiar sense of humour possessed by many workmen, a humour which consists in hooking a fellow employee by the collar to a travelling crane, or forcing the nozzle of an air blast into his mouth, or setting fire to his coat-tails just at the moment he is doing some intricate or dangerous job.

It would seem as though engineering science had practically gone to the limit in devising guards, safety devices, and other precautions to prevent the possibility of accident in workshops. Milling machines, automatics, and cutting and pressing tools are provided with guards at considerable cost, and at some sacrifice of efficiency, yet every factory foreman knows of cases where these guards have been deliberately removed and accident invited simply because some semi-intelligent workman felt they interfered with his freedom of action. Everything possible has been done by the engineer to make every class of appliance foolproof; it is difficult to say what further course can be taken except that of eliminating the fool. The cynic may say that he is doing his utmost to eliminate himself, but though result may, in the latter case, be certain, it may be long in action, and the course which should be adopted is for employers generally to refuse to employ workmen who are hopelessly unintelligent. It may be argued that such a course would perhaps deplete our works, but a transition period could be arranged, of some few months, during which the employing firms should do their utmost to bring home to the workman the fact that he is merely suffering from a somewhat atrophied and certainly dormant brain, and that his mental condition can be improved sufficiently, if he understands and takes notice of what he is told, to enable him to continue his work with reasonable safety. During this transition period every effort should be made to teach him, by cinematograph and other illustrations, by object lessons, by lectures, notes, verbal and other warnings, that the desire of the management is that he shall live the rest of his life with as many limbs as he had when he entered it.

It may be argued that no amount of tuition, no matter of what kind, could improve matters, and, although one is loath to admit it, there may be a modicum of truth in the assertion. As the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops said recently, there seems no limit to the incredible folly of the ignorant workman, no possibility of guarding against his unexpected actions.

A Remarkable Example.

I can give a recent instance of this which provides a vivid illustration:

Everyone knows that electrical energy, generated at extra high tension, is one of the most potent forces we have. By carefully designed and constructed apparatus the voltage of the supply can be transformed down to harmless limits, and in every power station the most elaborate precautions are taken to prevent any unauthorised person from touching any part of the current-carrying metal work which might be an element of danger.

In the engine-room of such a station a fitter, with an assistant, was doing some trifling task, in the course of which he asked his assistant to connect up an electric drill. Such a drill has the current carried to it by a length of flexible conductor, similar to, but generally rather stouter than the flexible cord carrying the ordinary electric lamp. At the end of this flexible cable is a porcelain plug, and all that has to be done to connect up the drill is to place this plug in a socket fixed in some convenient position—in this instance, on the wall of the room in which the men were working.

It will hardly be credited, but the assistant, instead of doing this simple thing, proceeded as follows: He sought for, and at length obtained, a long ladder, and climbed

up to the switchboard gallery. To gain access to this he climbed, at some risk of losing his footing, over a guard railing, and then went along the gallery until he reached a passage way marked "danger." He went along this and found on either side of him huge insulating and protective screens, each 8 ft. in height, placed there to prevent any possibility of anyone touching the high-tension conductors. The assistant, seeing these, seems to have thought them merely difficulties to be overcome, so he climbed them, descended on the other side and walked about until he found a stout copper rod to which he attempted to tie his flexible cord. He found 10,000 volts at home, and in a manner that seems to show a certain truth in an old proverb, escaped with a severe burn instead of being volatilised, or at least wiped out of existence. Now, how is it possible to deal with, or to guard against such extraordinary stupidity? Here it was not a case of ignorance; ignorance would have led the man to tie the flexible to the nearest gas-pipe or to the outside of the socket. Ignorance would never have led him to take such ordered steps to attain an end. The whole thing was an instance of that crassly stupid, cocksure, "I-know" attitude, which is so characteristic of the post-war workman. Truly my sympathies go out to everyone connected with the Safety First movement, as I know from lengthy practical experience the difficulties against which they are contending.

Some "Safety" Data.

According to the returns of the British Safety-First Association, and to a paper read before that institution, a summary of accidents in one of the largest steel works in existence shows a monthly average of accidents which is astonishingly high. Of these, not one has been due to the absence of a safety device, and individual care would have avoided most of them. At the works in question a great deal of interest is taken in the Safety-First movement, and neither expense nor pains are spared to drive home to the men the need for care in their work. Yet, in spite of all effort, 482 accidents took place in one month, none of which was attributable to lack of instructions or absence of precaution on the part of the employing firm.

The suggestion has been made that money or other prizes should be offered to those departments which showed, during the month or the year, the lowest percentage of accidents. In regard to this, however, it is practically certain that the unscrupulous character of the average workman, where personal gain is concerned, would lead him to conceal accidents which happened to others, as far as possible in order that his department would take a high place in the competition.

The whole root of the trouble appears to lie in a workman's distaste for knowledge and dislike for using such intelligence as he possesses, and little result will be forthcoming until employees generally have been taught to think for themselves.

A Safety Switch.

A description has reached me of an interesting and, in some respects novel, switch for dealing in perfect safety with fairly heavy currents at comparatively high voltages. As I have pointed out above, the average labour employed in factories, etc., to-day is not nearly as intelligent or even careful as that of pre-war days, and every precaution has now to be taken to protect the workman from himself. For that reason every form of safety device as to be welcomed, and the switch in question, which is the product of one of the largest electrical engineering firms in the world, should come into fairly general use in the near future.

The switch has been specially designed for use on main circuits or in situations where ordinary knife switches have been used hitherto. The switch itself consists of a bow-shaped copper laminated contact bridge, which makes connection between two blocks, one of which carries the fuse clip and the other the sweating thimble to which the main cable is brought. The operating mechanism is of galvanised steel, working by means of a substantial insulated handle, on the well-known toggle principle. The outer laminations of the brush are of thin bronze strip, so that the action is entirely self-cleaning, owing to their scraping effect, and auxiliary contacts are provided for the purpose of carrying and eventually breaking the arc formed during switching-off. The switch, it may be said, is of the quick-make-and-break type.

So far there is no novelty in the construction. A number of more or less similar types could be selected to-day, or,

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for that matter, could have been selected years ago from the lists of any representative manufacturing or factoring firm. The novelty and safety of the switch lie in other directions, and it is in these that the chief interest is to be found, from an engineering point of view.

The switch, with the fuse clips and terminals, is enclosed in a steel box, into and out of which the main cables pass through ebonite collars, or steel tubes, as the case may be. This steel box is provided with a lid which is hinged in the centre, the bottom portion carrying the handle of the switch, which projects outwards in the usual way. This portion of the lid is firmly screwed to the box by means of a number of stout screws, and a seal can be attached, or even a padlock, to prevent any risk of the screws being removed, and the lid opened by any unauthorised person. The other portion of the lid can be swung back out of place in order to give free access to the fuse clips for replacement purposes.

The first and most striking novelty is that this hinged portion of the lid is connected to an ingenious latch arrangement, which is so coupled to the switch that the lid cannot be opened under any circumstances unless the switch is first thrown over to the "off" position. Farther, until the lid is again closed and fastened in place the switch cannot be released so as to enable it to be moved, and the current switched on. In this way defective fuses can be replaced at any time with immunity by even the least-skilled workman. As long as the door of the fuse portion is open no part of the switch-gear can carry electrical energy. It is pointed out that by using a padlock the switch handle can be locked back in the "off" position, and held there after the fuses have been fixed, until some responsible person has viewed the work and passed it as correctly done.

Further provision is made for a second padlock which will fasten the fuse-box cover in place, so that a duly authorised person must be fetched to unlock the lid before the defective fuses can be touched. Either of these padlocks could be used independently of the other, and if a responsible person—who need not, however, be a skilled electrician—is given charge of the key, it should be impossible for any accident to occur.

Artistic Lighting.

In connection with electric lighting work there are certain essential conditions with which well-planned lighting—whether it be in the workshop, the office or the home—must comply. The light must be adequate, glare from exposed filaments must be absent, and the fixtures must be located in such positions that the light comes from the correct quarter.

Artistic considerations demand that the fittings should conform to the style of decoration in the rooms they are intended to illuminate, and that the light should be of a pleasing nature. Here it may be mentioned that it is as well to provide in the main reception rooms for alternative lighting so that the illumination scheme may be varied to suit the whim of the moment or the exigencies of the occasion.

For instance, the main lighting of a drawing-room could be derived from one or more semi-indirect pendants, but although these may be used to flood the room with light when a merry entertainment is in progress, well-shaded candle lamps on the piano, with, perhaps, a floor standard in a corner, would be more suited to a quiet domestic evening.

In the study an indirect fitting would produce an almost shadowless light, most pleasant to work under, but on occasion this could be switched off and light for reading obtained from a table standard.

For a small family party an adjustable pendant over the table might suffice in the dining-room, but the appearance of the table can be greatly enhanced on "state occasions" by table candle-sticks or the like.

Oil Burning.

Some little time ago I was present at a demonstration of an ordinary Foden steam-wagon which had been converted from coal-firing to liquid fuel burning by the Scarab Oil Burning Co., Limited, and which, at that time, had been working under those conditions for about six weeks.

The consumption of liquid fuel, it is claimed, works out at about half a gallon per mile on town service, with a fuel load of five tons on the body of the wagon and three tons on a trailer. Lighting up in the morning is accomplished by a hand-starting arrangement whereby, after five or ten minutes, the burners operate by themselves until steam is raised. The engine can be moved under its own steam within thirty minutes of the burners being lighted.

It was the Scarab Oil Burning Company's system that was fitted to the oil-fired train from Euston to Birmingham some weeks back. They are also fitting the system to locomotives on the North-Eastern Railway, the Great Northern Railway, the Highland Railway, and some foreign lines.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—There has been no change in prices. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 62s. to 66s., and white Mauritius has been done at 71s. Home refined has been in active demand at the official rates.

Coffee.—The market has shown a slight improvement in most cases. Costa Rica has been done at 130s., an increase of 1s., and Indian at 110s. has gone up 4s. Mocha at 170s. is unchanged. The futures market is firmer but inactive. Quotations are:—March, 48s.; May, 47s.; July, 47s.; September, 48s.; December, 49s.

Oilcakes.—There has been a decline in prices. Linseed cake is 1s. down, and cottonseed cake is 6d. down at 18s. and 11s. respectively. Ground nut cake at 15s. 6d. has risen 1s. Coconut cake has come to business at 12s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—The market has shown an upward tendency. Indian linseed is the same at 22s. 6d. Rapeseed has risen with Toria at 20s. 6d. and bold Ferozepore at 20s., increases of 6d. and 1s. respectively.

Seed Oils.—Prices are still on the decline. Linseed oil at 33s. has lost 3s. Other transactions include rape oil at 53s., a drop of 6s. Refined cotton oil at 43s. has shed 2s.; and the Egyptian variety has also declined 4s. at 30s. Turpentine is unchanged at 100s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 180s. cwt.; butter, 280s. cwt.; cheese, 170s. cwt.; eggs, 36s. per 120; chillies, 125s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 2d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 90s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 116s. cwt.; East Indian bold, 112s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 116s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochim), 42s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 160s. cwt.; lard, 141s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs, 11d. lb. per 110's to 80's; pepper (Singapore, black), 4½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 152s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 130s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 91s. 6d.; cwt.; sugar (granulated), 72s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 76s. cwt.; Mauritius, 70s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearly), 25s. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 18s. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £7 5s. ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 6½d. lb.; Java, 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 114s. 9d. qr.; wheat (English white), 82s. 6d. qr.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer: First 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4d. lb.; bulls (first), 4½d. lb.; bulls (second), 3½d. lb.; kips (first), 6½d. lb.; kips (second), 5½d. lb.; kips (third), 4½d. lb.; horse hides, 7s. to 20s. each. Calcutta Market:—Prices in rupees per 20 lb.: Arsenic hides, cows—Agris, 9.0 to 15.0; Durbhargas, 6.0 to 7.8; Patnas, 4.0 to 6.8; salted cows, 4.0 to 9.0. Arsenic hides, buffalo, 2.8 to 7.0. Skins: Calf, 8.0 to 10.0; goat, 120.0 to 130.0 per 100 pieces.

Metals.—Aluminium, £165 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £73 15s. ton; copper (electro, wire bars), £83 5s. ton; gold bars, 110s. 8d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 220s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 240s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 12s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 2s. 6d. unit; Molybdenite, 65s. unit; nickel, £215 ton; platinum, 410s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £12 12s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 39½d. lb.; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 8s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £205 ton; tin sheets (20 by 14), 33s. box; wolfram, 16s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £44 10s.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 3½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 4½d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 0½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £25 8s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £60 ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 2½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £21 ton; borax crystals, 38s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 170s. cwt. Potassium: Bichromate, 1s. 2½d. lb.; chlorate, 7½d. lb.; caustic, £73 10s. ton; nitrate, £60 ton; permanganate, 2s. 10½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 6½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £27 15s. tons. Sodium: Crystals, 150s. ton; bi-carbonate, £11 ton; bi-chromate, 9½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £10 15s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £26 10s. ton; hyposulphate, £26 10s. ton; prussiate, 11½d. lb.; nitrate, £21 15s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £39 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 4s. 6d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 8d. oz.; red lead, £44 12s. 6d. ton; white dry lead, £50 12s. 6d. ton; white ground lead, £60 10s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 11.17d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian, Sakellaridis), 22.00d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £18 15s. ton; rape (Toria), £20 5s. ton; soya beans, £14 10s. ton; palm kernels, £24 10s. ton; oils, linseed, £38 ton; soya, £38 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £34 10s. ton; olive, 16s. gallon; ground nut, £45 10s. ton; palm, £45 10s. ton; rape (crude), £62 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3d. gallon; turpentine, 100s. cwt. Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 1s. 1½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 1s. 1d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 0½d. lb.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.**Market Again Depressed.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

Since a week ago the market has met with a decided set-back. The improved inquiry has passed away, and spinners and manufacturers are now reporting again a general absence of demand. The change in the situation is very largely due to the reaction in raw cotton rates, and as is usual in a falling market buyers are holding aloof. The turnover in Egyptian cotton has been much smaller than last week. Users anticipated plentiful supplies for some time to come, and a revival of business in yarns is very uncertain. Egyptian spinners continue to meet with an irregular inquiry. Isolated sales have occurred at cut prices, but there has not been any general flow of orders, and it has been decided to continue organised short time. Letters and telegrams from Egypt with regard to piece goods have not been very favourable, and although clearances are of fair extent merchants on the other side are not yet ready to commit themselves to contracts of weight with Lancashire manufacturers. Very little has been heard of demand for the outlets of the Levant. Inquiry for India shows a distinct falling off. Native merchants are adopting a very awkward attitude with regard to remittances, and the exchange problem cannot be solved. Prices have been asked for for China, but business has not matured. The South American outlets have been quiet. Manufacturers take a gloomy view of the prospects. American yarns have been purchased sparingly, and prices have favoured buyers. Only odd lots have changed hands in shipping counts.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ended January 20, state:—We have experienced a most disappointing week. The improvement which took place last week has not been maintained, and the future, apparently, is as uncertain as ever. A considerable quantity of cheap cotton was on offer, but the tendency of the whole cotton market here was distinctly downwards, and the Lancashire spinner, according to his invariable custom, stood aloof. The American markets which started the recent short-lived advance were also responsible for the set-back. Manchester, which for about ten days had been sending through most encouraging reports, at once got scared, and for the last day or two advices from that centre have been anything but cheerful. Most experts agree that had the markets here displayed anything like a reasonable show of strength, a considerable volume of business would have taken place. The week's enquiry may be described as fair, Sakellaridis being mostly in request. The best quality is getting scarce now, owing to the low stocks on hand, and a slight advance in price for the top grade has been registered. Other growths were comparatively neglected. Taken all round, quotations for Egyptian cotton would still appear to be too high, particularly for Sakellaridis and brown cottons. A fair amount of desultory bidding took place, but spinners, on the whole, were apathetic, and in the majority of cases their ideas were too low altogether, and business failed to result. C.I.F. business has been done on a small scale only. The visible supply in Great Britain is lower to-day than it has been since November last, and we can only wait—and hope. Quotations show an all-round decrease of 50 points, with the exception of extra fine Sakellaridis, which is advanced 50 points. Total sales, 1,200 bales. Fully good fair Sakellaridis 22.50d.

H.M. Legation at Belgrade reports to the Department of Overseas Trade that the Administrative Council of the Serb, Croat, Slovene National Bank has decided to call in all notes of 20 dinar value. This will take place during the course of the next three months. The 20 dinar notes have lately been counterfeited in very large quantities, and this fact may have influenced the National Bank in coming to their decision.

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EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in December:—

Maize (Nili).—Harvesting was completed towards the middle of the month. The crop is a little below the average.

Wheat and Barley.—The weather has been favourable and the water supply ample. Late crops in Qalyūbiya and Beheira Provinces have not received quantities sufficient owing to winter closure. The area under wheat and barley has now increased and appears to be larger than last year. The bulk of the crop has been sown early and the germination is satisfactory; watering and manuring are in progress. Cut-worm has been noticed in Minūfiya and Asyūt Provinces, but the damage done is negligible.

Beans.—The weather has, on the whole, been favourable, and the water supply ample. Flowering in early sown fields is general. In the basin areas in Giza Province, sowing was a week later than last year. Slight attacks of broomrape (*Halook*) are reported from Daqahliya, Minūfiya, and Qena. The area under beans, too, seems to be larger this year. The crop is in good condition.

Lentils.—The crop is in good condition, and flowering has begun in early sown fields. In the basins sowing has now been completed.

Bersim.—The crop is in a satisfactory state of growth. The first cut has been taken, as well as the second one in early sown fields. Grazing is now general.

THE RUBBER MARKET IN 1920.

In their annual review of the rubber market in 1920, Messrs. S Figgis and Co. state:—The total new supply of all rubber we estimate was about 305,000 tons for 1920, and stocks of plantation rubber in the world to-day are large. We estimate in the East, America, and England, a total increase in the stocks of about 80,000 tons, but there is much less afloat than at this time last year. The rubber trade has gone through a worse crisis this year than ever before. The large amount of rubber which American manufacturers bought at the end of 1919 and the beginning of 1920 was made into manufactured goods in anticipation of a big European demand, which opinion was no doubt generally held; the result was that manufacturers were left with large quantities of manufactured goods, and had still to take in considerable quantities of raw rubber at high prices. It is evident that, but for this, prices would not have reached the high level of last winter, and that they were not justified; we recommended caution in our last annual review. The supply of rubber during the past two years has now shown itself greater than the demand. The sales made by estates over 1921 are much less than usual, and there is no doubt that after the high-priced contracts have been liquidated the position as regards new buying powers will have improved. We understand that on the Continent, though the use of motors is small, there is a considerable increase in bicycles, and Germany has bought a little. The agreement made in October by the Growers' Association to curtail output by 25 per cent. did not affect the market, and it was not until this year, when it was reported that the Malay Government would probably bring forward legislation restricting output and export by 50 per cent. reduction, that the market improved, and we close about 4½d. above the worst.

The tobacco monopoly has been abolished throughout Palestine. Mr. A. K. Wright, general manager of the Royal Bank of Scotland, has been elected a director of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Ltd.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended January 15 amounted to £9,949.

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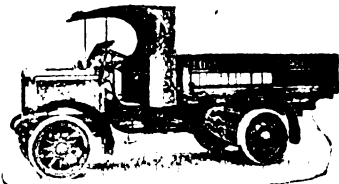
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COMPANY MEETINGS.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY.

Heavy Increase in Working Expenses.

The one hundred and forty-second half-yearly meeting of stockholders of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company was held on January 21 at the offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C.

The Secretary (Mr. R. H. Walpole) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

Sir Charles H. Armstrong (the chairman of the company) presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report for the six months ended September 30 last, said that an arrangement was made a few months ago with the Secretary of State that detailed reports on the working of the various departments of the railway should in future be made once only in the twelve months, and these fuller particulars for the whole financial year would be submitted at the half-yearly meeting at the end of June. With regard to the period under review, he said that gross receipts showed an increase of over 14 lacs of rupees compared with the corresponding period of 1919, but as expenditure was 75 lacs in excess of the corresponding six months, the result was a falling-off in net revenue of 60½ lacs, or 27.44 per cent. After deduction of interest charges there was a deficit on the half-year's working of Rs.2,77,000, against a surplus in the corresponding period of 1919 of Rs.52,20,000, a total decrease of nearly 55 lacs. The first six months of their financial year were not, as a rule, the best, but as working expenses had greatly increased, and had been added to since the current half-year commenced, the year's results must be affected thereby, although in all probability the gross receipts would show an advance on the previous twelve months. To date they were 21 lacs to the good, but as last year's monsoon was not favourable, crops in Western India were below the average, and as, owing to trade depression in this country and unfavourable exchanges on the Continent, the demand for Indian produce was not what it used to be, the receipts into Bombay of many important articles would decline, and the company's tonnage would be affected thereby. The percentage of working expenses for the half-year was 75.86, as against 66.01 in the corresponding period of 1919. This was a heavy percentage, and unless rates and fares were raised to meet the increased cost of working, there was little chance, he feared, of any decline, and the figure might even go higher.

Question of Finance.

They had now before them a large capital programme for coaching vehicles and goods wagons which, if carried through, would enable them to give a really efficient service, but they were short of funds, and until this was remedied they would continue to work under disadvantages, and the public in India would be the sufferers. The time had undoubtedly come, at any rate on the G.I.P., when rates and fares must be raised, for money could not now be borrowed on the old basis of 3½ per cent., and to cover a present rate of 6 or 6½ per cent. and greatly increased working expenses, a much larger revenue was necessary, even after taking into account the small increase they hoped to get year by year from a steadily expanding traffic. This urgent need for higher rates they had strongly represented to the Government of India, by whom such matters were controlled. The question of adequate funds was a most important one for the working and development of Indian railways, and as the success of Indian trade depended very largely on the successful working of the trunk lines, the question of finance was one that should be carefully studied, not only in this country, but in India. He was hoping that some new method of finance would be recommended by the Railway Committee now sitting in India, and he was also hoping that in some way it might be possible to attract rupee money into the railways of India, although in all probability it would cost more to do this than to raise money in England.

Mr. J. F. Finlay, C.S.I., seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

East Indian Railway.

The gross receipts of the East Indian Railway Company for the half-year ended September 30, 1920, were Rs. 7,28,90,587, increase Rs. 53,03,927; working expenses were Rs. 3,82,34,235, increase Rs. 92,94,680; and net earnings Rs. 3,46,56,352, decrease Rs. 39,90,753. The net earnings, including South Behar Railway, together with sum received for working the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway, amount to Rs. 3,31,79,481. From this has to be deducted Rs. 1,75,47,090 in respect of charges, leaving divisible surplus of Rs. 1,56,32,391, the company's share of which, after deducting Rs. 80,132 for Indian income and super-taxes, is Rs. 3,51,692. This has produced £29,308, which, added to balance in surplus profits account (after paying and providing for excess profits duty to March 31, 1920), enables the Board to recommend a dividend, subject to English income-tax at 4s. 9d., of 15s. 3d. per cent. on deferred annuity capital and deferred annuity, class "D," in addition to guaranteed interest of £2 per cent., for the half-year, and 4s. 9d. per cent. in respect of the amount received from Secretary of State.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

Holders of debenture bonds to bearer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Limited, amounting to £500,000, and falling due on February 2, are advised that the directors, with the sanction of the Secretary of State for India in Council, are prepared to renew such debentures at £98 10s. per £100 (30s. per cent. discount) for a further period of two years, with interest at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, provided the holders of the said debentures intimate their acceptance of this offer and send their bonds to the office of the company, 132, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C., for endorsement before noon on February 1. A commission of 5s. per £100 will be allowed to brokers and other recognised agents.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.

The net earnings of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway for the year ended September 30 last amount to Rs.25,89,722, against Rs.23,44,352. The actual rate of exchange during the period was much higher than 1s. 4d., the book rate, and adding the actual gain in remittance, £47,853, the net earnings are £125,973, against £84,966. After bringing forward £39,413, providing for income-taxes, etc., appropriating £9,500 to the investment depreciation fund, transferring £10,000 to reserve, and adjusting £8,758 on account of Secretary of State's share of surplus profits, the amount to be dealt with is £62,497. The directors propose a final dividend of £4 per cent., together with a bonus of 1 per cent. on the ordinary stock, subject to tax, and that the balance of £46,414 be carried forward. The dividend with bonus is at the rate of 10 per cent. for the year, the same as in the preceding year.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 17:—Famine has been declared in the Ahmednagar district of the Bombay Presidency, and scarcity in parts of the Central Provinces and the Nasik district of the Bombay Presidency. In the whole of the Central Provinces crops are considerably damaged owing to prolonged drought, where rain is urgently required. Rain also required in the Punjab, North-West Frontier Provinces, Bombay, and the unirrigated area of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and in parts of Central India and Madras. Otherwise crop prospects generally fair during week ending January 8.

Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomra March Rs.275. Piece-goods market absolutely stagnant. Calcutta jute market steady, with fair business early in the week. Hessians steady, with some demand. Freights on jute and gunnies still falling.

The following railways have been sanctioned: (1) Construction of metre gauge railway of 38 miles, from Dholka to Dhandhuka by the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company. (2) Construction of a railway of 30 miles from Dhandhuka to Botad by Bhavnagar Darbar. (3) Reconnaissance Survey for connection of Munnar (tea district) with Cochin State Railway.

The Government of India are pushing on with preparations for air mail service, firstly, between Rangoon and Calcutta; secondly, between Calcutta and Bombay. Evidence given before the Indian Railway Committee shows that the Indian steel output was restricted during 1920 owing to the shortage of railway facilities. No change in bank rates—i.e., the rate is 7 per cent. in Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras.

Sir Frederick Rowlatt is relinquishing the Governorship of the National Bank of Egypt. His successor is Mr. B. Hornsby, sub-governor of the Bank of Alexandria.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, January 15.

The fall in prices and the general stagnation continue to exercise an unfavourable influence on the market. All the same, granted that imports, especially manufactures, have almost completely ceased owing to the absence of orders, some sales transacted for Roumania, as well as for some Anatolian towns of the Black Sea littoral, appear to have relieved somewhat the difficult position of merchants.

Manufactures.—The fall in prices and the lack of business are the dominant features of the market. The news received recently from manufacturing centres points to a cessation of the decline. Our market is holding its own while awaiting the end of the dead season and the resumption of communications with the interior.

Colonial Produce.—**Sugar.**—A certain improvement in prices has taken place on the Java, American, and Marseilles markets, while the Amsterdam and Antwerp markets are lower. The arrivals of the week amount to about thirty cases, which have been disposed of as soon as they were unshipped. Quotations are:—Java sugar, shipment from America, 14-14½ dollars; in this market, £58-£59 per ton; in cartons, £T45-£T46 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—The market is featureless. There is no demand in Europe, as in this market. The 8,000 sacks which arrived recently remain unsold pending buying orders from Roumania, which is actually our principal outlet. Prices (per oke in transit), Rio No. 1, Ps. 43-44; Rio No. 2, Ps. 41-42; ordinary quality, Ps. 30. Coffee in cartons is quoted at about Ps. 50 per oke, according to quality.

MERSINA, January 4.

The opening of railway communications between Mersina and Adana has not given to commerce here the activity that was anticipated. As a matter of fact, the town of Adana—the principal market for all merchandise imported into Cilicia—in view of the fear that railway communications with Europe via Adana would be lacking throughout the winter, had her supplies completely replenished by Karatach, so that when the line was opened it was found that Adana had adequate supplies of everything. This position has somewhat seriously affected our market because of the impossibility of disposing of stocks without causing a marked fall in prices, and consequently a considerable loss.

A certain number of bales of cotton have arrived here by railway from Adana for export abroad, but, owing to the fall in the price of cotton in Europe and developments in Greece, shipments have been completely suspended. Cotton is now Ps. 140 per 100 kilos, and sesame Ps. 25 per oke.



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SYRIA.

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ON 'CHANGE.

Tendency Irregular; Renewed Liquidation.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday night.

The recent recovery in markets has been shortlived. In view of the prevailing circumstances, it was really too much to expect a continuance of the upward movement. For firm markets we must wait until vastly different conditions obtain both at home and abroad. The past week has seen in most markets the development of an irregular tendency—Near Eastern descriptions providing one of the few exceptions.

The firmness which has characterised the gilt edged market for some time has given place during the past few days to considerable irregularity, and in a number of cases quotations have moved downward. Foreign Funds have been exceptionally rather firmer, but here, too, the position will be rather uncertain until the decisions of the Inter-Allied Conference in Paris are known.

Industrials have been markedly weak. There has been a further development of liquidation, and prices in general are considerably lower on balance. The chief depressing factor has been the general trade outlook, which rather tends to become worse at the moment.

In the Shipping section, an inactive tone has ruled, and there is nothing of any particular interest to report. The oil market has been dull, and marked declines are to be noted in the leading descriptions. Rubbers have resumed their downward march, and in a number of cases prices have reached a very low level.

Few changes are to be recorded in Near Eastern Government securities. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are unchanged at 60, while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are the same at 67. Exceptionally Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are ½ up at 57½.

Greek securities have, with one exception, shown no change. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan and 5 per cent. 1884 issues remain the same at 41½. The 5 per cent. 1890 Loan has gained 1½ points at 41½, but Funding at 40 is unchanged. The 1910 Loan at 31 and the 1914 Loan at 39 are both unaltered. The 1902 Loan is the same at 35.

Banks have remained steady. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are the same at 53, and the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds at 55 are unchanged. Imperial Ottoman Banks at 7½ and National Bank of Egypt at 16½ are both unaltered. Land Banks at 4 13-16 have gained 3-16.

There have been very few changes in Land Shares. Beheras at 8½, and the Preference shares at 2½ are the same. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments remain unaltered at 3½, as also the Egyptian Consolidated Lands at 1s. 9d. Delta Lands at 9s. 6d. have shed 3d., while Gharbieh Lands at 1½ are unchanged. New Egyptians are the same at 23s. 6d., while Union Foncières are 1-32 up at 2 27-32, at which there were buyers. Sudan Plantations have increased 1 1-16 at 3 11-16.

Oils have been changeable. Anglo-Egyptians have risen 3-16 to 2½. Phoenix are 1s. 10½d. up at 11s. 6d. Roumanian Consolidated at 13s. 6d. have gained 3s. 6d., but Steaua Romana has lost 6d. at 17s. 6d.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions, Abyssinian Corporations are 3s. Alexandria Waters close at 7½d., at which there are buyers. Morums are quoted at 13s. 6d. and Egyptian Salt and Sodas at 30s. 6d.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

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

Photographic Material.—The Egyptian Ministry of the Interior invites tenders for the supply of photographic apparatus and materials (chemical, etc.) required for the year 1921-2. Tenders, which must be submitted by persons or firms residing or having a representative in Egypt, should be marked "Tender for the supply of Photographic Material," and addressed to The Director, Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, Egypt. January 31, 1921 (L.).

Metals.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of metals required for the first six months of the financial year 1921-1922. February 7.

Ropes, Canvas, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of ropes, canvas, bunting, etc., required for the first six months of the financial year 1921-1922. February 10.

Uniforms and Boots.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of uniforms and boots for the coming summer. February 17.

Paper.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and stationery. February 24.

Wood.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of wood required during six months from April 1, 1921. March 15.

Paints, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of paints, oils, tar, soap, etc., required during the first six months of the financial year 1921-1922. March 17.

India.

Refuse Destructor.—The Municipality of Bombay invites tenders for the manufacture, erection, and equipment of a refuse destructor for 200 tons of refuse a day. (Spec. 5s. Sir John Wolfe Barry, Lyster, and Partners, 2, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.) March 4.

Pumping Plant.—The Municipal Committee, Simla, invite tenders for supplying, erecting, and running for one month a new pumping plant, consisting of three units and steel rising mains, etc., with all fittings for the water supply. The pump lift (excluding friction) is 3,939 ft. The Municipal Committee is prepared to consider alternative tenders for other forms of plant to do the duty required by the specification. (Specification, etc., Municipal Office, Simla, Rs.10.) March 28.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £ ..	25'22½	50'00-51'25
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25'22½	133
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee ..	24d.	1'5½-1'5½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25'22½	270-290
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee..	24d.	1'5½-1'5½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	565-585
New York	Dollars to £	4'86½	3'77-3'79
Paris	Francs to £	25'22½	52'00-54'95
Prague	Kronen to £	24'02	270-290
Rome	Lire to £	25'22½	102-104½
Sofia	Levas to £	25'22½	335
Teheran	Krans to £	50	40½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24'02	1,350-1,650
Warsaw	Marks to £	20'43	3,200-3,400

In some cases quotations are nominal.

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It appears that a considerable reduction in shipbuilding has taken place in the United States, whilst the rate of building in the United Kingdom has appreciably increased. For the quarter ending September last year, the figures for which are now available, British shipbuilding showed an increase of over 150,000 tons as compared with the returns for June, and an increase of nearly one million tons on the figures for the same period in 1919. The United States figures, on the other hand, show a decrease of no less than 58 per cent. between March, 1919, and September, 1920, the British figures for the same period showing an increase of no less than 66.5 per cent.

MARINE DIESELS.

The "Grand Prix," at the L'Orient (France) Marine Exhibition was gained by the Ansaldo San Giorgio Marine semi-Diesel engine, which is said to be a most suitable prime mover for small craft, especially the larger type of fishing boats. A number of types and designs of Diesels and semi-Diesels were shown at the exhibition, which was largely attended.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia, for Bombay (also taking cargo for Karachi and coast ports) (Liverpool, February 7).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maihar, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, February 8); s.s. Malakand, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 9); s.s. Makalla, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, February 19); s.s. Manaar, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 23).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire, for Rangoon (London, February 2); s.s. Herefordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 16).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Kenneth, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Manchester, February 1); s.s. Clan Urquhart for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 10).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Antiope, for Gibraltar, Messina, etc. (Swansea, February 1).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Polo, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 5); s.s. City of Palermo for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, February 12).

Ellerman City Line.—S.s. City of Glasgow, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 31); s.s. City of York, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 14).

Ellerman's Hall Line.—S.s. City of Birmingham, for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, January 29); s.s. City of London, for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, February 10).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Mardinian, for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (London, January 29).

Glen Line.—S.s. Pembrokehire, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (London, February 3); s.s. Gleniffer, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (London, February 17); s.s. Glengyle, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (London, March 3).

Golden Star Line.—S.s. Mediterranean Star, for Genoa, Naples, Alexandria and Piræus (leaves Marseilles, February 8).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Musician, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 3); s.s. Patrician, for Calcutta (Liverpool, Feb-

ruary 5); s.s. Defender, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 19); s.s. Merchant, for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, Zanzibar, etc. (Glasgow, February 10; Birkenhead, February 17).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Arracan (freight only), for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 9).

Holt Line.—S.s. Atreus, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, February 3); s.s. Jason, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, February 3); s.s. Elsinor, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, February 3, and Birkenhead, February 10).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, February 2); s.s. Venice, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, February 12); s.s. Pomaron, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, February 23); s.s. Incemore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Vola, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, March 5).

Moss Line.—S.s. Amarna, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta and Alexandria (accepting cargo for Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus and Syrian coast ports) (Liverpool, February 5); s.s. Limoges, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople (Liverpool, February 19).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Assyrian for Malta and Alexandria (also taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Jaffa, Haifa, Mersina, Port Said and Cyprus, etc. (Liverpool, January 29).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Dongola, for Bombay (Liverpool, January 28); s.s. Novara, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 5); s.s. China, for Bombay (London, February 11); s.s. Nellore, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 11); s.s. Kalvan, for Bombay (London, February 18); s.s. Soudan, for Bombay (London, February 18); s.s. Somali, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 25).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Merkara, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 4); s.s. Tremere, for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 5); s.s. Lena, for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 19); s.s. Morvada, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, February 25).

Prince Line.—S.s. Glenshiel, for Malta and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Syrian coast and Cyprus ports (London, January 30); s.s. Syrian Prince, for Malta and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Syrian coast and Cyprus ports (Leith, February 10, and Liverpool, February 20); s.s. Soldier Prince, for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Syrian coast and Cyprus ports (Manchester, February 15).

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be redirected to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

103. An Athens firm invites publishers of periodicals dealing with yarns (reports on local markets and world output) and cottons to send specimen copies with a view to its becoming a permanent subscriber.

104. A Greek firm is establishing an electric light station in Macedonia, and wishes to get into touch with firms dealing in the necessary machinery.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

107. Old established Turkish firm handling general stores situated in Smyrna and having branches in the interior invites exporters to quote prices for groceries. The firm also acts as agents for articles of general consumption in Asia Minor.

108. Hemp manufacturer in Croatia wishes to get into touch with rope manufacturers who would purchase hemp.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 508.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Conference on Near Eastern Affairs.

The Allied Conference on Near Eastern affairs, which is to be attended by representatives of Greece and Turkey, will be opened in London on February 21. Greece is to be represented by M. Rallis, Prime Minister, and M. Kalogeropoulos, and in spite of the fulminations now emanating from Angora it is to be hoped that Mustapha Kemal Pasha will see in time the wisdom of having a Nationalist delegate present. Whatever may be the official outcome of the Conference, it will have brought the new Greek Government into touch with the British and French Governments, and must inevitably be a prelude to the formal recognition by the Powers of King Constantine. There is good reason for supposing that M. Venizeios is ready to urge this course on the Allied Governments.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

A message from Belgrade reports that uneasiness prevails in Yugoslavia at the reported evasions of the military provisions of the Treaty of Neuilly by the Bulgarians. It is stated that, according to figures in the possession of the "Serbian" Government, Bulgaria has at the moment 46,000 men under arms, whereas the Treaty limits the army to 20,000. The Allied Military Missions in Sofia are being "hoodwinked," in the opinion of Belgrade. If any evasions of the Treaty of Neuilly can be established, it is the duty of the Yugoslav authorities to call attention to them; but we have too high an opinion of Serbian valour and *sang froid* to credit the statement that anything happening in a relatively diminutive Bulgaria causes alarm to the Serbian authorities or people. At the same time it is to be hoped that the Yugoslav Government will be careful to avoid any action that suggests the perpetuation of the old policy of suspicion and pinpricks in Serbo-Bulgarian relations. The recent stoppage of traffic between the two countries affected foreign interests no less than Bulgarian, and it has not yet been shown that a less high-handed method of procedure would have failed to secure the end in view.

Compulsory Labour in Bulgaria.

The Allied Governments have responded to Yugoslav misgivings in another direction by vetoing the law introduced by the present Bulgarian Government compelling practically all able-bodied citizens, male and

female, between certain years of age to give a certain number of days each year to manual labour of public utility. It was considered in Yugoslavia that the introduction of this scheme tended to keep in being the Bulgarian military system, inasmuch as Army officers would naturally be chosen to superintend the labour bands in the different districts. The Allied Governments called for reports from their military missions, and have taken the action indicated. As the law was necessarily unpopular in Bulgaria, its abrogation is not likely to cause much regret in the country. Whatever its relation to the military system might have proved in practice, it is difficult to believe that M. Stamboliisky's Government deliberately adopted compulsory labour with the object of going behind the Treaty of Neuilly. In the light of other legislation it is more likely that it is entitled to be regarded as a well-meant but unfortunate method of illustrating Bulgaria's resolve to concentrate all her attention on economic reconstruction.

A Russo-Persian Agreement.

Reports, which appear to be trustworthy, inform us that, through the Persian Ambassador in Constantinople, a Russo-Persian agreement has actually been signed. Unless we are misinformed, His Excellency the Minister referred to has never been friendly disposed towards this country; and we can, therefore, probably place our finger on the centre of one of those Persian circles which, according to a Paris message, express satisfaction at the step taken. For, according to this message, the new agreement "provides for the abandonment of the former Russian policy in Persia," and therefore the Anglo-Persian Agreement, "the pretext for which was Soviet Russia's designs against Persia," may be straightway abolished. In fact, Soviet Russia, having already renounced many items on the other side of her accounts with the world, now renounces "all privileges, concessions, guarantees on debts, and limitations on the sovereign rights of Persia obtained by Tsarist Russia." Of course, if the Persian Government chooses to accept all these assurances at their face value that is entirely its own concern. But it is unfortunate that it should have had to inaugurate the new era of brotherly love by a protest to the Soviet Government in connection with a little affair in the province of Ghilan, where "a band of rebels," under the protection of fire from Bolshevik armed ships, made a raid, and carried off a number of notables and quantities of other loot. February 2 was fixed as the date for the meeting of the Mejliss: it will be interesting to see what view that body takes of these latest developments. If it wishes to see all British troops withdrawn from

Persia it has only to refuse to ratify the Anglo-Persian Agreement.

The Egyptian Nationalists.

Nearly all the members of the Egyptian Nationalist Delegation are now back in their own country, only Zaghloul Pasha himself and two other members remaining in Paris. The *Morning Post's* Cairo correspondent reports that the leader telegraphed from Paris to the Cairo committee of the Delegation instructing it to boycott the returning members, and that on their arrival in Cairo they met with a mixed reception from the crowd, who wished to know whether they were still loyal to Zaghloul. From this it would appear that the noisy element, at least, still remains loyal to him; but that is not to say that in case the breach should widen it would be wise to pay very great deference to the popular Pasha. Moderate views are gaining ground, and have been doing so for some time; and when those who hold them can feel safe in giving expression to them and acting upon them, the shouters will recede into their proper position in regard to the negotiations. At present, members of the Delegation talk of their intention to bow to the nation's will; but other people find considerable difficulty in making out, amidst the clamour, what is the nation's will.

The Independence of Georgia.

It will be remembered that Georgia secured a recognition of *de facto* independence rather more than a year ago; and the Supreme Council has now accorded its recognition of her independence as a *de jure* State. We regard this as good news, and hope that it indicates that the Allies recognise the importance of Georgia as a possible bar to the spread of Bolshevism, and that they will act accordingly. For the moment her own bold actions and the failures of Lenin and Trotsky's agents in their propaganda work have saved her from the danger that threatened, but that danger was for the time a very real one. The Bolsheviks had prepared forces for the invasion of Georgia, and—it almost goes without saying—were working hard through their agents to stir up disaffection in the country itself. But the Georgian Government discovered what was going on, and took vigorous action against the plotters within their borders, and the Georgian working classes supported this course so heartily that the Bolsheviks had to abandon hope of help from the inside. At the same time their troops on the border became impatient, and finding that the promise of a great peasant rising was not likely to be fulfilled lost heart and went off to Baku to do some looting on their own account.

A Plea for Federation.

The Georgians are to be congratulated on the success that has attended their bold handling of a dangerous situation, and it is to be wished that certain other countries would deal in the same efficient way with traitors and agitators within their borders. But it would be foolish indeed to believe that the threat had been removed permanently, and when we compare the man-power of Georgia and her military resources with those of Soviet Russia it is impossible, despite the superiority in quality of her fighting men, to feel at all satisfied about the future. We publish to-day the first of two articles upon the situation in Transcaucasia from a correspondent in Tiflis. The writer holds that if the republics of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan are to find political salvation, to maintain (or to regain) their independence, they must unite for that purpose: that the Transcaucasian Federation must be revived in one form or another. His view is based upon experience acquired on the spot, and in the light of recent events; and it will probably be shared by the majority of our readers. Indeed, the advantages of such a federation are obvious, and though the difficulties in the way of bringing it about again are considerable they should not, and we believe would not, prove insuperable. If an understanding with Turkey could be reached at the same time, a great step towards giving peace to the Near and Middle East would have been taken. Under present conditions it would be unreasonable to expect the three

republics to achieve any result of the kind unaided; but perhaps Paris and London, with or without other assistance, could accomplish it, and thereby prove themselves still capable of constructive statesmanship.

The British Mission in Kabul.

The formal reception of the British Mission by the Ameer marks one more step forward in the lengthy process of readjusting our relations with Afghanistan, and the hope of a firm and lasting treaty expressed by Sir Henry Dobbs will assuredly be shared by public opinion in this country, which desires to see a strong and friendly Power established on India's vulnerable frontier. It would be a mistake, however, to look confidently for an immediate result. Afghans act promptly in the field, but their diplomacy proceeds more sedately, and we must expect prolonged discussions, and possibly delays, before a final settlement is achieved. Further, there is the menace to Afghanistan from the north, of which we have written so frequently. The details of the position in that quarter remain obscure, but there is no doubt of the intensity of Bolshevik aspirations, and we may be sure that their agents are busy in Kabul just now. Sir Henry Dobbs's task is, therefore, not an easy one, but he has a well-earned reputation for overcoming difficulties, and, while the outcome is still doubtful, we are confident that British interests are in good hands.

Indian Liberals.

Looking through the last Indian mail, one is struck by the onesidedness of the political news brought by the cables. We heard much of the deliberations, if they may be so called, of the extremists, who have captured the machinery of the National Congress, but we were told scarcely anything of the proceedings of the Liberal Federation, which claims to be the custodian of Congress traditions, and, judging by the record of its members, has a far better title to be heard. The difference between the two organisations is simply that the Congress aims at wrecking the new constitution, which the Federation intends to work, while pressing for its further liberalisation. The newer body is apparently still backward in the matter of organisation, and perhaps this is the reason why we heard so little of it, but it is gaining ground, and we notice among its supporters the names of some prominent politicians who not long ago were identified with the other side; it forms, further, a rallying-point for a very large volume of opinion which has hitherto been silent, but is beginning to find a voice, and we think it is destined to play a prominent part in the great drama which is now being staged in India.

The Past and the Future.

The most striking feature of the Federation's proceedings was undoubtedly the evidence afforded by the speeches of the continued soreness of moderate Indian opinion over the unfortunate events in the Punjab. We have no intention of reopening a discussion of those events, but the soreness of which we speak is a fact which must be taken into account in any just appreciation of the position in India, and we invite our readers to recognise it, and allow for its existence. There is undoubtedly truth in the resolution which records that the line taken by the Government "has largely prevented the people from realising the value of the constitutional reforms." To recognise that truth is not to condemn the Government for its action, and for ourselves we regard it as a call to look forward rather than backward. The realisation of the value of the reforms has in fact been impeded, but it is already proceeding, and the pace is bound to quicken when the new institutions are definitely in being; there is no better cure for wounded feelings than immersion in hard constructive work, and the fact that Indian Liberals are taking their share of the burden is in our judgment of good augury for the future.

The Call to Slavery.

Meanwhile the campaign of the Extremist-Reactionaries appears to be developing on the lines of an attempt to destroy that western civilisation which, with all its faults, has done so much to rescue the Indian

masses from slavery. The supply of coal is threatened; and without coal the free and decidedly independent factory hands would be driven back to practical serfdom in the overcrowded villages from which they have escaped. Bengal peasants are being urged not to grow jute; it is the extra profit of this crop which has rescued so many of them from economic servitude, and given them the hope of social emancipation, and if they abandon the crop the old fetters will speedily be reimposed. The reactionary ideal is thus coming more clearly into view—the old Indian ideal of a population too poor to give trouble, and easily driven by whoever holds the whip. It is not likely to be realised permanently, because during the last half-century the masses have, for the first time in history, been given a distant view of another and more hopeful future; but it may make headway for a time under the guidance of able and unscrupulous leaders, and the result depends mainly on the activities of those Indians who have rejected the old ideal for the new.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday evening.

Politics and Places.

It has been an amusing week for the industrious student of the daily papers. The political gossips and note-writers had already reconstructed the Government to their satisfaction, but the Cabinet, with unpardonable lack of proper feeling, delayed the fulfilment of the predictions. Thereupon the newspaper commentators, driven to make bricks without straw, discovered their ingenuity. They announced a serious unrest in the Coalition, with all the prospect of an early secession. The ship of State was to be shipwrecked by a mutinous crew. Rebel Unionists were to make Mr. Lloyd George walk the plank; sullen Liberals were to cheer his extinction. The end was already in sight; the match laid to the mine, which was to be sprung in the shape of a General Election—even the date was given us. The first week in May was to see the writs out.

Unfortunately the English people are constituted very much like the late Professor Huxley, who once remarked that he was ready to believe anything, only he liked to have the evidence first. And when one came to look for the evidence on which these predictions were based, one found that it consisted in the following facts: Mr. Bonar Law had been staying with Mr. Balfour in Scotland, and that curiously assorted pair were supposed to be plotting the construction of a secret gallows for their Liberal colleagues; Sir George Younger had made a speech at Cambridge, expressing the hope that the Budget this year would be smaller; Lord Hugh and Lord Robert Cecil announced that they might cross the House and sit on the Front Opposition Bench; and finally, Lord Derby had refused to take office, although it had been offered him.

From this miserable assortment of political eggs was the omelette made. It looked substantial enough until one cut it open, and then it incontinently vanished. The idea that the Unionist party is a "belle dame sans merci" who has Mr. Lloyd George in thrall is a little wide of the mark. The brothers Cecil are highly respected as men of principle, but their political course has been too erratic, and perhaps too fanatical, to give them much following. They will add to the intellect of the Front Opposition Bench, but also to its variety; their views are those of neither Mr. Asquith nor Mr. Thomas, nor have they, in fact, lent any real support to the Government for some time. If there is a Unionist "cave," as is suggested, it is a cave without a leader, for Mr. Bonar Law is notoriously not among the recalcitrants. Indeed, he is more like Mrs. Micawber than ever, for while Mr. Lloyd George is always waiting for something to turn up—as it generally does—Mr. Bonar Law swears that he will never, never desert his partner or their interesting twins, Coalition Unionist and Coalition Liberal.

A good deal, of course, depends on the Cardigan by-election, where the Independent Liberals, after a series of intrigues and denunciations in which the whole of Wales seems to have joined from the pulpit to the post-

man, are running their own candidate against Mr. Lloyd George's private secretary. But I doubt if the "Wee Frees" will make much headway in the country at large until they give over their insensate personal hatred of the Prime Minister. People at large certainly do not share it, but the Independents seem to have no other idea in their head.

As for Labour, it is a hopeless case. Its body looks healthy enough, but Mr. Sidney Webb has the permanent copyhold of its brain, and it seems to have sold its soul to Lord Haldane. If I were a Labour man, I think I should prefer to paddle my own canoe—not from any rooted objection to carrying distinguished passengers, but merely on the calculation that the united weight of Mr. Webb and Lord Haldane was enough to swamp any boat, and leave the other occupants dripping in mid-stream. Political Labour is evidently not too happy in its own mind just now, and the wicked Tories and cynical Liberals are chuckling over its bewilderment.

Railway Finance.

Our railways are unlucky. When Sir Eric Geddes raised passenger fares and freight rates last August we were told that we had only to pay just this little extra—about twopence on the shilling—to put their finances right. We paid, we grumbled, and we doubted. Several weeks later we were assured that the increase had been fully justified, that the public was willingly paying, and columns of statistics were published to show us how right Sir Eric and his railways were, and how utterly he had confounded his critics. Still we grumbled and doubted, and now, six months afterwards, it is admitted that there is a heavy deficit after all, which appears to be getting worse.

It appears that Sir Eric Geddes added up his figures correctly, but he forgot that railway traffic is not provided, like the air we breathe, by a bountiful Providence; it comes from the public and the trader. He could not foresee the coal strike (although many other people foresaw it), or the slump in business (although everybody else knew it was coming); nor did he realise that the public would travel less, as it notoriously has done since the increase, or that the higher freight rates would hamper trade. That is the worst of being a superman—one sees with the eye of faith many things that are invisible to the ordinary person, such as profits; but one misses the facts that lie immediately in front of one's nose, which quite commonplace and even stupid people are aware of.

Fortunately for Sir Eric Geddes, the telephones are now being treated in the same way as the railways, and we are told that if we only pay double for getting the right number—I forget if the charge is to be more or less than double for the usual wrong number—the telephones will really pay their way at last; and Mr. Illingworth, the Postmaster-General, is repeating the "patter" as though it were a novelty we had never heard before.



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Women Jurors.

The path of the woman juror in the Civil Courts is not proving quite so easy as in the criminal courts. There were women on the jury in a murder case recently, and they had no difficulty in bringing in a verdict of guilty. It was a clear case, but apparently the objection once advanced—that women, being the producers of life, could take no part in its destruction—did not apply. But in the Divorce Court, where some of the evidence is often sordid and disgusting, counsel have been in a difficulty this last week. When revolting letters or indecent pictures are put in evidence for the jury to examine, and there are women on the jury, one does not wonder at counsel showing some reluctance to go into the full details of the case.

Mr. Bernard Shaw has ridiculed Sir E. Marshall Hall's "prudery" in this matter. It is safe to say that nobody who knows Sir Edward has ever suspected him of prudery; his objection was simply that of a decent-minded man to discuss nauseating matters before women, and I think he will be generally respected for it. The evidence in the Divorce Court is sometimes enough to make even a robust-minded man feel physically sick.

Things will shake down in time, and probably an unwritten understanding will be arrived at that in a certain class of cases only men should be on the jury. On the other hand, some lawyers say that there is one type of action in which a jury of none but women should be sworn—breach of promise cases. For some inexplicable reason, a male jury always believes the lady's story of the broken heart. It is suggested that a female jury would be more precise in its desire for evidence of the brokenness.

The Bankers on Business.

Mr. McKenna's annual review of the year at the meeting of his bank, and Mr. Goodenough's similar address to the shareholders of Barclays Bank, seem to have been a tonic medicine to the City, where attention appears to have been focussed so exclusively on liquida-

tions and prospective liquidations recently that men have almost forgotten that a good deal of business still goes on in spite of the atmosphere of gloom. Stock-brokers say they are not doing enough business to pay for a sixpenny lunch in a tea-shop, and the produce market laments the wild fluctuations of prices and the sudden parsimony of the public; and everybody in turn denounces the Chancellor of the Exchequer as the true source of all our woes. But the City comforts itself with the assurance that the Excess Profits Duty must really go this spring—and I understand that the lawyers smile expectantly at the same reflection, for they hope and believe that the abolition of the duty will involve a number of cases of disputed liability which will lead to litigation.

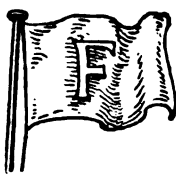
The Week's Books.

A new war book, "The Fifth Army in March, 1918" (John Lane), by Mr. W. Shaw Sparrow, is chiefly notable for an introduction by General Gough. He makes the sound point that he was not given enough men for the work he had to do. But Mr. Sparrow's tone is altogether too bitter and controversial, and I think he spoils his own case by the odium he introduces. The book would have been stronger had it made at least an attempt to be impartial.

A collected edition of the Poems and Miscellanies of the late F. W. H. Myers is a book I have long been looking for; it is now published in convenient form by Macmillans. In the same series, apparently, are issued simultaneously the Collected Poems of W. E. Henley. Following so close upon the Collected Poems of Hardy and Kipling, from the same house; reference to the best modern English verse is now easy.

It is not often that one finds a novel worth mentioning in this column, but Mr. Michael Sadleir's "Privilege" (Constable) is emphatically a book to read. He is a newcomer to me, but if this is his first novel I hope it will not be his last, for there are both life and style in his work. The subject of the book is a study of an aristocratic family in decay.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

GREECE.

ATHENS, January 15.

Opening of Parliament.

The opening of the Third National Assembly took place on January 5. The Chamber was full long before the commencement of the sitting, a large number of ladies being present. The only occupants of the box allotted to the Diplomatic Corps were the representatives of Holland and Spain, and some of the officers serving with the Foreign Missions to Greece. The deputies, including a number of Venizelists, began to arrive at the Chamber shortly after 9.30; many of the newly elected Turkish deputies of Macedonia and Thrace were present. At 10.15 the oldest member present, M. Vryonis, deputy for Cephalonia, announced the commencement of the sitting, whereupon the Metropolitan of Athens, assisted by the Holy Synod, held the usual service. The King and Queen arrived a few minutes later, and were very warmly cheered by the crowds waiting outside the House of Parliament. A similar reception awaited their Majesties inside the Chamber.

King Constantine's Speech.

King Constantine read his speech, in which he expressed his joy at being among the representatives of the people, and particularly those of the territories which, thanks to the heroism of the Hellenic army and navy and the support of the Allied Great Powers, had recently regained their liberty. "The mandate with which you have been entrusted by the people," added his Majesty, "makes easy the amendment of the Constitution on an absolutely popular basis and in conformity with the present ideas and requirements." Speaking of the military operations, the King said he was convinced that the representatives of the nation would afford all their support to the struggle in which the army is now engaged in Asia Minor. Hellenism, he added, is following this struggle with great enthusiasm, and this alone is a guarantee for its successful issue. With regard to the relations with the Great Powers, he said that the firm resolution of the entire nation to collaborate loyally with the Allies will surely gain for Greece the confidence of the latter, and lead to the re-establishment of good relations.

Referring to the alliance with Serbia, the King emphasised the fact that this is a solid guarantee for the preservation of peace in the Balkan Peninsula. He then announced the coming marriages of his son the Crown Prince George to Princess Elizabeth of Roumania, and of his daughter Princess Helena to Prince Carol of Roumania. These marriages will establish cordial relations between Greece and the glorious and powerful Kingdom of Roumania.

The King finally referred to the death of his son, Alexander, and at the end of his speech proclaimed the opening of the Third National Assembly of Athens.

The Political Situation.

The next session of the National Assembly will be held on, or soon after, January 11-24, when the election of the President of the Chamber will take place. This election will be of exceptional importance; and political circles are looking forward to it with interest, as it will be the means of ascertaining the exact strength of the various political parties. These exceed half a dozen, and their strength is approximately as follows:—M. Gounaris has about 72 followers; M. Rallis can count upon 10 deputies, all of whom are his personal friends; while M. Stratos, who is not on very friendly terms with the Government just now, owing to his not having been included in M. Rallis' Cabinet, estimates the number of his adherents at 62. The Minister of Finance, M. Kalogeropoulos, can boast of 12 faithful partisans; M. Dimitracopoulos is at the head of about 8 deputies; and another group, under M. Dragoumis and M. Bousios, comprises 15 deputies.

A very important group is that of the 40 Turkish

deputies. These, it is rumoured, will form an independent body, regulating its attitude in the Chamber in accordance with the various points and questions raised. The Venizelists, however, maintain that out of the 22 Turkish deputies elected in Thrace under the Liberal flag, 16 will remain faithful to that party. If that be true, the Venizelist party will comprise at least 110 adherents, and would thus be the strongest group in the Chamber. There is also some talk of the formation of still another group under the leadership of the ex-Governor of the National Bank, M. Zaimis, consisting of 10 deputies who were elected under the Opposition flag. M. Zaimis is not likely to forget M. Rallis' attitude on the question of the Governorship of the National Bank; and this group, if formed, will certainly not contribute towards increasing the Government's majority in the Chamber.

As stated above, M. Stratos' relations with the Government are rather strained at present, and it would surprise nobody if at the election for the President this party, instead of standing by M. Rallis and M. Gounaris, supported its own candidate for this post. As the Venizelists would, naturally, support their own man, it looks as if the Government candidate is not going to have it all his own way.

The Crown Prince of Roumania.

Prince Carol of Roumania arrived in Athens last week. He was received at the station by the King, the Queen, Princess Helena, the Council of Ministers, and numerous high State officials. The young Prince received a hearty ovation from the crowd which was waiting outside the station to see him. The Ministers called on Prince Carol in the afternoon, and the latter returned M. Rallis' visit shortly afterwards. The Government has conferred upon the Crown Prince of Roumania the Grand Cross of the Order of the Saviour.

Miscellaneous News.

The Government has cancelled the results of the polling on November 14 on the Asia Minor and Thracian fronts.

The Minister of War has ordered all officers, N.C.O.s and men now on special duty in Europe to return to Greece and rejoin their units.

The Minister of Public Instruction has decided to reinstate all the professors of Athens University who had been dismissed by the previous Government, and has, at the same time, relieved of their functions the majority of those appointed by the Venizelists.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB (undated).

The Republicans.

A split appears to be imminent in the Republican Party, which was never strong, and if its splits, will become insignificant. There is discontent with the tactics of the leaders. The rank and file are particularly angry with their leader, Jasha Prodanovitch for his flirting with the Communists and with Raditch; for the party is patriotic; they also resent the presence in the party of Dragisha Vasitch, brother-in-law of Ribarats, the veteran and sole survivor of the once all-powerful Liberal party. Ribarats enjoyed notoriety

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many years ago for his savage repression of disturbances in Serbia, when he was a pillar of the Obrenovitch dynasty and of autocratic rights. As his party is now extinct, he recently joined M. Protitch's Coalition, as Minister of Commerce but they soon tired of him, and he held the portfolio only a few weeks. His day is done, and nowadays nobody wants him. He is not a member of the Republican Club; but he attends their meetings, and they do not seem to like him. As a protest, it is stated that the party will lose its really sound men, such as Dr. Jovan Zhuyevitch, the geologist, who is President of the Academy of Sciences; Dr. Branislav Petronyevitch, a member of the Academy, and other prominent politicians.

Anti-British Propaganda.

The Zagreb papers continue to devote a large amount of space to British affairs, which they follow with interest and with sympathy in Croatia. But news from Ireland is always distorted and expressed in a most hostile manner, with frequent references to English barbarity, blood and iron, executions and reprisals. This is not the mere sympathy of an habitually crushed people for a small nationality apparently struggling for freedom against the repression and tyranny of an invader. It is certainly the fruit of deliberate propaganda. Most probably it is inspired from Berlin, whence, it appears, most of the news originates. It is highly desirable that some counter-measures were taken, and the Zagreb, and also the Belgrade, Press supplied with authentic information and articles illustrating the English point of view.

Priests and Marriage.

It may be remembered that in an earlier letter, from Belgrade, an account was given of two Orthodox priests who were widowers anxious to remarry, and, as they could not obtain the consent of the Church Council, acted on their own responsibility and married each other. Very numerous cases like this have occurred in Serbia, so there is now general consternation at the decision of the Church Council that all these marriages are invalid, that the wives must be put away, and the offending priests punished. Consequently, the priests have organised themselves, and petitioned that this decision be not put into execution until after a general meeting of priests. If their wishes are not granted, it seems probable that they will defy the authorities, and, in spite of excommunication, or the Orthodox equivalent of suspension, "strike," that is, continue to carry on their duties regardless of the thunders of the heads of the Church. As the Church in Serbia has always been essentially national and of the people, it is believed that the priests will have their own way in the long run.

Miscellaneous News.

The Voluntary Aid Society of Zagreb has issued its report for the year 1920. During this period, its members attended to 377 cases of sudden illness, 163 accidents, 41 suicides, and effected the transport to proper quarters of 26 maniacs and 1,407 invalids.

Statistics have been issued showing the number of visitors to Zagreb, which, in connection with the dearth of accommodation, are interesting. From May 1 to the end of the past year, there came to Zagreb 177,972 strangers, all of whom obtained lodgings through the Lodgings Committee. About 200 come every day, without seeking accommodation for the night, so altogether for the period in question about 300,000 strangers visited the town. As each means a net profit of 10 krana to the town, this is a revenue of about 3,000,000 krana. For the nine months in question, the committee took 647,299 krana in fees.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, January 22.

The Government Mission.

At last, to a certain extent, matters have become clearer with regard to the famous mission headed by Izzet Pasha that was to have put an end to the unfortunate "duality" that had arisen within the Turkish body politic. The courier who was so successful in establishing a *liaison* between the Sublime Porte of Constantinople and the no less Sublime Porte of Angora

returned on January 16 from Ineboli, whither he had been sent to inquire into the strange silence on the part of the mission—or so the world was told—and now the world knows that the mission will remain in Angora until—Allah knows when! Meanwhile, has there not been a glorious victory against the "desecrators of the sacred soil of the country," and have not the wicked "capitalist and Imperialist Powers of Europe" been put to confusion? Let us see what those Powers will now decide!

To read the Nationalist newspapers, one would think that the Hellenic army had been annihilated, and that the road to Smyrna was as clear as Watling Street. The old adage concerning the blindness of those whom the gods wish to destroy seems never to have reached Angora; for surely never was a vanquished nation given such an opportunity as has been vouchsafed to Turkey during the last two months. Yet on the strength of having put up a more or less lively resistance against a reconnaissance in force on the part of the Greek army, the Government Mission which had been allowed to proceed to Angora by the goodwill of the Allies is held practically prisoner, and its leaders are placed in such a position that they appear to be making common cause with the short-sighted adventurers who, with overweening egotism, defy Europe on the one hand and play with Red Russia on the other.

Izzet Pasha is authoritatively stated to have been present at Eski Shehir during the fighting at In Eunu, when the Hellenic army, for the first time during the Anatolian campaign, met with any real organised resistance worthy of the name; and, unless that veteran soldier has been false to his reputation, he can only have yielded to severe pressure, for he has staked his honour upon bringing about a reconciliation between Angora and Stamboul. There is good reason to believe that had it not been for the Greek advance against Eski Shehir he and the other members of the Government Mission would have been back in Constantinople ere now with a report more or less satisfactory; but the result of the recent military operations has had the effect of strengthening the hands of the extremists in Angora, and Izzet Pasha's efforts have been brought practically to naught. The Nationalist Press is claiming a glorious victory against the Greeks, and the Greeks are maintaining that everything was carried out according to plan. The truth of the matter is that the operations were a great error at this juncture, for a reconnaissance in force is always a mistake when prestige is an important consideration. However successfully the objects of the operations may have been fulfilled, it is practically impossible to prevent the enemy from claiming a victory, from the very circumstance that a reconnaissance involves a withdrawal from territory occupied. Thus the harm that has been done is incalculable, whether Constantine's manoeuvre makes any impression in Europe or not. The effect of the Greek operations may be judged from the fact that the Constantinople newspaper *Sabah*, which has been hitherto bitterly opposed to the Nationalists, eulogised the Nationalist forces as "heroes," whereas previously it was stigmatising the very same "heroes" as bandits and outlaws. What, therefore, can have been the effect in the perfervid atmosphere of Angora?

The negotiations between the Nationalists and the Government Mission are said to be proceeding, and the Mission promises to return as soon as a definite result shall have been obtained. In plain language this means that if the forthcoming conference of Allied Premiers decide to tear up the Treaty of Sèvres and agree to

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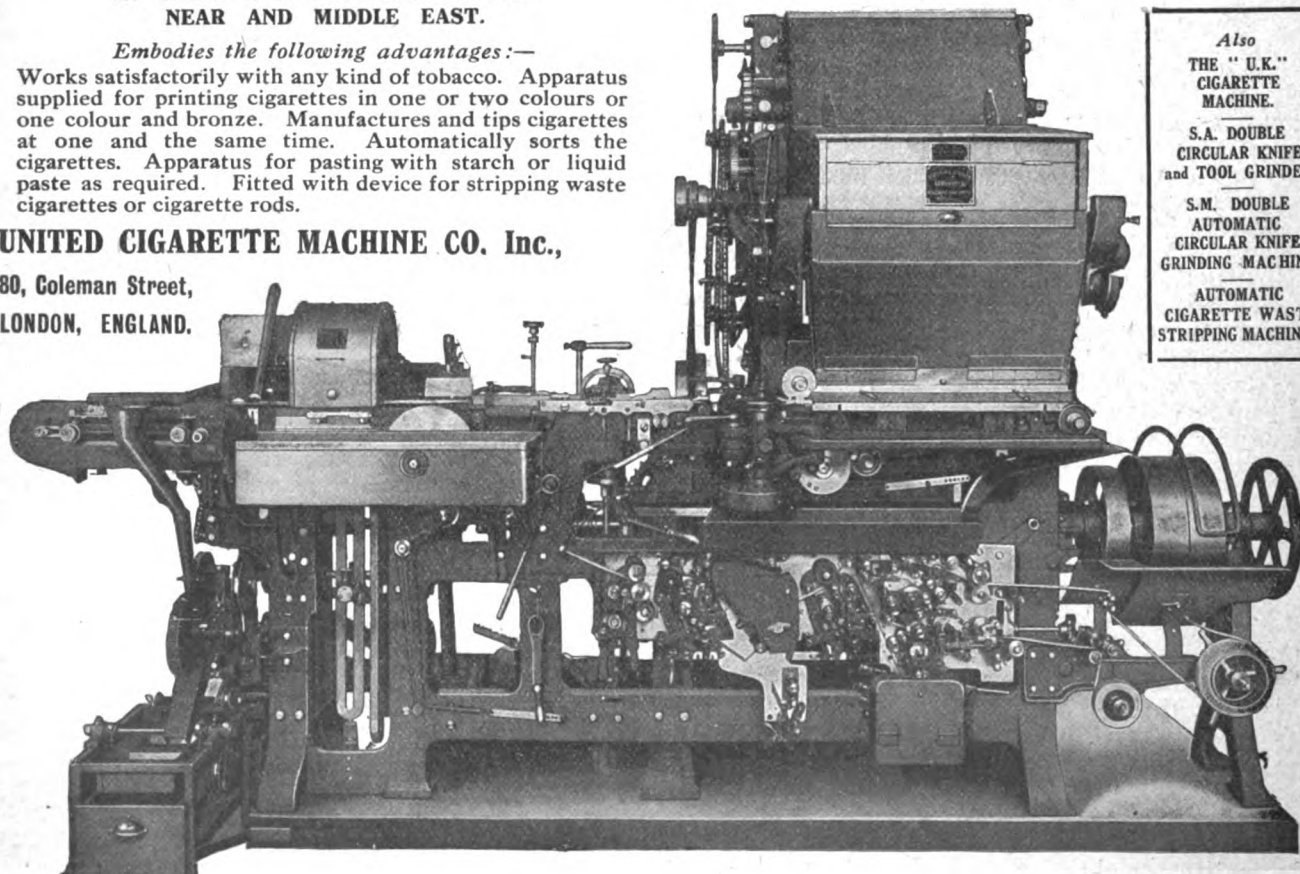
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concede the majority of the concessions demanded by the Nationalists, the latter will graciously consent to the formation of a Cabinet in Constantinople which will be empowered to dictate terms to the Allies.

The Caucasus.

One of the most interesting items of news that have recently come to hand concerns the recall of Schiemann, or Scheinmann, the Bolshevik representative in Tiflis, and the nomination of Stark to that position. It would appear that Comrade Schiemann or Scheinmann has not exactly been a shining success, and that the Bolshevik plans for painting Georgia red have consequently gone a-gley. The reports concerning the fall of the Jordania Ministry, which reached here last month, and which were unfortunately repeated in a previous letter, have happily been proved to be without foundation; but there is not the slightest doubt as to the direction in which the wind is blowing. It is credibly reported that the Bolshevik commander of the Red forces that were waiting the signal to march on the Georgian frontier was so incensed at the failure of his comrade in Tiflis to work up the according-to-plan revolt of the oppressed proletariat of Georgia for which the Red army was waiting that he sent the aforesaid comrade an official rebuke couched in most unofficial language. Moreover, the Communist organisation in Georgia itself appears to have been equally annoyed with dull Comrade Schiemann, and begged Trotzky by telegraph to take him away. Those who are in the know insist that Trotzky upon receipt of this message was so irritated at the failure of his schemes that he immediately decreed fourteen days' Terror against the *bourgeois* of the whole world, with the exception of H. G. Wells, Sylvia Pankhurst, and Winston Churchill! In any case, Schiemann was forthwith informed that the light of his countenance was required upon the Supreme Economic Council at Moscow, where the shadow of his nose would cast less gloom than in Tiflis. Georgia is to be congratulated heartily upon the energetic measures which were taken to smash the preparations that were being made within the frontiers to facilitate the task of the ravaging hordes that had gathered on her borders.

ALBANIA.

January 18.

Admission to the L.O.N.

The admission of Albania to the League of Nations (December 17) was celebrated throughout the country with the greatest enthusiasm: houses and streets were decked with flags, official congratulations were exchanged, and many telegrams were sent off to members of the League who had supported the Albanian cause. Tirana begins to breathe more freely, for it is recognised that this admission of Albania to the League will simplify matters greatly, and will considerably strengthen the country's international position.

Diplomatic Relations.

The arrival of Mr. Eyres, the Consul-General for Albania appointed by Great Britain, is impatiently awaited at Tirana, and it is earnestly hoped that diplomatic and commercial representatives of other Powers will soon be seen. The Albanian delegations in Paris, in Geneva, and in London are doing their best to bring about the realisation of these desires, as is the Albanian representative at Washington.

The Earthquake.

The country finds itself confronted by two fresh troubles: the influx of 40,000 refugees who have fled from the regions devastated by the Serbians—the east and north-east portions of Albania—and earthquake shocks. The latter disaster has brought about terrible suffering owing to the shortage of medical supplies for the sufferers; though the Government and the people alike have made, and are making, enormous sacrifices on behalf of the victims. Help is expected from various Red Cross societies and philanthropic bodies.

The Elections.

The electoral campaign is now in progress for the new Chamber which is to be convened next month. The new

law provides for one deputy for every 12,000 inhabitants (men and women), which means eighty deputies for the whole of Albania. All Albanians twenty years old or over and in the enjoyment of civic rights are entitled to the vote; that is to say that the suffrage is universal. These electors vote for delegates, one delegate being elected by every 500 electors, and delegates must be at least twenty-five years old. In their turn the delegates vote for the deputies, who must be at least thirty years old. Thus the elections are on the lines of universal suffrage and two classes. Soldiers, gendarmes, and officers are not allowed to vote or to stand for election so long as they follow their profession.

It is believed and generally hoped that the Parliament to be elected will fulfil the functions of a constituent assembly and will elaborate a constitution for the country. It is also highly probable that in any case the powers of the Supreme Council will be reduced, and that this kind of Directory will become equivalent to the president of a republic.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

GREAT BRITAIN AND AFGHANISTAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

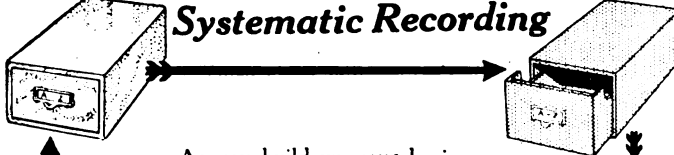
Sir,—As soon as I arrived in the region from which I write this, I perceived that the Bolshevik propaganda is waging an anti-British campaign in Afghanistan. They have gained a footing by Consular agents and by political missions at Kabul, also a prestige by actual occupation of certain parts, as, for instance, the Kushki, near Herat. This re-occupation of the former Tsarist outpost is bewildering to me for the reason that some Afghan detachments are to this day in Merv. That the Bolsheviks are permitted to hold a point in rear of the Afghan gives rise to grave political doubts. I, for one, do not believe that the Bolsheviks are playing fair to the Afghans; and what is more, it is to the interests of my countrymen to discern quickly their friends and foes. Matters of high policy are moving very rapidly here.

The British political mission to Kabul left Peshawar this afternoon, and every patriotic Afghan expects that peace and goodwill will be the result of the Kabul Conference. The presence of this Mission in Kabul will add to the many nationalities and groups already there, namely, Bolsheviks, Kemalists, Uzbeks, Turkomans and Persians. If the Sirdar-i-ally, Mohammed Beg Tarzai, handles the situation in the same admirable way as he did during the Mussoorie Conference, there is every reason to believe that a lasting friendship may be brought about between Great Britain and Afghanistan. I may just hint here that at one time or another, whilst in Great Britain, I spoke and wrote about the Afghan aspirations and claims. In this connection, I may draw your attention to my articles in the *Edinburgh Review*, also those printed in your columns, and to the lectures which I delivered before the Central Asian Society. A student of Mid-Eastern politics will find therein an answer to his question as to the expectations of the Afghans. I have knowledge of the fact that those claims have been urged at Mussoorie, and will be dealt with again at Kabul. They are just claims, and as I said before, I will say now, that they should be granted. Nor would the British Government lose anything by granting them. Indeed, it is most essential that the Afghans should be the friends of the British, and that may be taken to be a correct impression which I have formed on the spot.—I am, etc.,

IKBAL ALI SHAH

Somewhere in the East.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

Two Singers.

I have before referred to the halo of musical glory with which Manchester surrounds itself—a halo of which artists from that city are, when they come to the more critical atmosphere of London, frequently relieved. And last week once more we suffered disillusionment. At her recital at the Wigmore Hall on January 24 Miss Helen Anderton showed certain emotional gifts, but little else. One does not know how far she was disturbed by the impetuous accompaniment of Miss Dorothy Crewe (who, I should imagine, is a skilful soloist), but she had faults that were peculiar to herself. What, for instance, can *lieder* by Brahms and Schubert be without smooth enunciation; and of what use is it to choose such excellent poets as Housman, de la Mare, and Shanks if their verse be equally treated with muffled reserve? Frankly, Miss Anderton was a disappointment. With so excellent a choice of programme (we were particularly grateful to hear "I tempi assai lontano," by Respighi, and "San Basilio," by Pizzetti) much might have been done.

The programme of Miss Gladys Moger at her recital at the Æolian Hall on January 26 was of rare interest. On the beauty of Gustav Holst's new "Four Songs for Voice and Violin" I commented a week or so ago, but she sang also important new songs by Herbert Howells, Arthur Bliss, Lord Berners, and E. J. Dent, and most of her other songs were quite recent. Miss Moger is diversely gifted, albeit with a developed sense of interpretation that far exceeds in beauty the natural quality of her voice. She failed, for instance, in such "vocal" songs as Malcolm Davidson's "Christmas Carol" (which none who heard it sung by Gervase Elwes, who is now dead, will ever forget), or Denis Browne's "To Gratiana Dancing and Singing," or Gerrard Williams' "Inconsequent Ballad"; but, on the other hand, her exquisite *piano* tone and cleverness were adequate recompense in Howells' "Gavotte," a lovely song in the firm fragility of which the accompanist fully shares; in Berners' "Theodore or the Pirate King," and in Longo's "Febbraio." Miss Moger's quite unusual intelligence and general perspicacity always make her worth hearing.

Pianists.

Assisting at Miss Anderton's recital at the Wigmore Hall we found Mr. Edward Isaacs, a pianist whose fame in his own town of Manchester is considerable. His technique is neat and occasionally brilliant, and his tone never offends. Where the rhythm is clear-cut and there is a sense of exhilaration in the music he is quite enjoyable; of a trivial "Toccata" of Sgambati, for example, he made as much as possible; in the "Seguidillas" of Albeniz there was real glow; and though technically he was not equal to Liszt's "Tarantelle" (Napoli), he made a brave show of it. But in more serious stuff the count was against him: Bach's "Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue" was informed, and consequently spoiled by the inevitable romanticism of his race; and Chopin's "Barcarolle" was thinly done.

Of Miss Kathleen Cooper, whose recital was at the Wigmore Hall on January 26, I do not care to say much, as I heard her only in Bach-D'Albert's Prelude and Fugue in D major and Schumann's "Etudes Symphoniques." There were intelligence and sincerity in her Bach, and it was a pity that a waste of physical effort decreased the effect of some of the climaxes: certainly there was promise in her playing. This was partly dispelled in her Schumann, which often lacked warmth, and in which the phrasing was far from spontaneous. Probably so large a work was beyond her present powers: at any rate, her indulgence in wrong notes exceeded the number usually granted to young artists.

A Fine Fiddler.

Mme. Adila Fachiri (Mlle. Adila d'Aranyi) has definite genius. It did not matter to which period the music belonged which she played at her recital at the Wigmore Hall on January 25: for in it all there was the evidence of sincere, highly individual, and yet disciplined thought. There are few lady violinists who can satisfy equally (or adequately) in such composers as Bach, Veracini, and Brahms. Adila Fachiri reached her highest point in two (Nos. 3 and 10) of the Brahms-Joachim Hungarian Dances, her wild and speaking fervour here being irresistible. Already she had done notable work in an Aria and Capriccio (in the latter especially) from a recently published sonata of Veracini, and she made two Romances of Beethoven much more interesting than is usual. It is not often that a new work is the most popular in a programme, but it was so with the "Capitan Fracasse" of Castelnuovo-Tedesco, the young Italian composer, whose work is deservedly becoming well-known in this country.

ANDANTE.

THE LATE VOIVODE MISHITCH.

Voivode Mishitch, Serbia's greatest General, died at the age of sixty-five on January 20, in Belgrade, after a long illness.

He was the son of humble parents, of Strouganik, in the Valjevo district. He was only eighteen when he served in his first war—the Serbo-Turkish—in 1877, and he served again in 1885 in the Serbo-Bulgarian War. In the Balkan War of 1913 he took a leading part in the operations on the Bregalnitz. Thereafter he devoted himself to military studies, and in 1914, on the outbreak of the Austro-Serbian War, he was Assistant Chief of Staff to General Putnik, the Serbian Commander-in-Chief. At the end of that year he was given command of the First Army, which had suffered severely at the hands of the Austrian invaders. He reorganised his command, and inspired it with fresh spirit, and then led it against the invaders, and his counter-attack was crowned by success. The Austrians were driven from Serbia with heavy losses, leaving some 40,000 prisoners behind them, and General Mishitch was promoted Marshal.

In the disastrous Serbian retreat of 1915, when our Allies had to give way before the joint German, Austrian, and Bulgarian advance, Marshal Mishitch distinguished himself by the skill with which he extracted his force from a difficult position, and when the Serbians took the offensive again he resumed command of his old army on the Salonika front. In 1918 he was made Chief of Staff, and he is usually credited with having been largely responsible for the plan which led to the victory over the Bulgarians and to the Allies' success on that front.

Marshal Mishitch was intensely popular with his men by reason of his courage and simple tastes, and though he was a man of great will power and one to be obeyed, his manner was kind, and he was always ready to help his men in any possible way.

Amongst the many decorations he received from foreign Governments were the G.C.M.G. and the K.C.B., the Order of St. Michael and St. George being conferred upon him by General Milne at Salonika. A final mark of respect to his memory was paid when the Prince Regent Alexander walked in the Marshal's funeral procession on January 22.

DR. DENNING'S ACTION.

We commented recently on a judgment delivered by Mr. Justice Bailhache in an action against the Secretary of State for India, in which the terms of a contract for service were described as "most unfortunate and misleading." We are now informed by the India Office that the form of contract in question was altered some years ago, so that similar questions are not likely to recur, and it is pleasant to be able to add that a payment has been made to the plaintiff on account of the costs incurred by him in his unsuccessful action.

All deserters and those who did not join the Greek Army during the Venizelist régime, and to whom an amnesty was granted by the present Government, have been called to the Colours. They are presenting themselves *en masse* to the estimated number of 30,000.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that King Nicholas of Montenegro has arrived in that city incognito from Antibes, doubtless with the object of conferring upon the present position of the Montenegrin question which was lately discussed between him and his Ministers there.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"A DWELLER IN MESOPOTAMIA." By Donald Maxwell. (London: The Bodley Head. 25s. net.)

II.—"THE BLACK BLANKET." By Maxwell Laurie. (London: Werner Laurie. 8s. 6d. net.)

I.—PICTURES OF MESOPOTAMIA.

Mr. Donald Maxwell is one of those gifted, and, may we add, comparatively rare, mortals who can express themselves equally well in two mediums. Whether he is engaged with colour or with words, the effect is equally happy, and the combination as it appears in the book before us is warranted to make the mere artist or the mere author feel—well, in the words of "The Young Visitors," very mere.

Mr. Maxwell, as official artist to the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force during the latter period of the campaign, had excellent opportunities of visiting and sketching every scene of interest from Fao to Baghdad. The oil refineries at Abadan, Old Busreh, the Marshes, Kut, Baghdad, and much else by the way, all are described in these pleasantly-written chapters, and illustrated by many charming sketches.

It is a book which will appeal to many. To those who have had some personal experience of Mesopotamia during the war such descriptions as the one (on page 26) of Ashar Creek at sunset; or of that dear old friend the "Sushan," with her persevering stern-wheel, "the whole effect being faintly reminiscent of a haymaking machine," will strike home and bring back memories of old days not altogether unhappy. Those who have not visited the Land of the Two Rivers, but in their arm-chairs at home have allowed their imaginations the full rope of mystery and romance will find the author determined to woo them from such idle dreams. Gently but quite firmly he bids them return to earth, or rather, as he frequently insists, to mud. He is anxious to prove to us that the glory is departed and that as a matter of hard fact there is a good deal of nonsense about this romance business! But I doubt whether he will succeed in this. Turn to the monochrome facing page 64, "Babylon the Great is fallen, is fallen," and resist, if you can, the extraordinarily dramatic force and the romance of both picture and title. Or, again, look at the line-drawing of "Baghdad" on page 93. Can Mr. Maxwell, with his hand on his heart, declare that he has resisted the mystery of this country? Though he writes that he has "always said that the hanging gardens of Borsal knocked spots off the hanging gardens of Babylon," we find it hard to believe that one who thinks so could yet quote those verses with which his fifth chapter closes.

Although the reader is conducted on a tour of Mesopotamia from the sea to Baghdad, the pages are singularly free from the guide-book flavour; nor is this in any sense a war book. It is as though we wandered at will with a particularly light-hearted companion, not too bent on our instruction, but fully qualified to show us all that is beautiful. It is difficult, indeed, to choose any one of these pictures as being the best or the most typical of the country; nearly all are wonderfully successful in their particular way, and all, without exception, have the great merit of restraint. "The House of Sinbad," "Ezra's Tomb"—a particularly graceful water-colour—and "The Narrows" are excellent; while in "Babylon: the excavations of El Kasr" (page 56) we have an example of that mysterious influence from which the artist, when he turns writer, would have us believe him immune.

It is almost ungracious to find fault with a book we have enjoyed so much, but may we hint that the author's excursions into history are not always successful from the point of view of accuracy; and that of the two different versions of Haroun er Rashid's name neither is correct?

Finally, Mr. Maxwell is at his best when he feels serious; it is, we think, rather a mistake to be quite so funny all the time.

II.—AMERICA'S PROBLEM.

Mr. Laurie writes to show how the cloud of coloured descent hovered over the life of David Sheldon. At first it looms very dark indeed—threatens, in fact, to shroud that life in impenetrable fog—then for a time it is kept far off by the determined faith of those who love him; then it again comes up, gloomy and threatening, to be, in the end, dispersed for ever. David's father is a Southern Planter in the days before the abolition of slavery, and when he inherits his estate he leaves his wife and baby in exile in the West Indian port of Regina, because he dares not take them back to the State of Maine, where his beautiful Helen will be well known as the daughter of a black slave woman and his marriage will not be recognised. He means to send them to England, so that later David may come to

America as his heir, his coloured blood unsuspected. But Sheldon is extravagant and careless, and it is not until his death that the money is found to rescue Helen and her boy from Regina. It is to this sea-port, while David is still a little boy, that Mr. Laurie takes us first, and at once we recognise with pleasure the power of creating an atmosphere, of suggesting circumstances, and building up a situation with subtle but sure touches. The street, which has gone down and become more and more entirely "coloured," in which David's mother continues to live because her placid nature has gradually developed into a passive laziness which she cannot shake off, is made very real to us. So are the plucky, fair little boy, Honorius, his mulatto friend, and Major Langton, the strong man, with the one fault which has made him an outcast, but who saves Dave just in time from the evil influences of the Dock gangs.

But when Dave, from the homeward-bound steamer, waves good-bye to Regina and Honorius, Mr. Laurie seems also to abandon the leisurely method by which he has been unfolding, and so clearly revealing, his hero's personality. When David appears again as the young owner of the Plantation of Hirondelles and as the friend of the Versanges family, who own the neighbouring estate, the author seems to have lost the knack of weaving a strong fabric out of delicate threads of feeling and circumstance, and the story becomes distinctly downright—even a little bald. To be sure, there are several chapters, before the plot gets into full swing, in which Mr. Laurie discourses on the problem of the negro by showing us how Monsieur Versanges manages his slaves, and this is quite interesting, but we never get inside the heart and mind of grown-up David, nor of any of the freshly-introduced characters. The style of writing even changes a little, and the quickly illuminating similes, at once direct and fanciful, which had delighted us earlier in the book, are rarer, although there are still some very clear pictures, as that of the moonlight when David and Madeline Versanges walk together in a wood. "The whole world was shut out by walls of black-green foliage. The moonlight struck downwards in bright, piercing shafts; to look up between the tree-tops was to gaze from the bottom of a deep well upwards into a swimming radiance of glory."

When the terrible moment of trial, to which the whole story has been leading up, comes to David, we do not realise his anguish as vividly as we realise the feelings of the little boy in Regina, and the last few pages, which put everything right, give rather the impression of a hurried winding-up of the whole affair. As it is the first part of the story with the people concerned in it—Honorius, the friend, and Langton, the rescuer—that has caught our imagination, it is difficult not to resent the circumstances in which they are both re-introduced into the book, and which seems to be quite unnecessarily tragic. We feel that Mr. Laurie begins by making a study of the hardships and disadvantages which attend coloured descent, as seen through the personality of David, and ends by seeing David only as one amongst a collection of figures who are arranged to illustrate the difficulty of the problem. But for all this, the book is very well worth reading, both for the thought which Mr. Laurie has given to the question of the negro in America and for the charm and interest of the story he has to tell.

EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY.

On Thursday evening, January 20, Mr. H. R. Hall, Hon. Secretary of the Egypt Exploration Society, delivered a lecture before the members of the Society and their friends on "Egypt and the External World in the time of Akhenaten," the heretical and pacifist Pharaoh who reigned about 1380-1360 B.C., and who built the city of Akhenaten, the modern Tell el-Amarna, now being excavated by the Society under the direction of Professor T. E. Peet. The chair was taken by Colonel H. G. Lyons.

Dr. Hall showed slides illustrating the civilisations of Palestine, Syria, Anatolia, Cilicia, Cyprus, and Greece in the time of Akhenaten, and described the relations of Egypt with these countries in his reign. The lecturer expressed the great interest of the detailed history of the time which we know from the contemporary tablets discovered at Amarna, and also at Boghaz Keui, in Anatolia. He considered that though the mutual influence of Mycenaean Greece and Egypt on each other in artistic matters in the fourteenth century B.C. was undoubtedly great, it was possible to over-estimate the effect of the free and untrammelled Mycenaean art on that of Egypt, and that the artistic movement in Egypt under Akhenaten's influence did not, perhaps, owe so much to Greece as had been thought, the fantastic side of Mycenaean art, its most remarkable characteristic, having no counterpart in contemporary Egypt. Dr. Hall noted that the possible effect of Akhenaten's monotheism in religious matters, at the very time when apparently the Hebrews were entering Palestine, on the reception of Hebrew monotheism, has yet to be worked out.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

February 3 (New Style).
January 21 (Old Style).
Jumada 1, 24,1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Shebat 25, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

M. Venizelos arrived in Paris last week.

Earl and Countess Curzon of Kedleston left Paris last week for the South of France.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have left Alice Holt, Farnham, for the Continent.

M. Juvara, the Roumanian Minister in Athens, has presented his credentials to King Constantine.

His Highness Nasser-ul-Mulk, ex-Regent of Persia, has arrived in London from Paris on a short visit.

His Excellency Hovannes Khan, ex-Persian Minister in Berlin, arrived in London last week from Paris.

Mr. William Max Müller, the newly appointed British Minister to Poland, arrived in Warsaw last week.

M. Clemenceau, the former French Prime Minister, who is making a tour in the East, has arrived at Bombay.

Sir Basil Zaharoff has completely recovered from the effects of his recent motoring accident on the Riviera.

Lady Macready left for Egypt last week, and will be absent from the Royal Hospital, Dublin, until the end of April.

Sir Arthur Yapp, National Secretary of the English Y.M.C.A., is expected in London from India about the end of this week.

The Mercantile Bank of India has sent to Canon Alexander a donation of 250 guineas towards the St. Paul's Cathedral Preservation Fund.

Lord Reading has asked Mr. S. R. Hignell, C.I.E., who has been acting as Private Secretary to the Viceroy, to continue to hold that appointment.

M. Beza, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on January 30 for Bucharest, where he will give a course of lectures on English literature.

The Bulgarian Minister has taken up his residence at 51, Queen's Gate, where he has recently been joined by Mme. Stancioff and the members of his family.

At the invitation of the Lord Mayor (President) and the Earl of Derby (Chairman), Lord Inchcape has consented to join the London Executive of the League of Help.

Colonel J. W. Boyle, head of the Canadian Mission in Roumania, who was with General Wrangel when the latter evacuated Russia, is making a short stay in London.

President Wilson, through the American Minister in Athens, and M. Rallis, the Greek Prime Minister, has acknowledged King Constantine's message of greeting sent at the New Year.

Among the passengers by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's s.s. Caledonia for Bombay are Sir Wallis Budge, Lady Cameron, Lord and Lady Forteviot, Lady Macdonald, and the Earl of Wilton.

Prince and Princess Nicholas of Greece are leaving Athens for Bucharest, in order to attend the wedding of the Diadoch (Duke of Sparta) and Princess Elizabeth of Roumania, which is fixed for the second week of this month.

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby left last week, stated a Cairo message, for a short tour of the Sudan. He will call at Khartoum and Sennar, and will probably inspect the site of the dam at Gebel Aulia, returning to Cairo about February 8.

At a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society to be held on February 8, at 4.30 p.m., Miss R. Houston will read a paper, entitled "Turkestan under Bolshevik Rule." Lord Roay will preside, and the paper will be illustrated by lantern slides.

General Sir Robert Baden-Powell and Lady Baden-Powell have arrived at Bombay on the steamship Narkunda on their visit to India. On landing the Chief Scout was received by Government officials. He then inspected a parade of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. The General and Lady Baden-Powell afterwards proceeded to Government House, where they will be the guests of Sir George and Lady Lloyd.

At a meeting of the Central Committee of the United Conservative Association, held last week at Hastings, Lord Eustace Percy was adopted as prospective Coalition Unionist candidate for the borough at the bye-election which is expected to take place in July.

Mr. Churchill will preside at the English-speaking Union's farewell dinner to the Earl of Reading, Viceroy-designate of India, which will be held on Lincoln's birthday, February 12, at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Lord Reading proposes to embark at Marseilles in the P. and O. liner Kaiser-i-Hind on March 19. He will land in Bombay on the morning of April 2, and will there take over the office of Viceroy and Governor-General of India from Lord Chelmsford, who will leave Bombay by the P. and O. liner Kalyan on the same evening.

The King has given to Major Pearce Blair leave to wear the Cross of Officer of the Royal Order of George I., conferred by the late King of the Hellenes, and to Squadron-Leader F. W. Stent, M.C., Captain F. H. Furness-Williams, and Lieutenant K. J. Oldfield, D.F.C., permission to wear the decoration of the Order of the Nahda, Fourth Class, bestowed by the King of the Hejaz.

The marriage arranged between Frederic C. Nano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, and Miss Rose de Covarrubias, youngest daughter of Don Miguel de Covarrubias, formerly Mexican Minister in London, and now residing at 22, Down Street, took place at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, Warwick Street, yesterday morning.

Colonel Ioan Paum, of the Roumanian Army, arrived in London last week on a Mission from the Roumanian Government in order to present to the British Army the Regimental Colours of one of the Roumanian infantry regiments which distinguished itself at the battle of Marasesti. The War Office, with the concurrence of the Roumanian authorities in London, has decided that the most fitting resting-place for these colours would be the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

The battleship Iron Duke, Lord Jellicoe's flagship in the Grand Fleet in 1914-16, including the battle of Jutland, and since April, 1919, the flagship of the Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, is ordered to return to Portsmouth to pay off and recommission for further service. She will leave Malta on February 21. After recommissioning she will leave Portsmouth on or about March 21 to She will leave Malta on February 21. After recommissioning by Captain R. A. S. Hill, who was appointed in July, 1919, the same month as Admiral Sir John M. de Robeck became Commander-in-Chief, and who is expected to remain in command when the ship recommissions. Her present crew joined her at Portsmouth on March 21, 1919, but the majority of the officers have been changed since that date. The midshipmen of the Iron Duke, when she arrives at Portsmouth, will include Prince George.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Clement-Siniout has been appointed French Minister at Belgrade.

Vice-Admiral Salaün has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the French Mediterranean Squadron.

The India Office announces the appointment of Sir George Seymour Curtis, Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla, Mr. Maurice Henry Weston Hayward, barrister-at-law, and Sir Chimantal Harilal Setalvad, as members of the Bombay Executive Council.

The King has been pleased to appoint Mr. C. E. S. Palmer to be H.M. Consul at Damascus; Mr. R. E. W. Chafy to be H.M. Consul for Continental Greece, with the exception of the Province of Thessaly, The Morea, and the Island of Negropont, to reside at The Piræus; Mr. H. A. D. Hoyland to be H.M. Vice-Consul at Patras; and Mr. H. G. Chick, C.I.E., to be H.M. Consul in the Delta of the Nile, the Provinces of Galioubieh, Dakahlieh, Menou-

fieh, and Charkieh, and the whole of Upper Egypt to the 22nd parallel of North Latitude, excluding the maritime portion of the Mudiria of Keneh, to reside at Cairo.

Captain F. A. L. Andrews, C.B.E., who during the past year has been serving, says *The Times*, with the Ministry of Shipping Joint Arbitration Board, is appointed to the *Julius*, in command, and as Captain of the Naval Base at Constantinople. He succeeds Captain E. R. Jones, who was appointed on December 11, 1918, or within a few days of the Allied Fleets taking up their station off the *Porte*. The *Julius*, which fills the rôle of dépôt-ship, is merely a harbour craft, formerly called the *Nixa*. On her books some forty-four British naval officers are borne for duty at various places in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

OBITUARY.

Jonkheer de Steurs, Dutch Minister at Athens, died last week.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Watt Smyth, late Judge of the Punjab Chief Court. Passing the Indian Civil Service examination in 1860, he was called to the Bar in 1872, and was for twenty years out of the twenty-seven of his active service on the judicial side, being successively Small Cause Court Judge, Divisional Judge, and finally Judge of the Chief Court.

The death is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Peers Dimmock, O.B.E., M.D. (Durham), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., He joined the Indian Medical Service in 1880. His first civil district charge was at Shikarpur, in Sind, where he discovered that the excessive mortality in the large gaol there, as in other prisons of Northern India, was due to epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis. In Bombay, where he was posted in 1891 as obstetric physician of the J.J. hospital and professor of midwifery at Grant Medical College, he was a conspicuous figure for nearly 20 years, for the last seven of them as principal of the college and senior medical officer of the hospital.

The death has occurred of Sir George Head Barclay, formerly British Minister at Teheran and Bucharest. Before being appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Persia in 1908, he had served, among other places, in Rome and Constantinople. After serving at Teheran for four years, he was transferred to Bucharest, and while he was there the Great War broke out. He remained at his post until the last week of November, 1916, and left for Jassy only on the imminent approach of the enemy forces. He returned to Bucharest at the end of November, 1918, and retired on pension in the following August. Sir George was created a C.M.G. in 1898, C.V.O. in 1906, K.C.M.G. in 1908, and a K.C.S.I. in 1913.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Moscow announces the formation of two new Soviet Republics, the Daghestan Republic and the Highland Republic, both in Northern Caucasia.

The Georgian Government has closed the premises of the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party, and has suppressed the Georgian Communist newspaper.

It is reported from Paris that the Supreme Council, which on January 26 offered to recognise the independence of Georgia as a *de jure* State, has now carried that offer into effect.

The Hellenic National Assembly adjourned until January 31, as results in certain areas which returned Venizelist Deputies had not yet been confirmed by the Electoral Courts.

An Armenian named Terzecharian fired with a revolver last week at M. Avedis Aharonian, president of the Armenian Delegation to the Peace Conference. The shot missed its mark, and the aggressor was arrested.

A resolution will be moved in the Upper and Lower Chambers of the Indian Legislature, declares a Delhi telegram, recommending the ratification of the draft convention adopted by the Washington Labour Conference.

The funeral of the Jesuit Father Plater took place at Malta on January 23, the Archbishop officiating, and the Chief Justice, heads of departments, and representatives of Labour and other clubs having their part in an imposing ceremony.

It is reported in Constantinople that the Azerbaijan Government having suspended its supplies of oil to Georgia, the Georgian Government has arrested the Azerbaijan Consul in Tiflis and seized the Consular funds. Hostilities between Georgia and Azerbaijan are expected.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

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

WHERE TO STAY.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1921.

A SOUND MOVE.

IN THE NEAR EAST of December 16 last it was urged that a conference should be called at which British, French, Greek, and Turkish representatives should be invited to arrive at a settlement which, while not ignoring the facts of the war, promised to restore peace to the Near and Middle East and to leave the various peoples free to concentrate their efforts on economic reconstruction. This step, it is satisfactory to note, is about to be taken. An Inter-Allied Conference is to be held in London this month, and, on the proposal of the British Government, invitations have been issued to the Greek and Turkish Governments to send representatives to take part in a discussion of the Near Eastern question. Both Governments have accepted, and the Porte has undertaken to urge the Angora Nationalists to be represented at the Conference. If Mustapha Kemal is well advised, he will avail himself of this opportunity of putting an end to a situation which, whatever personal *kudos* his actions may win for him, cannot satisfy the patriotic aspirations that originally inspired his movement. Behind the greatest political triumphs at this time, as Signor D'Annunzio discovered at Fiume, lurks the shadow of economic disaster, and sooner or later sane heads are forced to realise that priority has to be given to the material welfare of the people at large. In the face of the world's economic crisis, indulgence in national or personal ambitions which threaten to delay the return to normal conditions of work of any race or large community is a luxury that cannot be tolerated. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the British and French Governments will appreciate the necessity of retaining control of the Conference in their own hands; in other words, that they will not endeavour to escape their responsibility by leaving the Greeks and the Turks to compose their own differences. Both the latter have electorates or political opponents to take into consideration, and cannot be expected of themselves to abandon the respective attitudes that they have already taken up, the Greeks that of "the Treaty of Sèvres, the whole Treaty and nothing but the Treaty," the Turks that the Treaty must be torn up and the *status quo* of 1913 restored. It should not be difficult to make each party understand and acknowledge that the Allies' attempt at a settlement has been a failure—the calling of the Conference implies that the Allies themselves admit the fact—and that Greeks and Turks have been invited to assist in drafting an agreement that is practical of application. But just as the Greeks have to recognise that the responsibilities imposed upon them have been too great for them to undertake at the present moment with any chance of material success to Greece, so the Turks must be reminded that neither their failure as a Government before the war nor their defeat in the war can be ignored.

One of the mistakes made by the authors of the Treaty of Sèvres was to imagine that they could force the pace in the East. They thought that a great Greece meant a strong Greece, forgetting that territorial aggrandisement may often be a source of weakness. Having been given new lands, the Greeks, not unnaturally, are strongly opposed to surrendering them, and no Greek Government can be expected to consent of its own free will to the least modification of the Turkish Treaty. It should not be

impossible, however, to persuade a people as intelligent as the Greeks that it can never be worth their while to be given territory which they can only hope to retain at a cost altogether disproportionate to its value or to the benefits that its possession offers them. National policy in the Balkans has been dominated too much in the past by Tom Tiddler tactics. The premature pegging out of claims is apt to emphasise the weakness of pretensions. Few will doubt that Greece would be in a much stronger position to-day as the residuary legatee of Turkey in Smyrna, if she had not occupied the town in 1919. An Allied occupation would have brought the population all the relief that they wanted; it would not have antagonised the Turks, and might have obviated the subsequent developments in Anatolia. After a lapse of time the future of the port would have been decided on the merits of the question and without the need for the employment of a large military force. Greece in the meantime would have been composing her own domestic differences and building up a civil service capable of administering not only the old kingdom but also Greater Greece, however far afield it might eventually extend. Nothing could exceed the irony of the situation in which M. Venizelos found himself placed. While urging upon the Allies Greece's claims to fresh responsibilities, he gave occasion to the Greek people to denounce the administrative incapacity of his own Government. Venizelists are hardly likely to credit their political opponents with greater administrative ability than themselves, and will be the first to admit that Greece needs longer experience in the art of government before she can cope successfully with any considerable extension of empire.

The fate of Smyrna, it may be expected, will prove the crux of the problem to be solved by the Inter-Allied Conference. Some misgivings must have assailed the authors of the Treaty of Sèvres when they felt compelled to give the town an opportunity of deciding its own fate at the end of five years. The mistake made was to hand over Smyrna at once to the one people to whose occupation of it the Turks would take exception. At the time of the Armistice they would have accepted with their traditional fatalism the final severance of the town in favour of any Great Power among the Allies, and if the feeling prevailed that the Greeks had the reversion of it Smyrna might have been held in trust for them indefinitely or for a stated time. As things are, the autonomy of the town and district will provide the best solution. Smyrna itself has shown unmistakably that it has no desire to be governed from Athens, however keen the Greek population may be for union with Greece. She might govern herself under a Council that would consist of Greeks, Turks, Armenians, Jews, and nationals of the Great Allied Powers, with a Governor who, if the wishes of the inhabitants were consulted, would, we imagine, have to be British. A Greek Governor, we believe, would be a mistake. No point is gained by insisting on the shadow, when the substance has been secured. As there are grave objections to a mixed police force of Greeks and Turks, it would be necessary to seek a homogeneous force elsewhere, preferably a bi-lingual one; the gendarmerie for the outlying districts could be Turkish. Greek and Turkish representation on the Council, with perhaps forty and thirty per cent. of the members respectively, would respond to the predominance of these races in the town. The administration, however, would reflect the cosmopolitan character of the port, and economic relations with the Anatolian interior on the one hand, and with the world overseas on the other, would be maintained unimpaired.

THE NEAR EAST.

VOLUME XVIII. (JULY 1 — DECEMBER 23, 1920.)

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THE SITUATION IN TRANS-CAUCASIA.—I.

Never in the course of recent years has the situation in Transcaucasia been so complicated as at the present moment. Azerbaijan's independence gone since the spring of 1920, Armenia succumbed, Georgia threatened, Russia triumphantly reconquering her lost Caucasian provinces—such is the general situation of the country. Historical events have a logic of their own, and the theories of puny mortals seem powerless to affect their appointed course. Thus Russia is reintegrating in spite of the attempts of the border peoples to profit by the principle of self-determination which the Russian Revolution proclaimed; and we see the small nations one after another overwhelmed by the ancient master of their destinies seeking to re-establish his domination. The fate of Armenia is indeed a warning to Georgia to be on her guard more watchfully than ever.

The sequence of events in the Armenian Republic is already known in outline: the Turkish attack launched in September last; the repeated appeals of the Armenian Government to the Allies for diplomatic, if not military, intervention; the unbroken silence of the Western Powers; the widespread rumours that the Allies were supporting the Kemalists in order to liberate Baku from the Bolsheviks; the disastrous influence of these reports on a people and army already worn out by six years of incessant warfare; the insistence of the Bolsheviks upon their mediation, which was to be supported by the entry of their troops into Armenia; Armenia's acceptance of mediation and refusal of military help; and then, in rapid succession, the passage of Bolshevik forces into Armenian territory in spite of the Erivan Government's protests; the proclamation of a Soviet régime in Northern Armenia, occupied by the Reds, and the subsequent Sovietisation of such part of the Republic as had not fallen into the hands of the Turks. The time has not yet come to examine all the causes which brought about the Sovietisation of Armenia, and, it would seem, the loss of her independence after a precarious existence for two and a half years. Here I wish to deal only with the peace negotiations between the Kemalists and Armenians and their influence upon the coup at Erivan.

It should be noted, in the first place, that the Turkish advance and the complete isolation of the country caused both among the people and in the Government a psychological change highly favourable to an Armeno-Turkish reconciliation. The party in power, which had followed exclusively a pro-Entente policy, realised that, besides participating in the Allied negotiations with official Turkey, it was necessary to come to an understanding with Anatolian Turkey, the country's most dangerous neighbour. Soon after the acceptance of the harsh armistice imposed by the Turks, the leading Dashnak (*i.e.*, Governmental) paper, *Arach* ("Forward"), began to publish articles advocating a just and lasting peace with Turkey, and arguing in favour of an agreement with the Turks if it were a question of choosing between them and the Russians. Armenia, it was said, would make territorial concessions for the sake of maintaining the principle of independence.

Meanwhile, Kiazim Bey, the representative of Angora at Tiflis, made it known that the National Assembly of Anatolia sincerely wished to assist in the creation of an independent and viable Armenia, and even allowed it to be understood that his Government was ready to negotiate with Armenia upon territorial

questions concerning Turkish Armenia. Thus, in spite of the severity of the armistice, there were grounds for hoping that the conference at Alexandropol which was to follow would succeed in settling the Armeno-Turkish problem once for all upon an amicable basis. The Armenian delegation agreed to discuss territorial questions apart from the Treaty of Sèvres, and presented a map proposing frontiers, the moderation of which would have astonished the Turks had they not been intoxicated by their military success. According to the Armenian plan, the new Republic was to include Russian Armenia and the districts of Bayazed, Bulanik, and Melazgerd, a region of about 100,000 square kilometres, with a population of three millions. The Turks, however, would not listen to such a scheme, and proposed a treaty leaving to Armenia only a fraction of the former territory of the Republic. In the other provinces a plebiscite was to be taken under the protection of the Turks; but since the majority of the Armenian population left their homes before the occupation, and since, too, the younger of those who remained have been deported by the Turks, no one knows whither, it is easy to guess what results the plebiscite would give. Armenia's military forces were to be restricted in future to a gendarmerie and a frontier guard of 1,500 professional soldiers, with 120 machine guns and eight light guns.

This treaty, in short, involved the practical annihilation of Armenia, and made a striking contrast with the declarations of the Turks. To Armenians it became clear that peace and tolerable relations with the Turks were farther off than ever. Impartial observers in Transcaucasia could not understand the sudden change in the attitude of the Kemalists, who previously had seemed to appreciate the necessity of preserving Armenia as a buffer-State between Russia and themselves. Originally the Bolsheviks had given their approval to the Turkish scheme; but the sweeping success of Kemal and the unrest among the Moslem populations of Azerbaijan and Daghestan decided them to despatch Russian troops into Armenia before the expiration of the Armeno-Turkish armistice, in order to bring the Kemalists to a halt before they reached Azerbaijan. The general public is not aware that Russian troops had actually entered Armenia before the Soviet Government's declaration to Angora that any advance towards Azerbaijan would be considered a *casus belli*. Thus, it became clear that henceforward Turkey would have to deal not with Armenia, but with Russia—a Russia with her eyes on her former frontiers. In spite of their formal alliance, the Turks suspected and feared the return of Russia to Armenian territory, and accordingly the treaty imposed at Alexandropol was aimed against Russia rather than Armenia.

The negotiations which are now taking place between the Kemalists and the Bolsheviks, who by force of circumstances have come to Armenia as liberators, turn upon the question whether the provinces of Kars and Nakhitchevan shall be ceded to the Armenians without a plebiscite. The Turks show no sign of yielding, and the Bolsheviks are sending continuous reinforcements of Russian troops into Armenia. The Georgian Government, disquieted by the concentration of Red forces at Akstafa (the frontier station of Azerbaijan on the Transcaucasian railway, from which a good road leads into Armenia), has demanded an explanation from the Soviet representative at Tiflis, Scheinmann. Though asked orally, the latter has thought fit to reply in writing that these dispositions are not in any sense directed against Georgia. The Turks draw the obvious conclusion. Bekir Sami Bey, the Kemalist Ambassador at Moscow, who was passing



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BY APPOINTMENT.

PURE SCOTCH

through to Tiflis, had some personal experience of the Russian preparations, for his special train took three days instead of eighteen hours from Baku to Tiflis, owing to the continuous movement of Red troops and supplies towards Akstafa.

The new Armenian Government—the "Revolutionary Committee of the Socialist Soviet Republic of Armenia"—has just addressed a proposal to the National Assembly of Angora for the revision of the treaty of Alexandropol signed by the previous Government on the eve of the *coup d'état*. The Turks find the request embarrassing, and Bekir Sami Bey has departed in haste for Kars to confer with Headquarters. It is not difficult to foresee that, by refusing, the Turks would risk incurring the active hostility of the Russians; and they will have need to consider carefully whether the probable consequences would justify their provoking a conflict with the Russians—at any rate, before the Treaty of Sèvres has been revised. But—who knows?—we may yet witness another Russo-Turkish war before the curtain rings down on the tragedy "1914—."

Tiflis, December 14, 1920

R. N.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Turkish Treaty.

The *Morning Post* (of January 12) pleads for a revision of the Treaty of Sèvres on the ground that the consequences of its enforcement "may be prejudicial to the interests of the British Empire." It says:—

The primary need to a much-harassed country like ours is peace—peace, above all, in the Middle East—and we have to ask ourselves whether the Treaty of Sèvres, which humiliates the pride of a warrior race with what it must believe to be a fiendish ingenuity, will make for peace and security in a part of the world in which we are vitally concerned. From that point of view, the main blemish of the Treaty is a psychological one—it not only deprives Turkey of valuable territory and a great port, but it hands over that territory and port to the hated and despised enemy, the Greeks. On the eve of the Smyrna offensive we ventured to draw attention to the dangers inherent in such a move, contending that it might place too severe a strain on the resources of Greece, and would undoubtedly stiffen the Nationalist resistance in Anatolia. Both these fears have been fully realised. The prolonged mobilisation of the Greek Army was the deciding factor at the recent elections, with the result that King Constantine is now in Athens, and M. Venizelos is an exile in Nice. These events have gravely shaken Hellenic prestige and authority in the Middle East, and though we note that the Royalists are seeking to carry out the military enterprise of M. Venizelos in Anatolia, we can scarcely expect from it decisive results. For Constantine is the King not of a nation, but a faction, and the policy of reprisals on which he has embarked will make neither for the security of his subjects at home nor for the efficiency of his army abroad.

On the other hand, Mustapha Kemal Pasha has brought to his banner the strongest forces in Turkey. The seat of power in the Turkish Empire is in Angora, not in Constantinople. Constantinople, indeed, is no longer a Turkish city—we become dizzy in trying to enumerate the missions which besiege the unhappy Sultan. Surely it is absurd to insist in Constantinople on a ratification of which the only result will be to bring discredit on Tewfik Pasha, and thus destroy a popularity which is one of the few assets left to his country. Constantinople is almost in the same parlous state as Vienna, with its bankrupt Treasury, its importunate officials, its recurring political crises, and its failure to influence or guide the forces which are gathering outside. Surely the Allies ought to concentrate their attention on Angora and see whether some workable arrangement cannot be made with Kemal.

Persia.

The *Irish Times* of January 18 writes on the change that has come over popular opinion in Persia towards Great Britain.

The Persian Government has transferred its affections from London to Moscow. The Bolsheviks have been very busy in the Middle East, where already they have gathered Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Bokhara into their net. Now they are pursuing Persia. They have brought forward a Russo-Persian convention which, on the face of it, seems to be much more attractive than the British proposals. The Soviet Government offers to cancel all Persia's debts to Russia, to renounce all concessions in the country, and to compensate the Persian people for the invasion of their territory. It asks for nothing in return save the acceptance of the Bolshevik system by the Persians. The ease with which skilled agitators have been able to ensnare a large section of the Persian people is not difficult to understand. The British troops will be withdrawn from Persia in the spring. Then, unless she accepts the Bolsheviks' offer, she will be at the mercy of the "Red" Army, which is still at Enzeli. We cannot blame the Persians, if they take what seems to be the line of less resistance; but, on the other hand, the Foreign Office cannot allow

Persia to become a vassal of Moscow without a struggle. British interests in that country are very great, and, if it be at all possible to save the throne for the Shah and frustrate the sinister designs of the Bolsheviks, they demand that every effort shall be made in the attempt.

PERSIAN POETRY.

Lecturing before the Société Internationale de Philologie recently Mr. M. H. Ispahani said that in Persia, as in other countries, the earliest poets either found their inspiration in religion or else gave expression to national and popular feelings and recounted legendary and mythical folklore. Persia had passed through so many cataclysms that her pre-Arabian records were only available through contemporary historians and travellers of other nations. All records had been destroyed at the time of the overthrow of the ancient Akaminian or Jamshidian Empire. This was followed, first, by a thousand years of Babylonian supremacy and, afterwards, when the Babylonians had been expelled, by a period of glory, which ended with the Alexandrian invasion, when all records were again destroyed. Later came the Arabic invasion, but it was not fair to say, as had been done, that Islam had had a blighting influence on Persian poetry; the Arabs were themselves a highly poetic people. The greatest of Persian poets was Firdousi, who lived some time before the Arabic invasion, and who composed the "Shah Nameh," a wonderful poem of sixty thousand couplets, in which he incorporated the legend and history of Persia up to his time. The poet sent this to Sultan Mahmoud of Ghazni, who should have paid a gold coin for every couplet; but, moved by an economic Minister, sent silver coins instead. Firdousi gave the money to a sherbet seller, wrote a satire on Mahmoud, and then fled for his life. Later the Sultan repented of his parsimony, and sent a present of indigo to Firdousi of the value of the sixty thousand gold coins; but this arrived too late. Firdousi died the same day, and his high-spirited daughter with the proceeds of the indigo built a rest-house with a well for travellers.

Syed Ameer Ali, who presided, said it was extraordinary there should be such a lack of interest in this country to-day in the language and literature of Persia. In the earlier part of the nineteenth century that language and literature had formed a real subject of interest to all Englishmen going to the East, and it was strange it should be so neglected now, when Persia was politically so important to the British Empire. Persia had been a country of enormous interest in all times, and had never gone down. She had absorbed the Macedonians of Alexander, and later had absorbed the Arabs. She would survive her present difficulties. It only needed a little interest in the life of the Persians and their aspirations for their country's independence to enable them to restore their national existence and vitality.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Mails to the Near East—

Attention was drawn in these columns last week to the deplorable position with regard to the mail services between this country and Constantinople. How bad conditions are may be judged from the statement in the current issue of the *Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States* that seven trains arrived at Constantinople from Paris in recent weeks without any British mails. There are three trains a week from Paris, so that sixteen days passed without any mails from this country. Our contemporary had previously commented on the practice of French firms of sending by registered letter post goods which should have gone by parcels post. The packages on which as much as 33 francs odd have been paid in postage have been delivered to the addressees without passing through the Turkish Customs, thus giving our Allies an unfair advantage over British traders.

—and France.

It is not unnatural to suppose that these two things are connected, and that the reason why the French are unable to find much accommodation for British mails to Constantinople is that the service is already fully occupied in taking registered packages. If it is due to some other cause it is up to our Allies to say what that cause is, and why it has so far been impossible to find a remedy for it. But any criticism that may be made must fall equally on our own authorities at home, whose inept handling of the position has been very marked. Representations have been made, no doubt, but they must have been presented in a very half-hearted spirit, otherwise it would not have been necessary to continue ventilating the grievances of British traders with regard to mail communications to one or other part of the Near East. It is satisfactory to learn that as the result of representations made by the British Chamber of Commerce at Constantinople steps have been taken which, it may be hoped, will remedy the position as far as that centre is concerned.

Greece and Smyrna.

Writing some time ago, I pointed out that the position of Smyrna as a commercial centre would depend entirely on the wisdom which characterised Greece's policy there. For the port to develop as it should it is clearly essential that Greece should do everything possible to smooth the path of commercial reconstruction, and should avoid taking any step that would restrict the activities of traders of other nationalities. News received during the last few days suggests that under the new Administration this line of action is not being pursued. The Greek authorities have imposed certain commercial restrictions which have resulted in strong protests being made by the British and other chambers of commerce to their respective High Commissioners in Constantinople. It is maintained that the measures will bring about the commercial ruin of the port, and their immediate withdrawal is demanded. These energetic representations from bodies composed of the traders who played the chief part in raising Smyrna to the position it occupied before the war, and whose co-operation is essential to Greece if that country's ambitions are to be realised in Smyrna, will no doubt result in the measures being repealed. But it should not have been necessary to make them!

Egypt's Industrial Future.

All who have the welfare of Egypt at heart will find great cause for satisfaction in the promise shown in the exhibition of Egyptian industries at Cairo. From the account given by our Correspondent, it is clear that in a number of lines the Egyptians have proved themselves equal to producing goods on a level with those that they have previously imported from the West. The result will presumably be that in the future Egypt will be capable of supplying itself with a number of commodities and even perhaps of developing a small export trade with neighbouring markets, such as Palestine and the Balkans. But given that that may be the case, local circumstances make the industrial outlook for the country very limited, for the materials for the principal industries of the world are

lacking. But within limitations there is great scope for development, which is good for Egypt, and cannot seriously affect British trade, for the articles that Egypt can make she has imported in the past mainly from Europe, in particular from the Central Powers, and even in the lines in which Egypt can specialise the constant growth of the Egyptian market affords the best guarantee that there will always be abundant scope for the importer.

An Indian Bank's Credit Scheme.

One of the most interesting of the various export credits schemes that have been advanced as a solution of the problem of enabling the resumption of trade with Europe is that of one of the leading Indian exchange banks. The scheme, which has been drawn up principally from the Indian point of view, is illustrated from the case of Germany. It is proposed in the first place that an International Commission should be established which would determine the gold value of credits that it would approve against the security of the assets which a country desiring help would be prepared to assign as security for commercial credits. Germany, the country in question, would then create an institution to be known as the German International Produce Clearing House (India Section), with its head office in Germany and a branch in London, with full authority to act on behalf of the Government. The leading German banks would be associated with the Clearing House, and no credit would be arranged unless it had been applied for by one of the associated banks. The London branch of the Clearing House would have associated with them the London clearing bankers and approved London accepting houses, to whom whatever securities had been agreed upon would be pledged.

Its Advantages.

As regards India, it is proposed that the Government of India should accord to the London bankers and accepting houses its unconditional guarantee that all drafts drawn under the credits to be issued under the scheme would be duly provided for at maturity, for which consideration the Government of India would be entitled to charge the German Clearing House a commission on the total amount of credits coming within the scope of its guarantee. Letters of credit would be issued in sterling, and drawn on and payable only in London and in sterling, so that the onus of exchange would rest entirely with the Clearing House, and no credit would provide for bills at a longer usance than six months' sight. It is maintained that the scheme has the advantages of simplicity and rapidity of operation, and it is considered that it would provide Germany or whatever country might be concerned with the most convenient method of obtaining all the raw materials from India that they desire. As regards India, it is pointed out that it would mean the recovery of her Continental customers, increased revenue to the Government, and strength and stability to her sterling exchange.

Advertising in Egypt.

One effect of the war in Egypt was to give a great stimulus to the study of English, and the result of this is emphasised in a Consular report on the question of advertising and giving publicity to British goods in that country which has just come into my hands. The large number of

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British troops who were quartered in Egypt during the war, and who spoke for the most part only English, naturally compelled the trading community to learn the language, and now the position is that English ranks as one of the two languages which the British trader can utilise for the sale of his goods to the native community.

The Oil Question.

It is understood that the British reply to the American Note regarding the exploitation of the world's oil resources will shortly be delivered. Its effect, I trust, will be to correct the entirely unfounded views of British policy that have been allowed to gain currency on the other side of the Atlantic. The position America has taken up on the question is totally indefensible, and surely also rather Gilbertian in view of the fact that she controls within her own borders 80 per cent. of the world's oil output. Having these vast resources, it would appear that America desires to prevent other nations from safeguarding their oil supplies. The policy of Great Britain, as Sir Charles Greenway has explained, is the policy of the "open door," but that naturally cannot be interpreted as meaning that we must give up concessions legitimately acquired by us before the war. It was open to America to have anticipated us, but it is not to be expected that we can make sacrifices in order to compensate for a lack of enterprise on the part of our rivals in the past. As a *business* race, our friends in America will appreciate this point. Unwittingly, no doubt, they have been led into a misapprehension of the position, and as they have ever shown themselves willing to acknowledge an error, it is to be anticipated that when the situation has been made clear to them they will readily withdraw what has been said. The episode has, in short, been purely a question of a misunderstanding, and, as Sir Charles Greenway pointed out in a recent speech, which is reported in another column, there is no reason for rivalry in the oil business. There is room in the oil trade of the world for all, and, as he truly remarks, there is no reason why the "participation in the work of oil production by other nations, and the safeguarding by each country of its own oil position, should not be carried out in a perfectly friendly spirit and without any undue encroachment upon the vested interests of those already in the trade."

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TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—From my personal experience and reports I have received from my travellers in the Near East, British travellers can get very little support from local British Chambers of Commerce in the Near East of Europe, and it would be advisable if the British Government would appoint agents in towns like Sofia, Belgrade, Zagreb, and Bucharest, who could assist British travellers and traders when travelling in these countries.

Spain, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Italy, and France are getting every assistance from their diplomatic and commercial people, while an Englishman is seriously handicapped in this direction. Even the list of importers issued by the Board of Trade is all mixed up, and firms who have left these places years ago are still mentioned, which means a great loss of time in looking them up.

In Sofia the other day a traveller for my Bradford house, in asking for information re a firm in Sofia, was given the simple answer, "They are Jews, and not to be trusted." Such information from a man on the spot, who ought to know better, is misleading, and brands any buyer because he is a Jew. The man who gave the information ought to know that the majority of the traders in Central Europe are Jews, some of them quite respectable tradespeople; with life-long experience and good reputation.

I hope that the British Government will take steps to assist travellers for British firms in the Near East, so as not to let foreign competition cut the ground under their feet. We have advocated the development of trade in the Near East, and all over the world, during the war, and must take steps to see all our plans realised for the benefit of the trade of Great Britain.—Yours faithfully,

H. KRAMRISCH

(Consul for Yugoslavia in the West Riding of
Yorkshire).

26, Canal Road, Bradford, January 28.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK DINNER.

On January 27 the London management of the Imperial Ottoman Bank were entertained to dinner at the Holborn Restaurant by the ex-Service members of the London staff. The occasion was designed to place on record the appreciation of the services of Mr. R. S. C. Pearce (the assistant manager and deputy-secretary in London), who during the war edited and privately circulated an excellent periodical known as the *I.O.B. Gazette*.

Reference was made during the dinner to the complete success of this publication in ensuring, as it did throughout the whole of the war, close personal touch between the staff at home and abroad. As a memento of the occasion Mr. Pearce was presented with a silver cigarette box, suitably engraved, and afterwards amid great enthusiasm a toast was drunk wishing long life and prosperity to the bank, its committee and management. After dinner the company adjourned to the Coliseum, where an excellent programme completed a most enjoyable evening.

GEORGIAN WIRELESS STATION.

The Georgian Ministry of Supplies has concluded an agreement with a French trading and financial company for the erection in Georgia of a powerful radio-telegraphic station, by means of which it will be possible to communicate within a radius equivalent to the distance between Tiflis and London. The new station will connect Georgia with large European centres, such as Paris, London, Rome, Moscow, and others.

According to the agreement, the Ministry of Supplies is to pay for the erection of the station by means of a consignment of Sukhum tobacco in equivalent quantity. The station is to be erected within the next six months. At the same time another agreement under the same conditions was signed for the erection of four wireless telephone stations in various parts of Georgia. The central wireless telephone station will be erected in Tiflis.

OPENING FOR OLIVE OIL PRESSES IN FEZ.

H.M. Consul at Fez, writing with regard to the probable local demand for presses and pumps for the manufacture of olive oil, states that the majority of the modern presses in use in the district are of French manufacture. A complete plant of French make for the extraction of olive oil, and capable of an hourly production of 500 kilos of paste, has been recently installed in Morocco at a cost of 50,000 francs. A list of olive oil manufacturers in Morocco who might be interested in the purchase of similar plant can be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade by United Kingdom firms interested, on application.

ENGINEERING.

Falling Prices.

There is a marked downward tendency in the costs of raw materials, and in some quarters this is regarded as being a sign of a forthcoming general lowering of prices. It would seem, however, that it is rather a result of bad trade than a sign of improvement; in order to overcome financial difficulties due to the shortage of money, manufacturers and producers generally are being compelled to liquidate their stocks. It is unlikely that British prices can fall to anything approaching the Continental level whilst the costs of labour and distribution remain so high, and British engineering firms are receiving numerous offers of Continental iron and steel which, if accepted, will do much towards aggravating the situation. In the North the opinion is freely expressed that in order to save the British industry from disaster the importation of foreign iron and steel must be stopped. To this the constructional side of the engineering industry points out that cheap iron and steel are of vital importance to the well-being of our trade, and says plainly that if British manufacturers cannot produce at the right price the goods must be bought abroad. It seems a great pity that the producing and utilising sides of every British trade should seem to be at loggerheads over this question of foreign supplies. In the great chemical industry, for example, we have such well-organised and magnificently equipped concerns as the British Dyestuffs Corporation overcoming every difficulty in research, in organisation and production; beating the German at his own game of colour making; finding out in a few months processes which he took years to discover, only to find the dye-using side of the textile industry, in their efforts to meet foreign competition, turning round and saying that the British dyes and chemicals are too expensive and that in their own interests they would welcome the free and unrestricted import of German-made colours. In the magneto industry the newest, and in many ways one of the most important, of our trades we find the same thing, inability on the part of British firms, by reason of the high cost of materials and labour and the heavy burden of taxation, to make magnetos at a less cost than £12 10s. or £15. On the other hand is a ring of German financiers, manufacturers, and Government officials turning out magnetos wholesale and offering them here for about a £5 note. The result will inevitably be that British users of magnetos, to stand against the competition from abroad, will be forced to buy German appliances, and so help to crush their fellow-manufacturers. The whole thing seems curiously disjointed, and whilst it is, of course, manifestly wrong, it is not easy to see what remedy can be applied. One thing at least is evident, and that is that no manufactured or partially manufactured goods should be allowed to come into this country from Germany except under licence from the Board of Trade.

Motor-Cycle Weight.

A good deal of consternation has been caused in motor-cycle circles by the new system of taxation, which lays it down that whilst a machine weighing, ready for the road, 200 lbs. or under shall be taxed 30s., a machine which weighs even a few ounces over that amount will have to pay £3 per annum. The general impression was that ordinary single cylinder touring machines were to be taxed 30s. in place of the £1 hitherto levied, and that the larger sum would have to be paid only by those machines, of the twin engine type, which developed 5 h.p. or over. The average 1920 or 1921 machine which last year was taxed 20s. only now has to pay at the highest rate, because it scales, with its three-speed gear-box and chain-cum-belt drive, just over the 200 lb. limit.

The law says, however, that the weight on which the tax is decided shall be the weight of the machine, as ordinarily used on the road, minus fuel and tools. There is a very serious side to this, a side to which attention has not yet been called. In order to bring their machines within the range of the lower taxation, numbers of riders will proceed to strip their machines of all such loose impedimenta and adjuncts as possible. Speedometers, so valuable a safeguard against too high a speed, will be removed. Powerful horns will give place to twopenny-halfpenny devices, just sufficient to meet the law, but quite inadequate in these days of heavy traffic. Powerful brakes may be replaced by flimsy attachments, long exhaust pipes will be removed, and the dozens of refinements hitherto used will go to the wall to enable the rider to get his machine to the 200 lb. limit. The roads, dangerous enough before, will be still more dangerous, and there is a worse aspect to this piece of fatuous legislation. In order to produce a $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 h.p. machine that will come under the 30s. scale, it is possible that certain makers may spring up

like mushrooms and cut down frame strength to a dangerous degree in order to get the weight within the limit.

Another aspect occurs to me. This new reading of the law will be a serious matter to makers of motor-cycle instruments as speedometers, trip recorders, handle-bar watches, route-card carriers; pump, lamp, and generator makers will also suffer, as no rider whose machine is under the limit will risk adding another half-pound or so. There will thus be an adverse effect on trade, as well as an added danger to riders and road users. I believe it is not too late for the Ministry of Transport to move in the matter, and to make it clear that the 200 lb. limit is not to be enforced within reason, provided that the machine in question is a single-cylinder machine of $3\frac{1}{2}$ or $4\frac{1}{2}$ h.p. as turned out by the makers as a standard motor-cycle for solo riding. I believe that the Ministry, together with such M.P.'s as gave any attention to the matter, intended that reading, and that the imposition I am now protesting against is the result of the brilliancy of a brain similar to that which recently caused the police to prosecute a motor-cyclist because his registration numbers were about an eighth of an inch too big.

Petrol Economy.

Much has been said in these columns from time to time in regard to the need for reducing running costs wherever possible by cutting down petrol consumption by fitting a smaller jet where sufficiently good results as regards speed could be obtained, and by the use of ordinary naphthalene added in fairly small proportions to either petrol or benzole. Attention has also been called to the advantages of using a proportion of ordinary paraffin with whatever other fuel is used. All these methods possess certain disadvantages as well as points in their favour. Mr. T. G. Tulloch, writing recently in the *Motor*, called attention to a point which is often neglected by drivers, but which, if given attention, will invariably result in an appreciable saving on an average long-distance run. As he said, probably most readers of that paper are aware of the method, but for the benefit of beginners here is the method. On descending a hill put the gear in the neutral and switch off. The engine will stop, and the car will coast down without the expenditure of any petrol at all and without having to bother about keeping the clutch pedal down. On approaching the bottom of the hill, turn on the switch and start up the engine by the self-starter and, when it is running at a sufficient number of revolutions to correspond approximately to the speed of the car to require that number of revolutions, pull the gear handle lever into top speed without depressing the clutch pedal. It is delightfully simple and silent if the engine be speeded up to correspond as near as possible to the speed of the car, so that the dog clutch engages easily; and though novices may hesitate to put in the gear without using the clutch, there is no need for any fears on this score. He added: I shall never forget the look of astonishment and delight on the face of a car proprietor in the Lake District when I gave him this tip, and he successfully brought it off the first time. In the hilly district there he calculated that he would save, with his fleet, several pounds a month. I remember a good instance which occurred to me personally some years ago on a non-stop run from London to Budleigh Salterton, 189 miles by the route through Surrey, Hampshire, Dorset, and Devon, which includes some pretty long coasts, with four up, luggage, and ranged along the footboard fourteen tins of petrol—it was during a petrol scare. By freely using the method I described the petrol consumption worked out at just over 25 m.p.g. on a 16 h.p. car.

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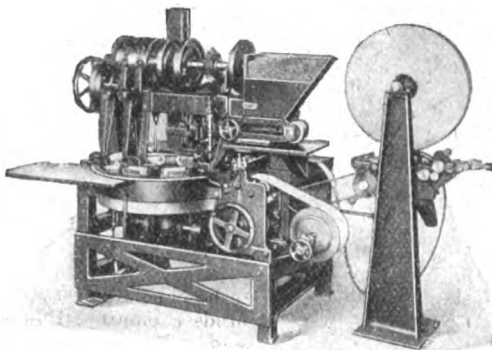
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OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

BRITISH OIL POLICY.

Sir Charles Greenway on the "Open Door."

Speaking at the launching of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's new tanker, British Viscount, at the yards of Messrs. Swan, Hunter and Wigham Richardson, at Newcastle-on-Tyne on January 22, Sir Charles Greenway said that it had become a national necessity for each country to make itself secure, as far as practicable, in regard to its supplies of oil, and it was idle to suppose that the result of the world's oil resources should be monopolised by any one country. There was room in the oil trade of the world for all. No one country and no one group of oil men could possibly hope to develop satisfactorily the resources and meet the demands of the whole world, and the more enterprise, brains, and capital, whether of American, British, French, Roumanian, or any other nationality, that could be devoted to the discovery, production, and marketing of the vast stores of oil which undoubtedly still awaited development in the hidden recesses of the earth, the better for mankind in general. And there was no reason at all why that participation in the work of oil production by other nations, and the safeguarding by each country of its own oil position, should not be carried out in a perfectly friendly spirit and without any undue encroachment upon the vested interests of those already in the trade. All his endeavours had been directed to that end, and he was sure that by an exercise of the mutual goodwill, tolerance, and honesty of purpose with which the English-speaking peoples were credited all differences of opinion and misunderstandings in regard to the question of oil could be easily overcome.

Let them get rid once and for all of petty and selfish jealousies, and recognise that oil now played far too an important part in the welfare of every nation for it or any greatly preponderating portion of it to be under the control of any one company or group of oil men. If each country devoted its energies and brains chiefly to the supply of its own markets, and confined its activities in foreign markets merely to the extent that it might be necessary to make use of them as safety valves for the disposal of its surplus products, it would have quite enough to do to occupy the energies of its oil men, and they would make quite enough profit to satisfy any reasonable aspirations. By following that policy the difficulties and misunderstandings which would necessarily arise from attempts to secure control of oil resources in remote corners of the earth, and of supplies which could never be of any possible service to the country itself, would at the same time be entirely removed.

A good deal had been heard lately about the "open-door policy" and the necessity of this country adopting that policy in regard to the oilfields of Mesopotamia. So far as he knew, there had never been any intention to do otherwise, but the use of that phrase in connection with Mesopotamian oil was a mere euphemism for "Bolshevism," for what was proposed, or rather demanded, by their competitors in America was that they should have taken away from them property acquired legitimately and with the full knowledge and approval of the Governments concerned before the war. They had heard that Bolshevism was spreading, but he did not think it had spread so far as to induce the American or any other civilised Government to approve of or support such an act of spoliation as that—even though camouflaged under the guise of the "open-door."

THE PETROLEUM RESOURCES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

At a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute on January 25, at which Sir Frederick Black, K.C.B. (President of the Institute of Petroleum Technologists), presided, an interesting paper on the above subject was read by Mr. George Howell, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., M.I.P.T.

There was one resource, constituting one of their primary requirements, the lecturer pointed out, which was more or less absent from their present natural resources, and that was petroleum. Petroleum oils were becoming every day more and more essential as a dominating factor in the maintenance of their Empire. The present supply of petroleum from British territory did not exceed 3 per cent. of the world's production, and it was their duty and right to test, explore, and find, if it was to be found in their hidden rocks, the precious liquid, so that their future supplies could be guaranteed from British lands. That was, no doubt, a dream, the wish being father to the thought.

His paper was prepared with the thought dominating his mind that if increased attention were given it might enable the country in the future to create a similar position to America, and in that way "transmute some of our riches into still more precious riches"—petroleum.

In his opinion it was up to the champions of British industry to get busy and search out those unknown sources of petroleum, which did exist, and existed possibly in British territory, which at the present time formed the integral and component parts of their British Commonwealth. In his opinion it was possible to find vast natural petroleum resources in the "To-morrow" by the activities of a union of forces—call it the industrial triumvirate if they would—the geologist, the chemist, and the business man. The geologist had one of the greatest and national tasks ever entrusted to man to perform if the future new oil-fields of the world, now hidden deep down in the rocks, were to be brought within measurable distance of the drill. The task comprised careful geological mapping and correlation of the Earth's crusted rocks and the bringing of them into categories with the view to correlating them with the existing petroleum-bearing rocks. Many geologists were of the opinion that the study of present oil-belts in sequence was not only interesting, but helpful in the discovery of new oil-fields. If they referred to the cretaceous rocks of the Europa-Mediterranean series, rich in carbonate of lime, they would find on the coast-line of the Black Sea, at Novorossisk, what appeared to be an escarpment, or sharp cutting down of the rock-side, through water action, the depth of the cut side being over 300 ft.; as far as visibility went this appeared to be the end of these cretaceous rocks on the east. Tracing those rocks in a north-westerly direction they would find them coursing toward Europe, across the Kertch Straits and the Crimea; then through the European continent, disappearing for a time, then in their western course sharply outcropping in their sister island—Ireland.

Skilled geologists, backed by unlimited capital, would have to be prepared to go forth and cut their way through dense bush of tropical countries or spend their time in barren desert lands, or even explore the Arctic regions. Ten years ago, to suggest the Arctic Zone as petroliferous would have been courting Colney Hatch or some other invigorating sanatorium—a suggestion of a demented scientist. To-day, however, they found that Alaska was quickening to add to the petroleum supplies of America; it had been disgorging oil from many places in that region. Geologists might also have to explore—and in a systematic manner, too—such mountains as the Himalayas, Mount Nero, the Andes, as well as the Rockies. He believed the flanks of the Himalayas would afford much to interest the petroleum technologist. They might even have to wander over far-off prairies of Canada, or the veldts of Africa, or the plains of Australia, or the coastlines of important seas and rivers—the Arabian Sea, the various straits in the Pacific and the Atlantic, or the Ganges, the Brahmaputra, the Irrawaddy, and the Nile. There were, however, two initial difficulties which it seemed to him would present themselves. Firstly, the dearth of geologists; secondly, the dearth of capital from British sources.

Mr. Howell went on to deal with the outlook for oil production in Canada, Australia, and England. Turning to India, he said that the country at the present time showed great possibilities for the future production of oil in very large quantities. They could certainly look towards India as one of the potential countries to contribute to British Imperial supply. Petroleum occurred in Upper and Lower Burma (including the Arakan Islands), Assam, the Punjab, and in Baluchistan. In Upper Burma the oil-fields had steadily progressed, and the future of the territory was assured. For a long time past, boring for oil had been carried on in Ramri and Cheduba; two distinct classes of wells were brought in in those parts—those which appeared to communicate with a natural reservoir, from which the oil rose with considerable rapidity, and those sunk in rock more or less saturated with petroleum, from which the oil slowly percolated into the well. Yenang-yuang and Yenangvat fields were satisfactory; there were much richer oil-sands at greater depth than drills in the past had reached. Mr. Howell concluded his lecture with an account of the development of the Persian oil-fields.

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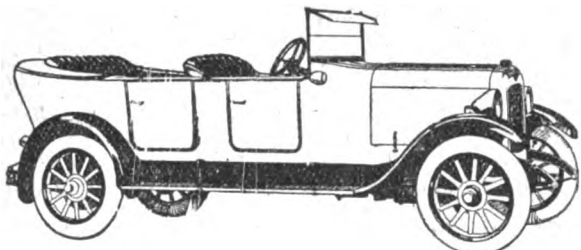
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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—The position remains much the same. There are, so far, no signs of an increase in the demand for currants, and prices have tended to decline. Sultanias have also been in poor request, and rates are generally easier. Figs are still a neglected commodity, but the market is, however, fairly firm. Some good business has been done in dates at steady rates.

Sugar.—There has been no change in prices. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 62s. to 66s., and white Mauritius has been done at 71s. Home refined has been in active demand at the official rates.

Coffee.—Prices have declined slightly. Costa Rica at 128s. has dropped 2s., and Indian at 108s. has shed a like amount. The futures market ruled quieter and easier. Quotations are: March, 45s. 6d.; May, 46s. 6d.; July, 47s.; September, 48s.; December, 49s.

Oilcakes.—There has been a further decline in prices. Linseed cake at 17s. 6d. and cottonseed cake at 10s. 6d. are both 6d. down. Groundnut cake at 14s. has dropped 1s. 6d., while coconut cake has gained 6d., at 13s.

Oilseeds.—The market has shown a downward tendency. Indian linseed has lost 2s., at 20s. Rapeseed is lower, with Toria at 19s. 6d., and bold Ferozepore at 18s. 6d., a decline of 1s. and 1s. 6d. respectively.

Seed Oils.—Prices have declined in most cases. Linseed oil at 31s. has lost 2s. Rape oil at 53s. is unaltered. Refined cotton oil has shed 3s. to 40s., but the Egyptian variety is the same at 30s. Turpentine has lost 20s., at 80s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 180s. cwt.; butter, 280s. cwt.; cheese, 170s. cwt.; eggs, 36s. per 120; chillies, 125s. cwt.; cloves (Zanzibar), 1s. 1½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 92s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 116s. cwt.; East Indian bold, 112s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 116s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 37s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 160s. cwt.; lard, 141s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs, 10½d. lb., per 110's to 80's; pepper (Singapore, black), 4½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 9d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 133s. 6d. cwt.; sultanias (Smyrna), 130s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 90s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 72s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 76s. cwt.; Mauritius, 70s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 25s. 6d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 16s. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £6 15s. ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 6½d. lb.; Java, 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 113s. qr.; wheat (English white), 82s. 6d. qr.

Metals.—Aluminium, £165 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £70 12s. 6d. ton; copper (electro), £81 ton; gold bars, 109s. 3d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 215s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 240s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 12s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 2s. 5½d. unit; molybdenite, 65s. unit; nickel, £215 ton; platinum, 370s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £12 12s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 39½d. lb.; spelter (G.O.B.), £24 15s. ton; tin (standard), £186 5s. ton; tin plate (20 by 14), 33s. box; wolfram, 16s. 3d. unit; zinc sheets, £41 10s. ton.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 3½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 4½d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 0½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £25 8s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £57 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 2½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £21 ton; borax crystals, 38s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 170s. cwt. Potassium: Bichromate, 1s. 2½d. lb.; chlorate, 7d. lb.; caustic, £72 10s. ton; nitrate, £58 10s. ton; permanganate, 2s. 7½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 5½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £32 10s. ton; sodium: crystals, 150s. ton; bi-carbonate, £10 15s. ton; bi-chromate, 9½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £10 15s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £26 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £25 10s. ton; prussiate, 11½d. lb.; nitrate, £21 15s. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £58 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 4s. 4½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 8d. oz.; red lead, £44 ton; white dry lead, £49 5s. ton; white ground lead, £59 15s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 11.59d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian Sakellaridis), 21.00d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £17 15s. ton; rape (Toria), £20 5s. ton; soya beans, £13 10s. ton; palm kernels, £22 2s. 6d. ton; Oils:—Linseed, £33 10s. ton; soya, £36 ton; cotton (crude), £31 ton; olive, 14s. gallon; ground nut, £42 10s. ton; palm, £43 5s. ton; rape (crude), £59 ton; petroleum, 2s. 3d. gallon; turpentine, 80s. cwt. Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crêpe), 1s. 1½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 11½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 0½d. lb.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Rather More Inquiry.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

Compared with the market last week, there has been a slight improvement in the tone, but difficulty is experienced between buyers and sellers in getting to close quarters for lots of any weight. Now and again there were indications of a rather improved inquiry, but until there is a larger offtake in piece goods there is no probability of operators being able to bring about any definite rise in prices. The financial outlook is not altogether bright, and some firms are feeling the position rather acutely, causing them to sell goods at cut prices. With regard to Egypt, the Levant, and Turkey, there has been an improved inquiry for printed and dyed goods, but many of the bids have not materialised on account of the unworkable character of the offers. Egyptian counts remain irregular, and spinners are full of complaints. Offers received would mean a big loss if worked, for buyers' prices are much below quotations, even when rates have been cut severely. Demand for the Continent shows a slight improvement. Varied reports have been given out in cloth circles, but on the whole only isolated sales have occurred. Calcutta is undoubtedly the most promising outlet of India, and it is mentioned that a large transaction has taken place in grey shirtings. Dhooties have been changing hands from day to day, but deals have only been of retail extent. The political news from India is still rather disturbing. Tentative bids have been about in greys and whites for China, but business has been patchy. It is hoped that an improvement will be registered after the Chinese New Year, in about a fortnight's time. For the other outlets, both East and West, there is no development to report. There are signs of an improvement in the home trade. Stocks of dear goods have recently been materially reduced, and there is every promise of business on a fresh basis. In American yarns for home use the tone has been very slow. Evidently manufacturers are well supplied, for there has been no disposition to purchase anything beyond lots. Prices have been easier and very irregular. With reference to export yarns, buying has been confined to sorting-up lots. Inquiry has been received for India, but as a rule the bids are entirely unworkable.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ended January 27, state:—"There is little to report concerning the past week, except that it has been slightly worse than the previous one. On Tuesday last only one inquiry was forthcoming for Egyptian cotton, and when the cotton was produced it was returned as 'not wanted.' There is an increasing anxiety on the part of holders to liquidate their stocks, and certain spinners are re-offering some of their earlier purchases. Spinners, when they do have to come into the market, make bids which in better times would be laughed at, but which nowadays represent too often the utmost they are prepared to pay. Under present conditions, rather than miss business, some astonishingly low cuts have been accepted. Prices quoted for spot cotton show a wide range and the official quotations are most misleading. C.i.f. business is practically at a standstill. The small spot inquiry experienced has been about equally divided between Sakellaridis and Upper, prices on the whole displaying a marked downward tendency, the only exception being Extra Fine Sakellaridis, which holds its own fairly well, and is evidently becoming harder to find. Manchester reports have been consistently depressing until to-day, when 'a slightly better tone' was chronicled. Total sales, 900 bales, which includes 30 bales Sudan. Quotations show a decline of 1½d. per lb., with the exception of Extra Fine Sakellaridis, which is only reduced ½d. per lb.; F.G.F. Sakellaridis to-day, 21.00d."

The Earl of Bessborough, chairman of the Bank of Roumania, of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, and other companies, left estate of the gross value of £272,890.

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SUDAN PRODUCE.

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

Gum.

The exports of gum were 22,099 kilos. of bleached, of the value of £E1,273; 605,720 kilos. of hashab, of the value of £E29,021; and 373,623 kilos. of talh, of the value of £E8,470, via Port Sudan, and 6,321 kilos. of hashab, of the value of £E306, via Halfa.

Kordofan Province.—568 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during November, as against 6,768 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was £E1.185 per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos.). Arrivals from Mahud, 404 kantars, as against 8,489 last year. 41 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at £E1 per kantar, as against 258 kantars last year. 135 kantars were sold at Rahad at 950 mms. per kantar, as against 477 kantars last year.

Sennar Province.—Four tons hashab and 123 tons talh gum were exported by rail during October.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province.—A November report states:—The cotton crop, unless anything unforeseen occurs, is expected to be double that of last year; but the outlook for the cultivators is not very bright owing to the very high wages paid for labour in cleaning the ground and sowing during the autumn. It is estimated that in a large majority of cases cultivators have already expended an average of £E5 a feddan.

Dura.

Kassala Province.—The market price of dura was £E1.320 mms. per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos.) at Kassala and £E1.050 at Gedaref. The dura on the rain lands is being harvested, and a very heavy crop is certain over the whole province. The dura on the Gash Delta lands and Tebilol is not yet ripe, but reports as to the crop are most satisfactory. In Tebilol in particular vast areas not previously irrigated promise to give magnificent yields.

Sesame.

Sennar Province.—30 tons of sesame were exported by rail in October.

Kassala Province.—962 ardebs of sesame passed through the Gedaref market during the month. The average price at Gedaref during the month was PT.190.

Dates.

Halfa Province.—Practically the whole crop for the market has been sold. A few hundred ardebs are still in the hands of the small merchants. There is no real demand for dates, and no price in Halfa market at present. Date convoy of thirty-three and nineteen boats respectively arrived from the Southern districts at Abka on the 7th and 14th. Three boats were wrecked, one totalling 228 sacks.

Livestock, Hides and Skins.

Kassala Province.—91 cattle and 619 sheep were exported from Kassala and 819 cattle from Gedaref to the interior of the Sudan.

Red Sea Province.—72 sheep and 7 head of cattle were exported via Port Sudan during the month.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 25:—During the week ended January 15 light beneficial rain has fallen in North-Western India. Crop prospects generally fair, but rain still urgently required in the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Central Provinces, and the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and parts of Bengal, Central India, the Bombay Deccan, Karnatak, and Madras.

Bombay cotton market firm. Fine M.G. Oomra March, Rs. 265. No present indication of interest in foreign piece-goods. Whites and prints exceptionally depressed. Indian purchasers awaiting more favourable home prices, freights, and exchange. Calcutta jute and gunny markets dull. No change in bank rates.

The construction of the following lines by the Burma Railways Company is sanctioned:—(1) Alon Saingbyin Railway, 28 miles; (2) Moulmein Railway—Moulmein to Ye, 69 miles (this will open up large saltfields); (3) Pynmana Taungdwingyi Railway, 66 miles (part of a cross connection between the Irrawaddy Valley and the main line).

Scarcity of coal declared in seven districts of Central Provinces on large scale. Emigration to Bengal coalfields and ironworks from Chattisgarh Division of Central Provinces. About 2,500 chests of Benares opium from Ghazipur Factory will be sold by Government at public auctions in Calcutta during 1921. It is anticipated that exportable surplus of Burma and Siam rice crops of 1921 will exceed estimates of 1,000,000 tons and 750,000 tons respectively.

Including movements of bullion and rupee paper, the total balance of trade against India for the nine months April 1 to December 31 is 29.00 lakhs of rupees, whereas the balance of trade for the corresponding period of 1919 was in favour of India by Rs. 64.20 lakhs.

The production of grain in Bessarabia in metric quintals during 1920 was as follows:—4,848,297 of wheat, 959,596 of rye, 5,766,079 of barley, 1,012,416 of oats, and 5,327,711 of maize.

The Tunisian Government has decided to allow the free exportation of wool to foreign countries until further notice.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

London County Westminster and Parr's Bank.

The report for the year ended December 31 states that, after paying interest to customers and all charges, making provision for bad debts and contingencies, allowing £473,817 6s. 10d. for rebate on bills not due, the net profit amounts to £2,915,708 10s. 11d., which with £414,226 4s. 6d., the balance brought forward from 1919, leaves available the sum of £3,329,934 15s. 5d. This amount the directors have appropriated as follows:—Interim dividend of 10 per cent. (less income tax) paid in August last on the £20 shares (£5 paid up), £494,969 6s.; interim dividend of 6½ per cent. (less income tax) paid in August last on the £1 shares, £62,681 17s.; a further dividend of 10 per cent. (less income tax), making 20 per cent. for the year on the £20 shares (£5 paid up), £494,969 6s.; a further dividend of 6½ per cent. on the £1 shares (less income tax), making 12½ per cent. for the year, £62,681 17s.; to investment depreciation account £1,300,000; to bank premises account, £200,000; to reserve, £253,718; balance carried forward, £460,914 9s. 5d.—£3,329,934 15s. 5d.

The name of the bank's French auxiliary, the London County and Westminster Bank (Paris), Ltd., was changed to the London County Westminster and Parr's Foreign Bank, Ltd., on March 31, 1920, and on October 1 last the Spanish and Belgian business of the London County Westminster and Parr's Bank, Ltd., was transferred to this auxiliary, whose paid-up capital was then increased to £1,080,000 by calling up an additional £2 10s. per share on 92,000 shares. The Spanish and Belgian current and deposit accounts transferred to the Foreign Bank on September 30, 1920, amounted to £12,385,258. The Hon. Hugo Baring, one of the directors of this bank, has been appointed resident director of the Foreign Bank in Paris, and is charged with the general superintendence of the business in France. The businesses of Messrs. Beckett and Co., of Leeds and York, have been acquired as from January 1, 1921; and the Hon. William Gervase Beckett and the Hon. Rupert Evelyn Beckett, two of the partners, have been appointed additional directors of this bank. The partners in Messrs. Beckett and Co. at Leeds and York have applied for and been allotted 500,000 fully paid £1 shares at par, and the paid-up capital of the bank has thereby been raised to £9,003,718 as from January 1, 1921. Meeting, Head Office, 41, Lothbury, E.C.2. to-day.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from January 15 to 21 amounted to 3,310,000 francs, against 2,560,000 francs for the corresponding period of last year.

A Reuter message states that three blocks in the business section of Athens (State of Georgia) have been destroyed by fire, and the loss is estimated at nearly £1,000,000.

United Kingdom firms desirous of shipping goods ready packed for transmission to the interior of Persia are reminded by H.M. Consul-General at Bushire that such packages should not exceed 200 lbs. in weight, and should be of the following dimensions:—34 ins. x 17 ins. x 11 ins.; 32 ins. x 15 ins. x 13 in., and so on. Two such packages make one mule load.

With the current issue of the *Manchester Guardian Commercial* is published a review of trade, industry, transport, and finance during the past year. The review contains a number of notable contributions by authoritative writers, among them articles on "The Economic World in 1920" by Professor E. Cannan and the "Dependent Position of British Dyes" by Professor H. E. Armstrong, also surveys of the various aspects of finance and commerce, and contributions from the paper's foreign correspondents. It is well produced, and admirably illustrated, and is in every way a notable production.

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The London Office collects Drafts and Documents; issues Cheques and effects Mail and Telegraphic Transfers; accepts Bills; opens Documentary Credits; issues Letters of Credit and conducts all operations of Foreign Banking.

Current Accounts opened in Sterling, Francs, Dinars, etc.

Insurances effected through the Bank's Brokers.

Applications for Terms invited.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

SALONIKA, December 31.

Heavy rains having fallen during the period of the sowings, it is considered that the approaching crop will be very poor. Quotations in drachmæ per oke are:—Wheat, 1.50; maize, 1; barley, 0.90.

There have been no transactions in cocoons. Stocks are the same as at October 31. The nominal price is 25-30 drachmæ per oke.

Stocks of white wool are exhausted. There are 8 to 10 thousand okes of black wool, the present price of which is 3½-4 drachmæ.

Stocks of opium are about eighteen to twenty thousand okes. There is no demand. The nominal quotation is 75-80 per oke.

There are no transactions in tobacco. The market is completely quiet.

There is no demand for raw skins. Stocks are estimated at 300-350 thousand pieces. The nominal quotation is 8-10 drachmæ per pair.

The price of cotton is falling. Smyrna is quoted at 4½-5½ drachmæ per oke, and American at 5½-6 drachmæ.

There are abundant supplies of sugar, and prices are falling. The present quotation is 3.70-4 drachmæ per oke.

AWARD OF KELVIN MEDAL.

At a meeting of the Award Committee, consisting of the presidents of the principal representative British engineering institutions, held in London on January 25, the first triennial award of the Kelvin Gold Medal was made to Dr. W. C. Unwin, F.R.S., he being, in the opinion of the committee, after their consideration of representations received from leading engineering bodies in all parts of the world, the most worthy to receive this recognition of pre-eminence in the branches of engineering with which Lord Kelvin's scientific work and researches were closely identified. The arrangements for the presentation of the medal will be announced shortly. The Kelvin Gold Medal was established in 1914 as part of a memorial to the late Lord Kelvin and in association with the window placed in Westminster Abbey in his memory by British and American engineers.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information, compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens, with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 14 to December 13, 1920:—

	Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross receipts Nov., 1920.....	Dr. 5,294,190.19	Dr. 4,255,134.15
Do. do. 1919.....	5,185,363.05	5,058,591.90
Difference between estimated & actual receipts for 11 months.....	1920 + 33,624,800.58	+ 42,600,227.87
	1919 + 18,963,998.13	+ 35,600,976.62

The North British Locomotive Company, Limited, Glasgow, has received orders for twenty-five 2-6-0 locomotives for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, five metre-gauge locomotives for the South Indian Railway, and seven 2-8-2 engines for the Hulebagh Bannu Railway.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000

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

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

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ON CHANGE.

Tendency Again Irregular.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

It had been thought probable that the decisions of the Paris Conference would be reflected to a considerable extent in the market quotations. As a matter of fact, however, the news of the substantial indemnity that it had been decided to demand from Germany left the markets for the most part unmoved.

There was one significant exception, it is true—the gilt-edged group, which have been very firm in the last few days, stocks being up considerably in every case. This is, of course, due to the renewed proof of the close understanding between France and ourselves over the case of reparations.

Some of the Foreign Funds have been noticeably strong, in particular, Chinese and Japanese issues. Naturally, French loans have improved, while German Threes have relapsed on a decline in the mark.

Industrials have been generally dull, and during the week sellers have been decidedly in the predominance. Shipping securities have been quiet for the most part. Oils have been more or less featureless, but Rubbers exceptionally have been rather steady.

Near Eastern securities have on the whole been firmer. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are 2 up at 62. Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are again ¼ up at 58. Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are, however, ¼ down at 67½.

Greek securities have been variable. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan at 42 and 5 per cent. 1884 at 42 have both advanced a half point. The 5 per cent. 1890 Loan has lost ½ at 41, but Fundings have gained 1 point at 41. The 1910 Loan at 31 and the 1914 Loan at 39 are both unaltered. The 1902 Loan at 36 is 1 up.

Banks have been unsteady. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds and the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are both the same at 53 and 55 respectively. Imperial Ottoman Banks are 1 up at 8½, and National Bank of Egypt at 17½ has increased ¾. Land Banks have lost 5-32 at 4 21-32.

Land shares have declined almost all along the line. Beheras at 8½ have lost ¼, at which there were buyers, while the preference shares are unchanged at 2½. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments remain unaltered at 3½, while the Egyptian Consolidated Lands at 1s. 6d. have lost 3d. Delta Lands at 9s. 3d. have shed 3d., while Gharbieh Lands at 1½ are unchanged. New Egyptians have dropped 6d. to 23s., while Union Foncières at 3 have gained 5-32. Sudan Plantations have lost 1-16 at 3½.

Oils have all declined. Anglo-Egyptians have lost 7-16 at 2 7-16. Phoenix at 11s. 3d. have dropped 3d. Roumanian Consolidated have gone down 1s. 6d. to 12s., and Steaua Romana has lost 6d. at 17s.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions, Abyssinian Corporations are 3s. Alexandria Waters close at 7, at which there are buyers. Morums are quoted at 13s. 3d., and Egyptian Salt and Sodas at 30s. 6d.

The duty of two gold piastres per 100 kilos on coal imported into Turkey, which was temporarily suspended some months ago, is now again in force.

During December last 95,000 tons of petroleum were produced in Roumania, compared with 101,213 tons in November and 64,765 tons in the corresponding period of 1919. The total output for 1920 amounted to 1,034,086 tons, as against 920,410 tons in 1919. It is anticipated that this year's production will exceed last year's by a considerable amount.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

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

Metals.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of metals required for the first six months of the financial year 1921-1922. February 7.

Ropes, Canvas, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of ropes, canvas, bunting, etc., required for the first six months of the financial year 1921-1922. February 10.

Uniforms and Boots.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of uniforms and boots for the coming summer. February 17.

Wood.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of wood required during six months from April 1, 1921. March 15.

Paints, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of paints, oils, tar, soap, etc., required during the first six months of the financial year 1921-1922. March 17.

Linen Duck.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of 2,750 yards of linen duck. February 15. (L.)

India.

Rails, Etc.—The Chief Engineer of the Baroda State Railways is desirous of obtaining quotations in sterling, prices to be either f.o.b. port in the United Kingdom or c.i.f. Bombay, for the following:—(1) 1,160 tons of rails, 34 lb. per yard, with 32 tons of fishplates, 10 tons of fish bolts, and 39 tons of spikes. British standards. (2) 1,800 tons of rails, 41½ lb. per yard, with 47 tons of fishplates, 12 tons of fish bolts, and 40 tons of spikes. British standards. (3) 450 tons of rails, 70 lb. per yard, 28 tons of fishplates, 5 tons of fish bolts, and 14 tons of spikes. Communications should be addressed to the Chief Engineer, Baroda State Railways, India, and sent under cover to H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon, P.O. Box 683, Allahabad Bank Buildings, 6, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta, with the request that he will hand them to the addressee.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £	25·22½	51·50-52·50
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25·22½	135-140
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·4½-1·5½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25·22½	265-285
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee..	24d.	1·4½-1·5½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	567-587
New York	Dollars to £	4·86½	3·85½-3·87½
Paris	Francs to £	25·22½	52·70-54·80
Prague	Kronen to £	24·02	270-290
Rome	Lire to £	25·22½	102½-105½
Sofia	Levas to £	25·22½	335
Teheran	Krans to £	50	40½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24·02	1,250-1,400
Warsaw	Marks to £	20·43	2,400-2,800

In some cases quotations are nominal.

The export of barley from Palestine is now permitted under licence.

A new branch of the Credit Foncier d'Algerie et de Tunisie was opened in Lyons, 6, Place St. Nizier, on February 1.

For the first half of 1920 agricultural machines to the value of nearly five million francs were imported into Tunisia, the majority of the machines being exported from Great Britain.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams
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CAPITAL.

Authorised, £10,000,000.

Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.

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London Manager, P. C. WEST.

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

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

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

Branches: BATOUM. BELGRADE. DANZIG.

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

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ITALIAN SERVICE TO BATOUM.

One of the largest shipping companies in Italy has undertaken the establishment of a regular steamship service between Batoum and the ports of Italy, Great Britain, and Holland. At the beginning eight steamers will be utilised, and this number will later be increased to twelve.

INCREASED GREEK CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

Receipts at the Piræus Custom House during the eleven months ended November 30 totalled 66,583,850 drachmæ, as compared with 48,829,333 drachmæ in the corresponding period of 1919, states the Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Athens. This shows an increase of 17,754,517 drachmæ, or over 38 per cent.

The *Sphaira* states that the colossal importation of goods is no doubt due to the foresight of merchants, and that the President of the Athens Chamber of Commerce has said rightly that there will be no real need for any large importation of goods during 1921.

The great congestion of merchandise in Piræus warehouses has rendered urgent the question of warehouse accommodation for the storing of the goods arriving daily, and the final solution of this matter is now being considered by the authorities.

REPLANNING OF SALONIKA POSTPONED.

It is understood that the present Greek Government has definitely abandoned any idea of proceeding with the plans for the reconstruction of Salonika. For many months it has been obvious that the financial position of Greece would not enable her to undertake the enormous expenditure that would be involved, and the reported decision will therefore occasion no surprise.

The plans for the reconstruction of Salonika included a considerable extension of the docks, together with the development of the railway and warehouses. It was proposed, also, to construct New Union Railway stations, both at the east end and the west end of the city, and connected with an electric underground railway system between the two terminals. Electric lighting and power stations were also to be erected, while the plans further included a main drainage system and a new water supply.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia, for Bombay (also taking cargo for Karachi and coast ports) (Liverpool, February 7).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maihar, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London February 8); s.s. Malakand, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 9); s.s. Makalla, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London February 19); s.s. Manaar, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 23); s.s. Mahsud, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London March 5); s.s. Manipur, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 9).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 16).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Mackenzie, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 10).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constanti-

nople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Glasgow, February 19); s.s. Tyria, for Gibraltar, Patras, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, etc. (Liverpool, February 24).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Polo, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 5); s.s. City of Palermo, for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, February 12).

Ellerman's City Line.—S.s. City of York, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 14); s.s. City of London, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, February 14).

Ellerman's Hall Line.—S.s. City of London, for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, February 10).

Glen Line.—S.s. Gleniffer, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Middlesborough, February 18); s.s. Glenogle, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (London, February 24); s.s. Glen-gyle, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (London, March 3).

Golden Star Line.—S.s. Mediterranean Star, for Genoa, Naples, Alexandria, and Piræus (leaves Marseilles February 8).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Patrician, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 12); s.s. Defender, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 19); s.s. Merchant, for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, Zanzibar, etc. (Glasgow, February 10, and Birkenhead, February 17); s.s. Electrician, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 26).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Arracan (freight only), for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 9); s.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 23).

Holt Line.—S.s. Antiochus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, February 10, and Birkenhead, February 17); s.s. Theseus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, February 10); s.s. Elsinor, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, February 10); s.s. Pyrrhus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, February 17).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Venice, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, February 12); s.s. Pomaron, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, February 23); s.s. Incemore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 19).

Moss Line.—S.s. Amarna, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria, accepting cargo for Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus and Syrian coast ports (Liverpool, February 5); s.s. Limoges, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, etc. (Liverpool, February 19).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Austrian, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 12).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Novara, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 5); s.s. China, for Bombay (London, February 11); s.s. Nellore, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 11); s.s. Kalyan, for Bombay (London, February 18); s.s. Soudan, for Bombay (London, February 18); s.s. Somali, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 25).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Merkara, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 4); s.s. Tremere, for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 5); s.s. Lena, for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 19); s.s. Morvada, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 25).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince, for Malta and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Syrian coast and Cyprus ports (Leith, February 10, and Liverpool, February 20); s.s. Soldier Prince, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Syrian coast and Cyprus ports (Manchester, February 15).

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Patrons

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 509.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Allied Conference in London.

For the second time the Allied Powers are afforded an opportunity of effecting a settlement of the Near Eastern question. The arrangements made at Paris offered no settlement, as events have proved; for it has been found impossible to enforce the terms of the Treaty of Sèvres. In their Eastern policy there ought to be only one goal before all the Allies, whether they be Great Powers or Near Eastern States, and that goal is Peace in the Near East. Every proposed settlement should be examined in the light of that single aim. Hitherto it has been entirely forgotten. Great Britain supported a Greater Greece, because the latter was held to be best for British interests. A Greater Greece there must be one day, but it will be in the interests of neither Great Britain nor Greece herself, unless it is compatible with peace in South-Eastern Europe. The events of the last few months have shown conclusively that Greece may realise her utmost ambitions and obtain no advantage, if peace is not secured. It would be an ideal solution, if for "the blasting rule of the Turk" could be substituted a humane and enlightened administration that satisfied all requirements. But it is too early yet to expect Greece, with her domestic politics in the condition in which they are, to fill that rôle.

Greece and Smyrna.

The subjection of any considerable part of Turkey to Greece means for the present at best an armed and precarious peace. If the Allied Powers were prepared to enforce their will upon the Turks by the conquest of Anatolia, the position would be different. Greece single-handed may bring about the collapse of the Nationalist movement as a result of economic pressure, but it would be only a question of time before she had to defend by military means her hold on Asia Minor. The alternative is not the restoration of the "blasting rule" of the Turks, as some people seem to imagine, for it was mainly the failure of the Great Powers to perform their part that made Turkey what she was. Turkish rule may never become ideal, but, if the Allies are so minded, it can be made to conform at least with the standard that obtains in the Near East, and there need never be any repetition of the massacres that have been carried out with impunity in the past. It is a profound mistake to suppose that the sanctity of the Treaty of Sèvres is based on the presence of the Greek army in Asia Minor. The Greek occupation of Smyrna, ordered, as it was, by the Supreme Council, is responsible for the breakdown of the Turkish settlement.

If instead of Greek troops had been sent a corporal's guard from the British Army, there would have been no fighting, Smyrna would have enjoyed autonomy to-day under a Council largely Greek, and Turkey would have been chastened, peaceful, and knowing for the first time something of the advantages of good government. The solution of the present difficulty would, therefore, seem to lie in the creation of an autonomous Smyrna.

The New Greek Government.

Comment in the English daily Press on Greek affairs continues to be characterised by extreme partisanship, which is not helpful to the restoration of good relations between the two countries. It is to be hoped that the new Prime Minister, M. Kalogeropoulos, who will presumably be at the head of the delegation to the Allied Conference, will be able to satisfy the British and French Governments of the good faith of the present régime in Greece. If M. Gounaris resents being a *persona ingrata* to the Allies, he has only himself to blame for the fact; and if it entails any injustice to him he will have opportunity in his capacity as Minister to correct wrong impressions. In the meantime he has taken the first step in refraining from trying to force himself on the Allied Governments at the Conference.

Bulgaria and the Conference.

The ostrich in real life does not hide its head in the sand, and there is no reason why the Allies should do so. They will, however, share the reputation enjoyed by that maligned bird if they imagine that they can invite Greeks and Turks to London, in order to discuss the Treaty of Sèvres, without raising hopes in other quarters that the remainder of the Near Eastern settlement is also to come up for revision. Bulgaria has behaved in a perfectly correct manner since the Armistice, and it is to be expected that she will maintain her present attitude; but it requires little knowledge of Balkan politics to realise that if no statement on the subject is made by the Allies there will be a tendency in Bulgaria to attribute the failure to profit by the reconsideration of the Treaty of Sèvres to the shortcomings of M. Stambolisky. The Bulgarians will argue that they are being penalised for their exemplary behaviour, while Turkish intransigence gains its reward, and they will seek to vent their displeasure on the men who urged them to keep quiet. If the Allies value political peace and stability where it can be found they will be at pains to meet the Bulgarian line of argument. It is open to them to say that the London Conference is not the proper authority, and that Bulgaria, as a member of the League of Nations, has her right of

appeal to the constituted tribunal under Article XIX. of the Covenant, which provides that "the Assembly may from time to time advise the reconsideration of treaties which have become inapplicable and the consideration of international conditions whose continuance might endanger the peace of the world." On the other hand, the Allies may possibly have clearer views as to what makes or does not make for peace in the Balkans than they had at the time of drafting the Treaty of Neuilly, and it would be a pity if an affected anxiety for consistency or *amour propre* at this late stage prevented them from boldly profiting by their mistakes in order to build the peace and prosperity of the Near East on a lasting foundation. In any case they owe it to all concerned to forestall any trouble by a candid declaration on an important point.

The Resignation of Lord Milner.

The lively and sincere regret with which the news of Lord Milner's resignation from the Colonial Office has been received in all quarters where any knowledge prevails of the invaluable work that he has performed both in that office and as Secretary of State for War would be enhanced, if it were thought that the loss to the Government would be permanent. On all sides, however, it is hoped that after an adequate rest he will again be available for national work. Whatever the future has in store for Egypt, Lord Milner's name will remain associated with an outstanding piece of constructive statesmanship in regard to the Agreement which he has left as his solution of the Egyptian question. We could have wished that the treaty between Egypt and Great Britain advocated by him had already been ratified by the two countries, but it is satisfactory to know that, if the debate is not unduly delayed, it will not be deprived of his reasoned advocacy in its passage through Parliament. In spite of a division of opinion in the Government regarding the Agreement, it would seem impossible that the terms should now be rejected or even seriously challenged on this side.

The Palestine Mandate.

What appears to be the official text of the Draft Mandate for Palestine has now been published in the Press. The document contains little or nothing that calls for notice at this stage, unless it be the official recognition of the Zionist Organisation as "an appropriate Jewish agency . . . for the purpose of advising and co-operating in the administration of Palestine in such economic, social, and other matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish National Home," in accordance with the decision of the Allied Powers. In some Jewish circles disappointment is expressed that the Mandate does not expressly promise the fulfilment of what the *Jewish Chronicle* describes as the Zionist aspiration: the establishment in Palestine of a Commonwealth as Jewish as England is English; but upon the whole there can be very little doubt that the execution of the terms of the Mandate will almost certainly lead up to that end. In view of the Arab attitude towards the realisation of the Zionist aspiration as defined above, it would have been unwise to embody any statement of the kind apparently desired by the *Jewish Chronicle*; but the steady influx of Jews into Palestine and the peculiar talent displayed by their race for gaining what they want will go far towards the accomplishment of the Zionist ideal. Meanwhile, the Administration is afforded the opportunity of showing the Arabs that their fears are groundless.

Persia: The Mejliss and the Agreement.

The opening of the Persian Mejliss, which was to take place on February 8, is reported to have been delayed by the refusal of a number of deputies to attend, owing to which it will be impossible to secure a quorum until other representatives arrive in Teheran. The absence of the deputies referred to is, we are told, their way of protesting against the Anglo-Persian Agreement. We should have thought that a much more effective form of protest would have been for the deputies to attend the Mejliss and oppose the proposal to ratify the Agreement with all the eloquence at their command; in which case their countrymen—and, per-

haps, the outside world—might have been enlightened as to the real reasons why any Persian should wish to see the Agreement "scrapped." As we may conclude that the Mejliss has other business to transact besides rejecting, or accepting, the Agreement, the absentees are rendering their country a very poor service by prolonging still further the suspension of that popular government which the Persian democrats have professed so much anxiety to see renewed. While these politicians have been playing their own game in their own way—and we do not pretend to understand it—a smart little engagement has taken place in North-West Persia between General Ironside's force and Russian troops. The latter lost two machine-guns and twenty-seven prisoners (eighteen unwounded) besides twelve killed, while our forces sustained no casualties. It would be of interest to learn on what grounds Moscow would justify this attack by its "regular" forces.

The Indian Memorial at Brighton.

Some people are saying that the erection of war memorials is being overdone, but we do not think that even the most censorious critic would cavil at the edifice which was unveiled last week by the Prince of Wales on the Downs near Brighton, to mark the spot where funeral rites were paid to the Hindu and Sikh soldiers who died there in hospital. The dispatch of Indian troops to France in 1914 was a great adventure towards that union of East and West which, in spite of many obstacles, goes slowly forward, and it will be aptly commemorated by the high dome of white marble which stands so near some of the prehistoric monuments of our own race. A companion memorial to Moslem soldiers is being erected at an appropriate spot, and all men of goodwill must echo the Prince's aspiration that the result may be to strengthen the ties subsisting between India and Great Britain.

The Duke of Connaught in Calcutta.

The second stage of the Duke of Connaught's progress through India has been successfully accomplished, and we can well believe that the formal inauguration of the Bengal Legislature appealed to the imagination of a race in which that quality has reached such a high development. The Duke's speech was, however, concerned largely with practical questions. The great task to be attempted by the legislators is the making of citizens, and Bengal, even more than other parts of India, has to face complex and costly problems of education and sanitation, and at the same time to foster such developments of agriculture and industries that the increasing wealth of the people may be able to support the burden of ever-growing expenditure on the solution of those problems. For some time to come, the main difficulties confronting the newly-chosen Ministers will be financial. There is so much to be done, and so little money with which to do it, that progress must be slow, and most desirable schemes may have to be postponed until the expansion of the revenue makes their undertaking possible. We do not envy the Ministers, for almost from the outset they will have to refuse many more favours than they grant, but we can cordially wish them success in rising to their new responsibilities.

Oriental Dualism.

Alongside of the particulars of the Duke's progress, the cables continue to bring us items which serve to remind us that the East is the home of dualism, that eternal conflict of the powers of good and evil which dominates so much of Oriental thought. While the Duke urges education, students are being called on to leave their schools and colleges; and while he lays stress on economic development, agriculture and industry alike are being impeded by the efforts of agitators who think nothing of the welfare of the people in comparison with their own sentiments and aspirations. On one side we have the constructive ideal of a nation advancing gradually, earning more money and applying it to worthier uses, developing at least some measure of political sagacity, and establishing a more reasonable social order; on the other, we have the call to give up the little which has been gained, and to fall back into

poverty, apathy and bondage. The issue is fairly joined, and while we may have no doubts as to the ultimate result, it would be a grave mistake to underrate the forces which the powers of darkness can employ to delay its realisation.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday evening.

Political and Metropolitan Fogs.

The political fog lifted as the metropolitan fog became more dense last week. The Paris decision as to the German indemnity was popular; Mr. Lloyd George made a speech which gently ridiculed his opponents, and the theory of a General Election in May was dropped, even by those who started it. But it had its uses. The violent protests with which the proposition was received by the Independent Liberals showed that they had no doubts as to the results of an election; and the Labour men, although less vocal, were little less perturbed. Mr. Garvin alone still advocates a General Election in the *Observer*, on the ground that it would purge the Coalition. But the Coalition seems in such good health at the moment that it rather objects to experiments in preventive medicine. It recollects the patient who "was well, would be better, took physic, and died."

The first part of the session promises to be extraordinarily dull. The idea is to discuss House of Lords reform—in other words, Mr. Asquith's ten years' old "debt of honour which brooked no delay." But nobody seems interested in it. The House of Lords frankly does not want it; although "the more intelligent Peers," as the old Radicals used to say, admit that the Upper House is far too large. But the reformers are always trying to advocate the introduction of extraneous elements—colonial statesmen, eminent Nonconformist ministers, distinguished literary men, or experts of one kind or another; and between one and another the public gets bored, and forgets all about reform. I believe that Lord Bryce once produced an admirable report on the subject, but as most people are constitutionally incapable of reading that eminent statesman's writings, very few persons know exactly what he advocated.

It does not require a very keen political nose to predict that the House of Commons will soon relegate the reform of the Lords to the cold storage safe, and get busy on anti-dumping and licensing, which will give both Government and Opposition some opportunity for strategy, *tu quoques*, and other things that politicians delight in. Broadly speaking, the Coalition Liberals want licensing reform and the Unionists want tariff reform, and each wants its colleague to swallow the other pill first. The Opposition profess to think that this is the little rift within the lute, but they are not quite so hopeful as they sound.

Exit E.P.D.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain has broken through the convention that Budget secrets must never be revealed in advance, and has announced that the Excess Profits Duty will disappear in the next Finance Bill. Further, he says that nothing is to take its place; which, if one understands him rightly, should indicate that the much talked-of tax on profits has not proved very successful.

The reason for abolishing E.P.D. is not, as is pretended in some quarters, that Mr. Chamberlain has at last listened to the arguments of business men, or woken up from a dream, or abandoned a life-long principle. It is simply the practical consideration that there are no longer sufficient excess profits to tax; and where losses have been made on the year's trading, the Treasury might have to hand something back—a horrible thought to any Government. E.P.D., in short, has done its bit; that extraordinary tax, the child of Mr. McKenna and the Fabian Society, dies unlamented at the age of seven after having been more blessed and cursed than any other impost within living memory.

Theoretically, it was an admirable tax, since only those had to pay it who were making money; and in reality those paid most who made it with the least effort. But in practice it was not so good. It penalised new enterprise at the expense of the old-fashioned busi-

ness, and therefore operated as a bonus to conservative methods; and human nature being what it is, it led to enormous extravagance—bonuses to clerks and travellers, and vast sums thrown away on propaganda. One or two societies and organisations will probably begin to feel the draught as soon as E.P.D. dies. But the removal of the duty will also help the fall of prices, since in the long run a great part of E.P.D. is paid by the public.

The only people who are likely to grumble are professional men, who have made no excess profits, have borne their full share of the burden of increased prices, and who see no hope of any reduction of income-tax. But the gradual fall in prices may slowly bring balm even to these wounded souls.

The Restoration of Canterbury.

After Westminster and St. Paul's comes Canterbury. Dean Wace has this week issued an appeal for help towards the restoration of the metropolitan cathedral—in this instance the sum required is relatively small, a mere £15,000. I cannot think there will be any difficulty in obtaining it. At Westminster Abbey £150,000 out of the £250,000 required has already come in, but the fund now mounts rather slowly. It is probable that one or two other cathedrals may have to make similar appeals in the near future.

Tom Grimes.

The death of Tom, the hero of "The Water Babies," cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed. Alderman J. Seward, of Wokingham, who died last week, began learning his living at the age of six as a chimney-sweep's apprentice. He had to climb the chimneys, often being "persuaded" by straw lighted beneath him and pins stuck into his feet. One of his tasks was to sweep the chimneys at Eversley Rectory, where Charles Kingsley lived—and it was Kingsley's mingled pity and indignation at the sight which caused him to publish "The Water Babies" in 1863—the book which helped to bring about the abolition of this cruel practice.

The Keats Centenary.

On February 23 the centenary of the death of Keats will be celebrated. Probably the usual speeches will be made, and the usual articles will be written; there is a type of mind that takes naturally to these anniversary functions. The best interpreter of Keats to-day is Robert Bridges, whose little-known study of the poet a few years back was masterly; but the Poet-Laureate shrouds himself in such impenetrable obscurity that his will probably be the last name we shall hear of in connection with the centenary.

The Vital Statistics.

We have heard so much about "a C3 nation" this last year or two that we have all been inclined to hang our heads at our own degeneracy, and perhaps to feel our pulses and look at our tongues, too, to see how we were getting on. Happily the Registrar-General's figures for 1920, which have just been published, are sufficiently reassuring to convince the most confirmed valetudinarian.

The birth-rate for 1920 is the highest for the past ten years—the reiterated demand to "produce more" has evidently been taken literally by a large section of the population. The death-rate and the infantile mortality rate are both the lowest ever recorded. The birth-rate is in fact double the death-rate, but that astonishing figure is not likely to be maintained, owing



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to the prevalence of unemployment, which always checks the birth-rate in the following year. The death-rate has fallen from 21.4 per 1,000 in 1871-80 to 12.4 in 1920, a steady fall almost every year; if the infantile mortality rate (which has fallen from 149 to 80 in the same period) were to fall further to 50, as should not be impossible, and certain diseases be more successfully tackled, the death-rate might eventually fall to about 10 in the thousand.

The lesson of these figures is important. While Dean Inge and many others are always telling us that life gets less worth living every year, it is evident that the bulk of the population shows no sign of agreeing with them; for it is hardly credible that our span of life should lengthen in proportion as life gets less worth having. It will be recollected that in "Jude the Obscure," Mr. Hardy makes somebody speak of "the coming universal desire not to live." The prediction seems a little far-fetched in these highly-vitalised days.

Incidentally, a dentist tells me that a still further improvement in health, and consequently in longevity, could be obtained if everybody would make up his mind to have his teeth overhauled twice a year. In his view, teeth were meant to help one to live, "but most men dig their graves with their teeth." Perhaps the day will come when Tennyson will be revised:—

"Sound teeth are more than coronets,
And healthy gums than Norman blood."

The Railway Trouble.

Mr. J. H. Thomas has made a very frank speech about the financial trouble on the railways. He says it is a question between another 25 per cent. on the fares, or lower wages. Most of us are so hard up that we should be sorry to reduce any man's wages, but it is quite preposterous to talk of another 25 per cent. on fares. The public is already cutting its travelling as much as it can; a third addition would reduce traffic to essential business, and even that would be heavily hampered.

With all due respect to Mr. Thomas and Sir Eric Geddes, I venture to suggest that these two eminent men are wrong. What is wanted is not a reduction of wages, but a reduction of staff. Drivers, firemen, and signalmen are not too well paid, but there are too many porters and inspectors and such supernumeraries, all of whom have had large increases. It is the excess of these men which is overweighing the railway finances.

The Week's Books.

There is a great deal of interest in "Henry Scott Holland, Memoir and Letters" (Murray), edited by Stephen Paget. The author of "Lux Mundi" and the founder of the Christian Social Union did a great deal of good work for the Church in his day; his sermons—which were rather too rhetorical and emotional for the classic taste—drew crowds to St. Paul's, and he was a tower of strength to Dean Gregory in reviving the activities of the cathedral. He was fatally fluent, and his pen ran away with him; he was not really a thinker, but a cataract of words.

But his remarks were often shrewd. Take the following, for instance: "John Bull is fat, and the fat man's day is past. As soon as we pass from the grassy Midlands, and cover the wider horizons of Empire, the fat men have all disappeared. They have dropped into the abyss. In their place is the long, lean Australian, so curiously American in the type that he runs to. He is tall and compact, bony and muscular. And your African colonist follows suit. Our boys in the ranches or on the veldt cannot afford to wear an ounce of flesh beyond the decent draping of their bones. Look at India. Did anyone ever see a stout Indian official?"

"Essays in Critical Realism" (Macmillan) is published as "a co-operative study of the problem of knowledge"; it contains papers by various professors of philosophy at American Universities, including Mr. Santayana and Mr. C. A. Strong, whose *chef d'œuvre*, "The Origin of Consciousness," was issued two years ago. The book is quite extraordinarily difficult and for me, at least, essentially uninteresting; and this is, I think, very largely because the distinguished professors write in a jargon of their own and take no pains to make it intelligible. An exception should be made for Professor Santayana's paper on "Three Proofs of Realism." It is at once the shortest and the most intelligible in the volume.

A small volume on "Child Psychology," by Vilhelm Rasmussen, reaches me from the new publishing house of Gyldendal, a firm which appears, from the list of publications on the cover, to be endeavouring to popularise Scandinavian literature in this country. Modern Scandinavia is prolific of books, and of good ones, so I imagine that Gyldendal's will only have to make a judicious selection in order to succeed. They are more likely to be successful, one thinks, than was the effort to popularise Russian literature, over which several publishers burnt their fingers rather badly.

A word should be given to "Spiritualism and the New Psychology" (Arnold), the anonymous author of which gives rationalistic explanations of the supernatural phenomena. The book will annoy mediums, crystal-gazers, and the "intense" tribe, but many of its pages are convincing.

Only very determined readers will attack "The Nature of Existence" (Cambridge University Press) by Dr. J. M. McTaggart; and, unfortunately for those who are interested in the problems of which he treats, this is only the first volume, on the very last page of which the author announces that the second and concluding volume will not be published for some years. As the first is largely taken with definitions, and the second will contain the proofs, it seems a pity that they were not published both together. In the second volume Mr. McTaggart proposes to prove that time is unreal, and some curiosity will be felt as to his method of doing so, in view of the fact that in the present introduction he rejects the Hegelian doctrine that cause and effect are identical.

The professional German view of the war at sea is naturally of considerable interest to British naval men. Admiral Tirpitz and others have published their impressions, but the most convincing enemy writer so far is Commander Georg von Hase, first gunnery officer on the Derfflinger at Jutland. In his "Kiel and Jutland" (Skeffington) he sums up as follows:—"Jellicoe acted perfectly rightly in disengaging his fleet at nightfall, and so skilfully leading his squadron away during the night that our destroyer flotillas, systematically searching the outlying areas of the scene of battle, did not find them. And Jellicoe also acted perfectly rightly from a strategic point of view in not reopening the battle on June 1. By not attacking on June 1 our fleet heading for the German minefields and home ports, Jellicoe kept uninterrupted the mastery of the seas. Why should he, in this strategic game of chess, choose a mutual sacrifice of pieces when his position was such that the mating of the enemy was bound to follow? Had Jellicoe sought a decision off Horn Reef on June 1 there is no doubt that the English fleet would have had to cede its place as the strongest fleet in the world to America."

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 17.

The Sultan's Tour.

The Sultan is meeting with great success in his Upper Egypt tour. So far he has visited Beni-Suef, Minia, and Assiut, and at all these places, as also at the various intermediate points of interest at which he stopped, he had a very warm reception. To-day the Ministers are leaving for Assiut in order to attend a Council of Ministers which will be held under the presidency of His Highness. This is the first instance on record of a Cabinet Council being held in the Provinces.

The Political Situation.

Since my last letter we have had a telegram from Zaghoul Pasha, stating that he had never intended to insist on the abolition of the Protectorate before the negotiations were entered upon, but that he had always been quite prepared to engage in these negotiations, provided he had an assurance that the Protectorate would be abolished after they had been concluded. This declaration has created somewhat of a stir in local political circles, as can well be imagined, and even the Delegation organ is somewhat outspoken in its criticism of its leader. There can be no dispute as to Zaghoul Pasha having originally said quite clearly that he would not entertain the idea of negotiating a Treaty on the lines of the Memorandum unless the "reservations" were agreed to, and particularly the abolition of the Protectorate was accepted; and his adversaries and even his supporters are bringing forward his previous statements to disprove his present declaration and indicate that he has not been consistent in his attitude.

It is perfectly clear that Zaghoul Pasha has lost even further ground through his latest tactical move, but it is only to-day that the real reason for this move has become disclosed. A few days before his telegram, messages were received from London stating that the *Daily Herald* declared that the British Cabinet was in complete agreement with the Milner proposals. This morning, however, *Al Mokattam* publishes a telegram to the effect that the statement of the *Daily Herald* is officially denied; that the Cabinet is still discussing many knotty points arising out of the Milner proposals, including the abolition of the Protectorate; and that it is in constant communication with Zaghoul Pasha.

A Possible Change.

From this it would appear that the latter, realising that his communications with the British Cabinet, about which he had so far not informed his supporters in Egypt, might do him harm if news thereof reached this country, decided to send the telegram in question so as to provide himself with some sort of defence when the fact leaked out. However, far from this precautionary move assisting him, it looks very much as if it will have the opposite result; for the net effect of the combination of his telegram, which amounted to a climb-down, and this official statement from London, which shows that he has been acting behind the back of his supporters in Egypt, cannot fail to be to strengthen the hands of his personal enemies, whose ranks are swelling, and to discredit him still more with his own adherents. It is, of course, somewhat early to be able exactly to gauge local opinion, since the telegram was only published this morning; but from conversations I have had there seems a growing conviction that Zaghoul Pasha is again making a fool of himself; and it would not be surprising if in the circumstances the local political situation underwent a sudden change.

The Willcocks-Kennedy Libel Action.

The Willcocks-Kennedy libel action was again mentioned in the Supreme Consular Court this morning. Reference was again made to the application that the two cases should be held together, and the Judge stated that unless some stronger motive were brought forward he would not agree to hear the cases separately. Colonel Kennedy is at present ill in hospital, and it is quite possible that he will not be able to stand his trial

on the 24th, in which event the case of Sir William Willcocks will be taken alone.

CAIRO, January 25.

Lord Allenby's Sudan Visit.

The Sultan has now reached Dendera in his Upper Egypt tour, which continues to be very successful. Another Council of Ministers will be held this week at Luxor, whither the Ministers are all proceeding by special train on Wednesday. Lord Allenby is leaving on Thursday for the Sudan. As may be remembered, he was to have left at the beginning of the month, but his departure was postponed owing to certain discussions which were in progress between the Residency and the Foreign Office. These have evidently now been concluded, but owing to the postponement and the imminent re-assembly of Parliament, his visit to the Sudan will be very curtailed, and he will be absent only about a fortnight from Cairo.

The Irrigation Libel Action.

The hearing of the Willcocks-Kennedy libel action began yesterday morning at the Supreme Consular Court. Medical evidence was called to prove that Colonel Kennedy was too ill to come up for trial; in fact, Dr. Beddoe, who is attending him, certified that he would probably not be well enough for another six weeks. So only the case against Sir William Willcocks was taken. The charges against the latter are that he has published in two pamphlets a defamatory libel against Sir Murdoch MacDonald, and that he has also been guilty of sedition in the terms of the Order in Council of 1910, which was extended to Egypt in 1915. Mr. Preston is representing the Crown, and Mr. Silley is defending Sir William Willcocks. The former occupied the first morning with his opening speech and the rest of the day was taken up with the hearing of certain minor witnesses. The chief witness for the prosecution, Sir Murdoch MacDonald, appeared to-day, and his cross-examination will start to-morrow. It is expected that the trial will last several days. The case has not aroused as much interest as might have been expected, and it is remarkable that the vernacular Press, especially *Al Mokattam*, is devoting far more space to an account of the trial than the local English Press is doing.

The Political Situation.

The political situation has undergone an interesting development. Most of the members of the Delegation are returning to Egypt, and are, in fact, due here on Wednesday. Only Zaghoul remains in Paris, together with three members of the Delegation, one of whom always lives in Paris, and all of whom are remaining for purely private reasons. The news of their return has aroused considerable comment, and as it is not clear from the explanatory telegram sent by the returning Egyptians exactly what their intentions are, their arrival is keenly awaited. At the same time, the better informed Egyptians are of opinion that the much talked-of but oft contradicted "split" is now an undeniable fact, and that the members returning, who are the more important of the whole Delegation, have at last realised the folly of following the path traced by Zaghoul Pasha and the extreme desirability from every point of view of adopting a more reasonable attitude, and obtaining the best possible terms from Great Britain.

Had Zaghoul been of one mind with his colleagues, were the Delegation generally agreed to adhere to the extreme demands that he has put forward, the obvious course would have been, it is pointed out, for him to have accompanied his colleagues back to Egypt, there to lend by his presence his full support for whatever line of action the Delegation might propose to pursue. The fact that he is remaining in Paris is, therefore, regarded as significant, and as confirming the "split"; and further weight is lent to this theory by the fact that Zaghoul has just sent a telegram calling upon the Egyptian

nation to retain its confidence in him in and turn a deaf ear to any proposals to negotiate with the British Government without a definite acceptance of his "reservations." It is recalled that when the "four" came to Egypt in September to submit the Milner proposals to the nation, they were preceded by a telegram from Zaghloul putting the whole matter in a light calculated to render the mission of his colleagues exceedingly difficult; and it is believed that his latest telegram is but another instance of his peculiar tactics, which have throughout been dictated by obstinacy and a consideration of his own position rather than by the patriotic motives of which he always talks so grandiloquently.

PORT SAID, January 25.

Boy Scouts in Egypt.

Sir Robert and Lady Baden-Powell arrived last week by the P. and O. s.s. Narkunda. As soon as possible they came ashore and went to the Casino Palace Hotel Gardens, where representative patrols of Girl Guides and Boy Scouts were drawn up for their inspection. From the British community there were contingents from Alexandria, Cairo, and Heliopolis, while the Greek community furnished patrols from Cairo and Port Said, and the Italians one from Port Said. The Girl Guides were represented by the newly-formed Swallow Patrol from Port Said, who were specially noticed by Lady Baden-Powell, who wore her uniform as Chief of the Girl Guides. She expressed herself as particularly pleased to find some Girl Guides at the first port they had touched at. After the official inspection, Sir Robert and Lady Baden-Powell spent some time chatting with the Guides and Scouts. Afterwards they went to lunch at the Casino Palace Hotel, where the luncheon party included Mr. Abdy, the Commissioner of the Scout movement in Cairo, Miss Broatch, the Captain of the Girl Guides in Port Said, and Miss Stewart, who has been assisting Miss Broatch, as she has had considerable experience in England. There were also the various scoutmasters accompanying the boys, and other guests.

On returning to the Narkunda the Boy Scouts from Cairo and Alexandria formed a guard of honour at the Custom House jetty for Sir Robert and Lady Baden-Powell, whose visit was very greatly appreciated, and has done much for the encouragement of the movement in this country. After returning on board Lady Baden-Powell sent a letter to Miss Broatch, expressing her pleasure at all she had seen, and enclosing an autographed portrait of herself to be hung in the club-room of the Girl Guides at Port Said, which Miss Broatch has provided and furnished for their use.

SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, January 16, 1921.

The Political Situation.

The final decision of the British Cabinet on the Milner Mission's report and its recommendations is being anxiously awaited by the various communities in the country. The Sudan native, though naturally loyal to England, has been subjected latterly to a great deal of propaganda from Egypt, and is inclined to fret at the delay in determining the future status of the Sudan. Left to himself, he would have plumped whole-heartedly for separation from Egypt, and an all-British form of government. For many years his complaint has been that the various Government departmental clerical staffs were almost invariably recruited from Syrians, Egyptians, and Copts, and that he was never given a chance to show his capabilities in similar posts. During the 1919 troubles in Egypt the Sudani would readily have driven the Egyptians from the country had he been allowed to do so, and have filled vacant posts with his compatriots. Now, however, thanks to the long delay and frequent interruption in negotiations, and to the steady and persistent trickle of Nationalist propaganda that has permeated the country, his feelings are mixed, and he would welcome a decision in favour of Egyptian rule. The three great religious sheikhs are anti-Egyptian, and have launched out into journalism, publishing an entirely Arabic newspaper which should do a lot to counteract the efforts of the Nationalist party in Egypt. Since the reoccupation of the Sudan, no Egyptian official has ever had any administrative control except in a distinctly subordinate capacity. The Egyptian has invariably regarded the Sudani as an "abd," or slave, and went to the length of marking the transport wagons of Egyptian battalions with the battalion number followed by "Orta abiad" (white battalion), as opposed to the

seven battalions of black troops recruited exclusively in the Sudan. In view of the difference in race, thought, habits, and characteristics of the Sudani, as compared with the Egyptians, it seems a thousand pities that the inhabitants of this vast potential country should be allowed through utter weariness of the suspense to come under the influence of the Nationalist party.

The members of the Hellenic community, which is numerically the strongest of the foreign bodies in the country, are almost to a man ardent Venizelists and pro-British in their sentiments, and as such would gladly welcome an independent Sudan under entirely British rule. The sympathies of the British officials who have devoted their lives to the development of the country can readily be imagined.

The Housing Question.

The burning question of the hour is how and where to find living accommodation. The European population of Khartoum is increasing by leaps and bounds. The postponed development of the country during the time of war has resulted in an influx of new residents within the past eighteen months; and as practically no non-Government construction has been possible, owing to the lack of labour and the high prices of materials, the situation has now become somewhat serious.

It was hoped that the Grand Hotel would have been opened this winter, and that the situation would have been materially improved thereby; but, alas! owing to the depredations of white ants and the impossibility of making good deferred maintenance, this once favoured resort of pre-war tourists is still uninhabitable. The axiom that man shall not live alone has borne fruit, inasmuch as nearly everyone who has been on home leave has returned with a wife, and with the usual insouciance of the long resident of the country has left the all-important housing problem to be solved on his arrival in Khartoum. The natural consequence has been a fierce inter-urban campaign of house-grabbing, with wailing and gnashing of teeth on the part of those unfortunates who have been unsuccessful in their endeavours. The two big Government bachelor quarters—yclept "Peabody Buildings" and the "Yellow Peril"—have been filled to overflowing—each set of quarters two and three deep—and the inhabitants of these hives of industry are reported to be in full sympathy with the views of the proverbial sardine. The lot of the married couple is far from happy. The intensive competition for the lease of any roofed edifice has resulted in a rise of rents, and as the cost of food and servants' wages have risen in proportion, they are faced with the choice of living in semi-starvation in a ramshackle building or certain bankruptcy in the one available hotel. The Government have made a half-hearted attempt to cope with the situation by putting up a series of houses for their lower-graded officials. From common "gup" one gathers that many a so-called senior would gladly resign the somewhat nebulous privileges of a higher grade to become one of the favoured few eligible for residence in one of the new houses.

It would appear that the need of encouragement to local enterprise is strongly indicated, and a suggestion has been mooted that building materials be allowed a remission of Customs import duty and preferential rates on the railways, and freedom from the house-tax for, say, five years. Contractors complain that they are mulcted to such an extent over the Traders' Tax that it pays them to do as little constructional work as possible.

The High Commissioner.

The postponement of the High Commissioner's visit to the Sudan has occasioned much disappointment. Great preparations had been made, and rumour has it that Staff work was so good that a supply of iced sodas would be available at every halting place. The fortunate individual whose lot does not lie in these latitudes will never realise the pleasure of the sunset "peg." One's whole outlook on life depends on whether the soda is properly iced or not, and the man who can provide a soda of the right temperature in the midst of a howling waste is deserving of quite a superior class of the O.B.E. It is to be hoped that the High Commissioner will be able to visit us in the near future.

The natives love a display of pomp and ceremonial, and fully appreciate the idea of His Majesty's Representative taking a personal interest in their country and surroundings.

The Egyptian Army.

A Divisional review arranged in honour of Lord Allenby was duly held on January 14 by the Governor-General, the original orders standing good, with the exception that the British troops did not take part. This is the first ceremonial parade of all arms since January, 1914, and was the occasion of very great interest on the part of all residents. The Sudani squadron of cavalry and the three Arab mounted infantry companies were particularly good. The march-past was very effective, the Sudan Sapper Section and the new Arab machine-gun batteries making their first appearance in review. The only Sudanese battalion fully represented was the 14th, mostly composed of young and very promising-looking recruits, for the greater part Dinkas and Nuers. The parade was a striking example of what can be done with the material available in spite of the small number of British officers concerned. I am of opinion that an Egyptian or Sudanese battalion entirely officered by British officers, with two British N. C. O.'s per double company, would result in a priceless combination, which would compare very favourably with any colonial or protectorate troops in the Empire. The Egyptian officer of the expedition days is now, alas! non-existent, and the new subalterns appear to be imbued with Nationalist and Bolshevik ideas, to the detriment of regimental discipline. When one's adjutant arrives late on parade, improperly dressed, and attempts to argue the point with the Second-in-Command, what can one do?

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, January 23.

Coming Bye-Elections.

Five bye-elections will take place during the early days of February, one being for a seat in the Senate for the Ilfov district, which includes Bucharest. Although these bye-elections will have no material effect on the political situation, they will nevertheless show how far the people are satisfied with the present Government. The three principal political parties, i.e., the People's Party (General Averescu), the Liberals, and the Federalists, are carrying on very active campaigns for their respective candidates, and especially in Bucharest, where the following candidates have been chosen:—The People's Party will be represented by M. Dimitri Pompei, a University Professor and a great scholar; the Federalists are backing M. D. Dobrescu, who has been recently re-elected as the Dean of the Bar; while the Liberals have selected M. Vintila Bratianu, ex-Minister, and after his brother, M. Joan I. C. Bratianu, the most important man in the Liberal party. He is also reputed to be a capable financier. As all the candidates are weighty men, a very close fight is expected.

A Council of Ministers.

The other evening a Council of Ministers was held under the chairmanship of General Averescu. The agrarian question was discussed, especially the price the peasant will have to pay for the allotted land, but no definite decision could be reached owing to the various opinions on this vital point. General Rascanu, the Minister for War, who has recently returned from inspecting the Roumanian troops in Bessarabia, explained to the Council the precautionary measures which have been taken on the frontier. He emphasised that the Dniester Bank is quite safe, and that the moral of the troops is excellent. He further stated that on the other side of the river there are a few divisions of Bolshevik troops, of which no division has more than 2,000 men on a distance of 40-50 kilometres. He was of the opinion that the presence of these troops on the Roumanian frontier is due to the fact that they can obtain more food in that part of Ukraina. Secondly, he thought that this weak military cordon on the Dniester completes the ring with which the Bolsheviks have closed in Ukraina, where they wish to replace the national policy

of the Ukrainians by a Soviet régime. He concluded by stating that he had a firm conviction that the Bolsheviks do not intend to, and cannot, attack the Roumanians, being fully occupied in checking the revolts in Ukraina.

The Government has decided to close the Dniester frontier throughout its length, for goods as well as for passenger traffic. Martial law is in force over a stretch of 30 kilometres wide all along the Dniester.

Political Feeling in Transylvania.

Lately the Hungarian newspapers have started a campaign to induce the Magyar population of Transylvania to change their political attitude towards Greater Roumania. They are urging them to abandon their passive state by forming a distinctive political group, similar to that of the Saxons of Transylvania. During the last few days this Press campaign has materialised by several meetings taking place throughout the province. Of these the most important took place at Cluj last Sunday, when eighty representatives of various Hungarian corporations, associations, and institutions were present. At this meeting M. Joseph Sandor presided, who, in his opening address, referred to the Treaty of Trianon and the Convention of Alba-Julia, which ensure a relative independence to the minorities. He further declared that he is of the opinion that the Magyar population of Transylvania must take an active part in the political contest of the country.

The Royal Weddings.

The wedding of Princess Elisabeth with the Crown Prince of Greece has been fixed for (O. S.) February 12, and will take place at the Orthodox Cathedral at 11 in the morning. The Queen of the Hellenes and her youngest daughter are expected to arrive during the first days of February to be present at the wedding. They will remain in Bucharest until Queen Marie and (probably) King Ferdinand proceed to Athens to attend the wedding of Prince Carol to Princess Helena of Greece.

After the celebration of the wedding of Princess Elisabeth, a family lunch will take place at the Cotroceni Palace, and in the evening a gala dinner, followed by a ball, will be given at the Royal Palace.

Immediately after the wedding the young couple will proceed to Constantza and then on a Greek cruiser to Athens, where a brilliant reception is prepared for them.

The wedding of Prince Carol will be celebrated in the first days of March in the Cathedral at Athens. The great preparations for these two events have stopped all Royal audiences, until they are over. The Duke of Sparta is taking advantage of his visit to Bucharest to get into closer touch with the different Roumanian political leaders, and has called on every one of them separately.

Miscellaneous.

The Roumanian-Czecho-Slovakian Commission for establishing the frontier in the North of Transylvania has begun its work at Sighetul-Maramuresului.

The Hungarian Mission, which will eventually form the Hungarian Legation in Bucharest when diplomatic relations are resumed, arrived yesterday. This Mission is headed by Count Andrei de Horty.

At the last Ministers' Council it was decided that the Bill for forming a Minorities Department should be abandoned in view of the opposition it has met, even amongst the members of the Government's party.

GREECE.

ATHENS, January 25.

The New Year.

On the occasion of the Orthodox New Year a special thanksgiving service was held at the Cathedral in Athens, which was attended by the King, the Queen, the Royal Princes and Princesses, the Council of Ministers, and the high state and army officials. The Crown Prince of Roumania was also present. After the ceremony their Majesties, surrounded by the entire Royal Family, received in the Throne Room the mem-

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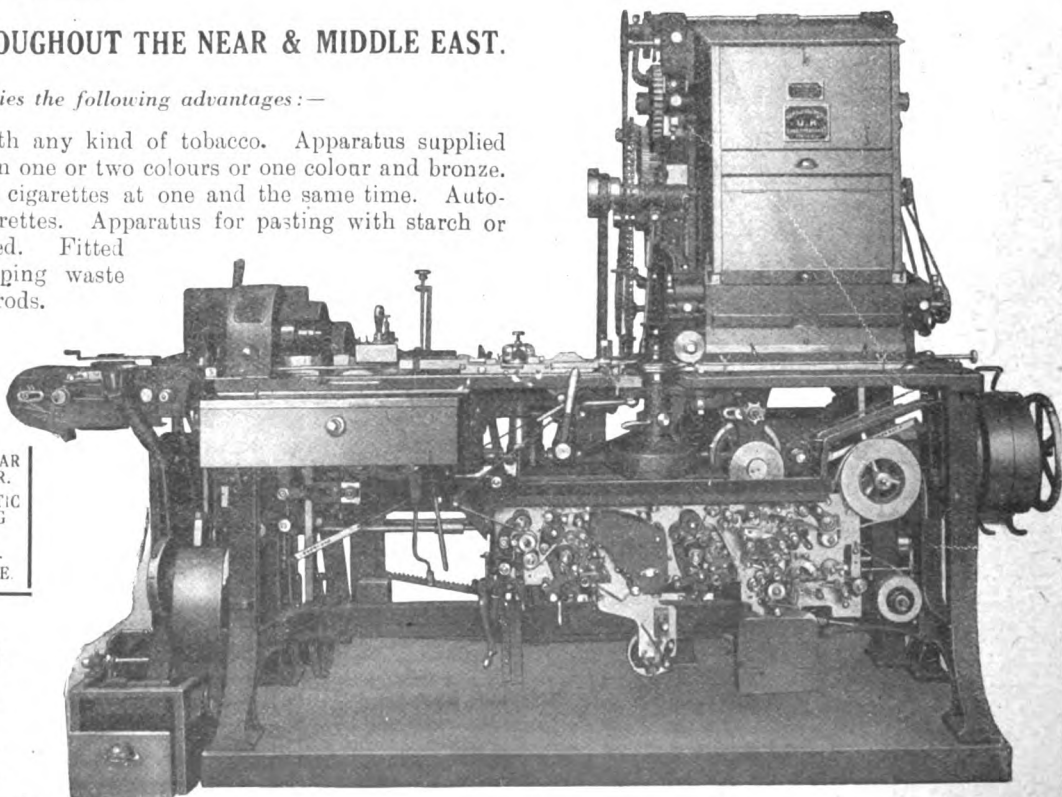
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bers of the Government and other officials, who wished them a happy New Year.

None of the Great Powers' representatives was present at the ceremony in the Cathedral, although they had been officially invited.

A telegram conveying his wishes to the army in Asia Minor was despatched by King Constantine to the Commander-in-Chief, General Papoulas.

Inspection of Restaurants.

Quite suddenly, and without giving any warning, the Police sanitary authorities inspected the restaurants in the capital, with very unsatisfactory results from the restaurant-keepers' and the clients' point of view. The majority of these places were found to be in a shocking condition as far as cleanliness was concerned. In certain of the so-called high-class restaurants of the city the kitchen utensils were found to be in a deplorable state, and many hundreds of cracked glasses, cups, and plates were destroyed by the sanitary authorities. Out of 325 restaurants inspected only 139 were found more or less clean, while 33 were simply filthy.

High Price of Foodstuffs.

A delegation of workmen has submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister, protesting against the high price of foodstuffs. The workmen demand that energetic measures should be taken immediately by the Government to put a stop to the continuous rise of prices. They also propose the creation of committees in which the working class itself should be represented, and which will pay frequent visits to the food markets and regulate both wholesale and retail prices. The Premier assured the delegation that the Government was determined to deal very severely with those speculating in foodstuffs, and that he would be only too glad to assist the working class in its fight against the high cost of living. M. Rallis added that a delegation would be appointed forthwith, which, in co-operation with the workmen's representatives, would go thoroughly into the whole matter.

Epiphany Day.

On January 6 the usual annual ceremony of the benediction of the sea took place at Piræus in the presence of the King, the Princes, Prince Carol of Roumania, and the Council of Ministers. The Metropolitan of Athens officiated. All the ships in the port were beflagged, and when the Holy Cross was thrown into the sea twenty-one salvoes were fired by the warships.

Miscellaneous News.

On being asked by journalists whether the alliance with Serbia, which expires shortly, will be renewed, M. Rallis replied in the affirmative.

Prince Paul, King Constantine's youngest son, who has just been given the rank of naval sub-lieutenant, took the usual oath of allegiance in the presence of the Royal Family, the Minister of Marine, and the Metropolitan of Athens.

M. Venizelos has dispatched a telegram from Nice to the *Estia* requesting that journal to thank on his behalf all those who had telegraphed their wishes to him on the occasion of his name-day (December 15, O.S.).

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, January 12.

Wanted: A Political Truce.

It is to be hoped that there will now be a truce to island "politics," after a period of agitation and uncertainty, which had become more and more wearisome to many besides those of the British and Ottoman communities, and a source of constant irritation and anxiety to the latter. The warning recently given to a member of the late mission may have a salutary effect on those who may have contemplated further inflammatory orations. Nothing could be more inopportune and ill-advised than a continuation of a fruitless campaign at present. The best friends of the late deputies are those who have been advising them to recognise the situation in its true bearings, which they have so far shown little disposition to do.

The election of members of the Legislative Council will be the next event of interest. For the real advantage of that body and of the island, it would be well if, among the elect could be counted a few men of more independent

views and character than some have shown themselves to be in late years—men who would have the courage of their uncoloured opinion on important local questions, and who would represent the genuine feelings and needs of the bulk of the people, especially the rural classes, and thus infuse new blood into the debates. Hitherto proceedings have been too often marked and marred by a painful waste of time over futile bickerings, petty oppositions, and a monotonous repetition of stale political declarations.

The next session should, in any case, be of no little importance. If the machinery of government is henceforth to run smoothly, there must be honest co-operation on the part of the native element, and there should be an end to the irregular intrusion of political manifestation into the course of business.

Leaving aside the flickering interest taken in the Unionist sentiment, it may be remarked that there is a highly intelligent body of opinion which is really anxious to see what will be the next move on the part of British authority, in view of late events, of the now definite establishment of British rule, and of the too unfruitful annals of the occupation. Those, not a few, who consider that British trusteeship, much as it has done, has left many things undone, and has failed to satisfy the call for progressive development, now hope that the High Commissioner, when he returns to Cyprus, presumably after consultation to this end, will inaugurate a new era. Native opinion has not regarded favourably some of the appointments and transfers of some officials in higher posts. It asks for greater efficiency and new departures in some of the more important Government departments.

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 SOUTH PERSIA RIFLES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In looking over some old editions of *THE NEAR EAST* I noticed you had referred several times to "the South Persian Rifles," and as a late officer in the force should like to point out that you made a slight mistake in referring to it as you did.

It should properly be called the South *Persia* Rifles, not *Persian*.

The force is composed of Persians, so the mistake is easily made.—I am, etc.,

Hampstead, N.W.3.

January 28.

C. E. DUGGAN.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Government and Islam in Arica.

Pride of place is given to an article under the above title by Professor J. du Plessis in the *Muslim World* of January. He examines the whole question of the inhibition by colonial governments of Christian missions from entering certain spheres. First, he traces the history of European opinion upon Islam, how during the last half-century it has changed from unqualified antagonism to admiration, and how the spirit of toleration towards both the creed and the practices of Islam has spread. But, says the writer, in this toleration can be found an injustice. He says:—

"The toleration which modern defenders of Mohammedanism demand means practically its recognition as the *only* religion suitable to races in a certain stage of evolution, and the consequent exclusion of Christianity and Christian missions from areas in which Islam is held to have established a prior claim."

And:—

"It is the attitude of the British Government that gives rise to greatest uneasiness and dissatisfaction. In Egypt, as we have seen, that attitude is frankly pro-Islam. Religious education in the Government schools is solely Koranic, and compulsory for Moslem children, while Coptic children, if they succeed in securing any religious instruction at all, have to pay extra for the privilege. The Gordon College at Khartum is

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a purely Mohammedan institution, where the Koran is taught at the expense of the State.

He then inspects and disposes of the arguments by which the Government policy is upheld, these arguments being:— (1) That Christian missions in Mohammedan areas are a menace to peace and quiet; (2) that Christian schools and Christian missions generally exercise a denationalising influence on the native and "destroy racial identity" (Morel); and (3) that experience proves that Islam is better adapted to the African than Christianity. He concludes his article by urging that the policy of excluding Christian missions from Mohammedan territory should be reversed.

Christian missionary statesmen call for another and more generous course of action on these grounds: the policy of restriction is unjust; it is dishonourable; and it is dangerous not merely to the interests of Christianity, but to the prestige of the Government.

It is an unjust policy, I say. With every desire to be fair and impartial, it discriminates in favour of Islam and adversely to Christianity. The *vis inertiae* of Mohammedanism exercises a numbing influence over the European official. Against the dead weight of Islam, against that passive resistance to Western ideas which the Mohammedan offers, he strives in vain. Presently he, too, learns to say *Kismet*, and begins to defer to Moslem prejudice; and this deference ends, as it must, in positive injustice towards Christianity and Christian missionary effort.

The policy of exclusion is dishonourable. However much the Government may desire to camouflage the fact, it is born of fear. Islam, from Morocco to Malaysia, presents a united front, and constitutes a political factor of enormous potency. Dr. Carl Peters, formerly Governor of German East Africa, said, very incautiously, in 1906: "There is one factor which might fall on our side of the balance, and in case of a world war might be made useful to us; that factor is Islam. And if German policy is bold enough, it can fashion the dynamite to blow into the air the rule of the Western Powers from Morocco to Calcutta." From the feeling of dread arose the policy of conciliation and excessive deference. The sleeping dog of Islam must be let lie, or, if half awake, be humoured or pacified with sops of "neutrality" and "non-interference." But the policy is none the less a pusillanimous and dishonourable one. The Great War has disproved Dr. Peter's prophecy and disappointed German hopes: Islam did not combine to "blow into the air the rule of Western Powers."

The policy of exclusion is dangerous. It compromises Christianity and it compromises Christian governments. Islam, it must be remembered, is at the same time a religion and a political and social system, and the Mohammedan cannot think of these two aspects as divorced. As little can he imagine a European culture which is not at the same time a religious force, or a Christian religion which does not imply and convey a Christian culture. The Government policy of excluding Christianity from, while introducing European rule and Western influence into, Moslem communities, is calculated not only seriously to compromise the claims of Christianity, but to bring government itself into disrepute with thoughtful Mohammedans.

Articles to Note.

"India on the Threshold," "Raisuli—III., IV.," by Walter B. Harris; and "Grief and Glamour of the Bosphorus," by Lieut.-Colonel P. R. Butler, D.S.O., in *Blackwood's* (February).

"Anarchy in India," by Sir Michael F. O'Dwyer; and "The Greek Elections," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Fortnightly* (February).

"Roumania After the War," by H. Charles Woods; "Parties and Policies in India," by H. E. A. Cotton; "The Georgian Socialist Republic," by J. Ramsay Macdonald; and "The Empire and Mesopotamia," by Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah, in the *Contemporary* (February).

"The Future of Cyprus as a British Possession," in the *Windsor* (February).

According to the *Temps*, Admiral Dumesnil has threatened to bombard the Nationalist Turks in Zunguldak, on the Black Sea, failing the immediate release of certain French soldiers held prisoner by them.

The Jewish National Fund, which, during 1920, collected £160,000 for the purchase of land for the Jews in Palestine, has been recognised by the Palestinian Government as a public institution. The fund, which has for its object the development of Palestine as a national home for the Jewish people, was inaugurated in 1901 by the Zionist World Organisation.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

M. Moriz Rosenthal.

The process by which musical reputations are made is to me a mysterious one, and I do not profess to understand how M. Moriz Rosenthal, the Polish pianist, who for long has been acclaimed as one of the world's artists, has built his up. His only recital this season was at the Queen's Hall on February 2, and it was not sufficient to show that he is, as many aver, in the class of, say, Busoni or Hoffmann. Two of his characteristics, peculiar to himself and often very beautiful, it is worth mentioning: a most sparing use of the sustaining pedal, and the scrupulous preservation of pure tone. Technically and intellectually, in fact, he is an utter purist; and it is with both the felicities and trivialities of this type that he always plays. To take first what were his finest things: Three Chopin studies, and the Chant Polonais in G. The studies were marvellously beautiful, more lovely than ever before I have heard them, and it was not merely superb technique, but a perfect sense of tone-values that here informed his playing. Again, in his own "Papillons," and in Liadoff's "Musical Box" (an encore), his finish was divine. In such pieces he has, I imagine, no equal. But for his Beethoven (the "Appassionata") I did not care; it was suave and didactic; and a nocturne and ballade of Chopin were vilely sentimental. To drag out Chopin melodies is about the cruellest act one can do to a critic; and it was a crowning mercy that immediately after the ballade in F minor came the inspired playing of the studies. Schumann's "Carnaval" was rhythmically very fine, but the conception seemed superficial, and here especially the lack of the sustaining pedal was adversely felt.

M. Sergei Koussevitsky.

Among interpreters of Scriabin's orchestral compositions there is no one in this country to equal Mr. Albert Coates, but after the concert at the Queen's Hall on February 2, it was obvious that the Russian composer really needs a Russian conductor, and that M. Koussevitsky in this rôle is absolutely the right man. M. Koussevitsky left the "Poem of Ecstasy" until the end of his programme, and it was not until this that I knew him to be a great artist. His reading of Beethoven's fifth symphony was interesting chiefly in details; the first movement was patchy, the second taken far too slowly to be restful, though the last was certainly sent home with glorious drive. Debussy's two nocturnes—"Nuages" and "Fetes"—were efficiently but not originally or distinguishedly done; but the Scriabin was simply tremendous. The disentangling of its texture, which at times is extremely intricate, was most masterfully, yet unobtrusively, accomplished; and one felt all through that the conductor's psychological perception was just and certain. In this the orchestra, which was the Royal Albert Hall, played magnificently.

The Harp.

Until January 31, when Miss Gwendolen Mason gave at the Wigmore Hall a concert of Harp with Ensemble Music, I had never been through a whole evening of harp entertainment; and the misfortune will never occur again. Whether through knowledge or ignorance worthy composers have shunned the harp as a solo instrument I do not know; but I do know that not all Miss Mason's pretty skill could induce "Le Jardin Mouillé" of Jacques de la Présle to sound anything but bespattered banality, and "Spring Fancies No. I." of Hamilton Harty made one think of anything but love. Other trying moments were caused by two songs of Mr. Philip Sainton, which, set for voice, string quartet, flute, clarinet, and harp, were generously given their first performance by Mr. John Coates. From so fine sponsors as were the artists taking part, and also from the words of the songs, one expected some successful atmospherical writing; but both in the intentions and in the achievements of the composer there seemed to be a distressingly sure absence of subtlety. Later on Mr. Coates abundantly compensated for this disappointment with his singing of some old songs with harp accompaniment; but though this instrument was exquisitely apt for such a thing as Thomas Morley's "It was a Lover and His Lass" (which was monstrously well sung), it was bare in Dvorak's "Songs My Mother Taught Me." The finest instrumental things of the evening were Goossens' "Suite for Flute, Violin and Harp"—clever writing with a seemingly intuitive sense of effect—and Ravel's Introduction and Allegro for Harp with accompaniment for String Quartet, Flute and Clarinet. In this Ravel has made a beautifully discreet use of the harp, which gives to the soft colours of the piece a mystic kind of limpid beauty.

To dilate on Miss Mason's playing is surely unnecessary, her skill is so well-known. **ANDANTE.**

It is reported from Delhi that the Government of India has issued a stirring appeal to the Indian public to assist Poland in fighting the typhus epidemic.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"THE JEWS IN EGYPT AND IN PALESTINE UNDER THE FATIMID CALIPHS." By Jacob Mann, M.A. D.Lit. (London.) Vol. I. (Oxford University Press. 12s. 6d. net.)
- II.—"FLAMES ON THE BOSPHORUS." By Luigi Motta. (London: Odhams Press, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

I.—RECOVERED FRAGMENTS OF JEWISH COMMUNAL HISTORY.

The work, "The Jews in Egypt and in Palestine under the Fatimid Caliphs," is an attempt to reconstruct the communal life of the Jews in these lands, from 969 A.D. to 1204 A.D. from collections of documents, letters, poems, and compositions, in Hebrew and Arabic, which were found in the "lumber rooms" of some ancient synagogues in Cairo. These Genizah MSS., since their value was first recognised, have been acquired by eager collectors, and are now scattered in various museums and private collections. Dr. Jacob Mann, by a patient and exhaustive research, has now endeavoured to piece certain of these scattered fragments into a continuous record, hanging the whole upon a thin thread of Egyptian History of the period of the Fatimid Caliphs. The actual text of the documents which form the materials of the narrative are to be published as a second volume. It is clear that this work, when completed, will prove a careful research of prime importance to historians of the Arab and Jewish history, covering as it does a period of considerable obscurity. For the general reader, however, there is much important information.

We have interesting sidelights upon the little Jewish community of Jerusalem and the college of study there under successive Geonim and other learned officials. The community was poor and largely dependent—as has been the same community for centuries in later times—upon outside help; they were very jealous of their special right of fixing the calendar annually by the time of the appearance of the new moon of Nisan—a prerogative of the Jerusalem Academy hitherto unknown. In comparison with the Jewish Academy of Baghdad, they had little claim to eminence in study—"So far no literary work of standing produced by the School in the Holy Land has been preserved." A section of the community which grew up in course of time was known as "the mourners for Zion." They led an ascetic life, mourning and fasting over the destruction of the Temple, and praying for its restoration and the advent of the Messiah—as have done many of their successors in Jerusalem in later years.

The heterodox Karaites (who still survive as a very small community in the Holy City) were then powerful in Syria, Palestine, and Egypt, and chronic antagonism existed between the sects. It is interesting to read that after Omar took Palestine the Jews "bought Mount Olivet as public property of the Jewish community, whereon services were held indeed for centuries on the festivals, and especially during Hoshana Rabba, in the presence of numerous pilgrims from all over the Diaspora."

In connection with this it is noted that Jewish tradition, recorded in writing centuries earlier than the Arab one, states that when Omar came it was not Bishop Sophronius but the Jews who showed him the site of the ruined temple, which they undertook to keep clean. There is no mention of the later Arab tradition that the site was a heap of refuse.

The existence at this time of a number of *Nesim* who claimed royal descent from King David (and had pedigrees to establish their claims) is interesting. They were allowed considerable privileges, were treated with honour, and allowed to confer titles of honour on whom they would.

The picture we get of this period is one full of political troubles, local rebellions—such as that of 1024-9—in which the Jews suffered greatly, culminating in the coming of the Crusaders, when those Jews who had stayed in the Holy City were massacred. In 1016 and in 1033 all Palestine was visited by earthquakes, which not only greatly damaged Ramleh, the Arab capital of Palestine—one-third of the city being destroyed—but damaged also the walls of Jerusalem, the Dome of the Rock, and "many villages were swallowed up by the ground." The 1033 earthquake wrought havoc through the whole length of Palestine.

Another sidelight on these unsettled times occurs in the many references to the redemption, which had to be made by the community, of the Jewish travellers captured by the Saracen pirates at sea. These unfortunate captives were sent to the coasts of Palestine in Greek ships, whose owners required for their ransom an equivalent in the currency of the present day of £50 per head. It was a heavy tax upon the community, but a very urgent one, as if unransomed, the captives were killed.

It will be seen in these passing references that there is much in this volume which enables us to picture life both

among Jews and Arabs in the centuries immediately preceding and following the coming of the Crusades, and the method of presentation by means of personal correspondence gives the reader a very intimate impression of life among Jews and Moslems in those dark days.

E. W. G. M.

II.—BLOOD AND FIRE.

This historical novel has been translated from Italian by Miss Helen Zimmern, and it is introduced by Mr. Le Queux with a foreword so enthusiastic that it leads us to expect something quite startlingly above the average. There is no doubt that the period of the Turkish conquests in the fifteenth century is a good one to choose as the setting for a stirring romance, and the author has thought of an attractive device in telling us of the adventures of Ruggero, Count of San Giuliano and his sister Imperia, whose castle in Meloria has been destroyed by Saracens, and who, when the story begins, are sailing the Mediterranean in their ship the *Andromeda*, which is all that is left to them. They are taken prisoner by Selim, a stepbrother of Mohammed II., and then fall into the hands of Mohammed himself, just before he succeeds in taking Constantinople. It is not until after the fall of the city that they make their final escape out to sea, taking with them to safety Selim's aged mother, Agira, and Wenulda, Mohammed's beautiful sister, who loves Ruggero. Selim, who has grown to love Imperia, gives his life to help them to escape. We cannot help thinking that Mr. Le Queux's evident enjoyment of the story has led him to overestimate its merits. It can truly be described as a tale of peril and adventure, but the frequency and almost rhythmic regularity with which the characters, either singly or in pairs, are brought to the verge of death and rescued in the nick of time, end by being distinctly monotonous—and, although a story which has for its central episode the sack of Constantinople could hardly avoid being full of bloodshed, the amount of fighting which the author has managed to pack into it is almost incredible.

No one expects the historical novel to be accurate in every detail either as to dates or the exact actions of the people in it who did really live; but here the effect of the last chapter, where Selim achieves his "supreme vengeance" by blowing up the galley which contains his tyrannical stepbrother, is rather marred by the fact that Mohammed died nearly thirty years later, having in the meanwhile conquered Serbia and Greece, besides other parts of the Near East.

Possibly in the original Italian an atmosphere suggestive of the place and time is more vividly conveyed; we only catch it at intervals in this translation, which must, we feel, fail to do justice to the novel. Sometimes, indeed, the badly-sustained effort to achieve a mediæval dignity in the conversations and the general floweriness of the language make it difficult to take the book seriously.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Lunacy in India." By A. W. Overbeck-Wright. (London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 21s. net.)

"Cyprus Under the Turks, 1571-1878." By H. C. Luke, B.Litt., M.A. (London: Oxford University Press. 8s. 6d. net.)

"Around the Shores of Asia." By Mary A. Poynter. With eight full-page plates. (London: George Allen and Unwin. 16s. net.)

"History of the Jews in Russia and Poland: From the Earliest Times Until the Present Day." By S. M. Dubnow. Translated from the Russian by I. Friedlaender. Volume III. (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America.)

"The Dweller in the Desert." By Arthur Weigall. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 8s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

February 10 (New Style).
January 28 (Old Style).
Jumada II., 1, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Adar 2, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Viscount Furness left London last week for the Continent.

Sir Robert and Lady Baden-Powell have left Bombay for Delhi.

The Duc de Vendôme has postponed his departure from Tunis for Algiers.

M. Venizelos is the guest of Sir Arthur Crossfield at The House at Highgate.

Viscountess Astor, M.P., will return to London on February 14 from Algiers.

Sir Alfred Mond has left Jerusalem for Egypt after a fortnight's visit to Palestine.

The Hon. Mrs. Henry Rimington-Wilson has arrived at the Hotel St. George, Algiers.

Sir Gerald and Lady Ryan left London yesterday for Algiers, and will return early in March.

The Danish Minister and Mme. de Grevenkop-Castenskiöld will remain in Tunis until the end of this month.

M. Yovan Yovanovitch, the Yugoslav Consul-General in London, has taken up his offices at 81, Knightsbridge.

The Marquess of Graham has left for Algiers, and will be absent at least a month. No letters will be forwarded.

President Masaryk, of Czecho-Slovakia, who has been suffering from influenza, has decided to take a holiday in Capri.

General Pellé left Paris on February 3 for Constantinople to assume his duties as French High Commissioner.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (January 12):—
Mr. A. K. Bovill, O.B.E., has retired from the office of Principal Forest Officer.

Lt.-Colonel Gallagher, D.S.O., Chief Commandant of Police, will act as Commissioner of Larnaca.

Mr. Francis FitzGerald, C.B.E., Chairman of the Anglo-Belgian of Egypt Co., and of the Fayoum Light Railways Co., has left London for Cairo.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania is leaving for Bucharest to attend the wedding of Princess Elizabeth of Roumania and Prince George of Greece, which will take place on February 25.

Mr. J. O'Grady, the Labour M.P., arrived in Alexandria on February 5, for ten days' rest in Egypt. Unofficially, he is meeting notables and officials with regard to the question of the Milner report.

General Franchet d'Esperey, who commanded the Allied armies in Macedonia, has presented the French Legion of Honour to the city of Belgrade. He was received by the Prince Regent, who conferred upon him the rank of Honorary Voivode of the Serbian Army.

The engagement is announced between Stoyan Boris Gavrilovitch, of Watcombe Hall, Torquay, second son of Professor Bogdan Gavrilovitch, of Belgrade, Serbia, and Florence Caroline, youngest daughter of Sir Arthur and Lady Schuster, of Yeldall, Twyford, Berks.

Sir Arthur Peel, British Minister to Bulgaria, entertained at the British Legation, Sofia, on January 28, the members of the English-Speaking League of Bulgaria. Some seventy guests were present. The League exists to encourage the extension of a knowledge of the English language in Bulgaria.

Sir Arthur L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Consulting Engineer to the Egyptian and Sudan Governments, and Mr. H. MacClure, Consulting Engineer to the Sudan Construction Company, arrived in Khartoum on January 17. It is understood, says the *Sudan Times*, they are proceeding on a tour of inspection to Jebel Aulia and Makwar.

At the Royal Society of Arts, Indian section, on April 22, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir E. W. M. Grigg will lecture on "The Common Service of the British and Indian Peoples to the World," and on May 27 Mr. William Raitt, F.C.S., cellulose expert to the Government of India, will lecture on "Paper-pulp Supplies from India."

The Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that Lieutenant-General Congreve, G.O.C. Forces in Egypt, who is coming to London on leave, is unlikely to return to his present command. Brigadier-General Morris will act as G.O.C. for the present. When Lieutenant-General Congreve's leave expires, it is probable that Major-General Sir John Shea, who is now in Palestine, will become G.O.C. Egypt.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Lombardos, Deputy for Zakynthos (Zante), has been elected President of the Hellenic National Assembly in Athens.

Lord Reading has appointed Major C. Kennedy-Craufurd-Stuart, C.B.E., D.S.O., 127th Baluchis, to be his Military Secretary.

Mr. R. Hewison, O.B.E. (Director of Agriculture), has been appointed an additional member of the Governor-General's Council.

Signor Catalani, who was formerly Italian Minister to Persia, and is at present staying in London, has been appointed Minister to Venezuela.

Mr. Sidney R. Hignell, C.I.E., has been appointed by Lord Reading to be his Private Secretary; and Major W. Muir, 15th Sikhs, who is now home on leave, has been appointed Comptroller of the Household.

Mr. Chetpat Pattabherama Ramaswami Ayyar, High Court Vakil, has been appointed Advocate General for the Presidency of Madras, in succession to Mr. Kadamangudi Srinivasa Aiyangar, who has been appointed a member of the Madras Executive Council.

The King has been pleased to approve the following appointments:—

Mr. Louis Charles Crump, I.C.S., to be a Puisne Judge of the Bombay High Court, in succession to Mr. M. H. W. Hayward, I.C.S., who was recently appointed a member of the Governor's Executive Council.

Mr. Benjamin Lindsay, I.C.S., to be a Puisne Judge of the Allahabad High Court, in succession to Sir George Knox, I.C.S., who is retiring from the bench in July.

OBITUARY.

Captain Lucas G. Stovin, Royal Navy, died at "The Moorings," Ramsgate, last week, at the age of seventy-one. He served, among other places, in the East Indies and the Persian Gulf, and received the thanks of the Indian Government for services in connection with the recovery of a Bahrain dhow under difficult circumstances in the Persian Gulf. For his services in punishing piratical acts committed by the Arabs on the same station he was again mentioned in despatches, and received the praise of the Admiralty for his zealous exertions.

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ROUMANIA AND THE BRITISH ARMY.

On February 4, in the presence of a large company of British officers and representatives of Roumania and Allied nations, the Roumanian Standard presented by the Army of Roumania to the British Army was placed in the Great Hall of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, though eventually it is to be deposited in the British War Museum. The ceremony, though simple, was very impressive. The formal presentation of the standard was made by Colonel Ioan Paun, of the Roumanian Army, who handed it over to General Sir G. F. Milne, representing the Army Council.

Later Colonel Paun was entertained at the Carlton Hotel at luncheon, over which Lieut.-General Sir G. M. W. Macdonogh presided. On the same day both M. Boerescu, the Roumanian Minister, and Colonel Paun placed wreaths at the Cenotaph.

AN APPEAL FOR ENGLISH BOOKS.

We have received from the English-Speaking League of Sofia, Bulgaria, an appeal for books suitable for the purposes of the League, which exists for the extension of the use of the English language in Bulgaria. THE NEAR EAST will be glad to forward to the League books that may be sent for the purpose to the offices at 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Ten thousand Jews entered Palestine during 1920.

Martial law has been proclaimed at Split (Spalato), in Dalmatia. Mr. Gandhi is being assisted by the Ali brothers in his non-co-operation agitation amongst the Calcutta students.

The Czechoslovak National Assembly has decided in favour of ratifying the peace treaties with Hungary and Bulgaria.

New Danish Legations have been created in Czechoslovakia, Greece, Roumania, and Yugoslavia, and a new Consulate in Calcutta.

A Moscow telegram says that Roumania proposes that the forthcoming negotiations with Soviet Russia should be conducted at Riga.

Mahsuds continue to make attacks on pickets and convoys on the North-West Frontier, and several casualties are reported on both sides.

General Gouraud, the High Commissioner of Syria, has announced that a samples-fair and an exhibition will be held in Beyrout in April.

Ratifications of the Treaty of Rapallo were exchanged in Rome on February 1 by Count Storza, representing Italy, and M. Antonievitch, representing Yugoslavia.

The *Sudan Times* announce that Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons are registering Sudan passengers wishing to avail themselves of the opportunity of getting home on leave.

The War Office states that the evacuation of all superfluous troops from Mesopotamia is now in progress, many of the regiments originally drawn from India returning to their former stations.

At East Putney, on February 6, a meeting was held at "The Mosque" on the occasion of the formal opening of the premises recently purchased by the community as an Ahmadiya Islamic Institution.

The Constituent Assembly of Yugoslavia, on February 2, adjourned for forty days to enable the special committee to prepare a scheme of the Constitution, which will serve as a basis for deliberations.

Admiral Sir John de Robeck was to have left Malta yesterday with two battleships and four destroyers for Smyrna, whither Rear-Admiral Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt proceeded last week in H.M.S. Cardiff.

At the request of the Secretary of State for India the Burma Legislative Council will meet on February 12 to consider the question of constitutional reforms. The official members of the Council will not take part in the debate.

Regular reports are being received from Kabul of the progress of the negotiations between the Afghan Government and the British Mission. Conferences take place two or three times a week, and a very frank exchange of views is being made.

Since the return of the deputation of Roumanian Socialists from Moscow a deadlock has arisen in the Roumanian Socialist Party, and the final choice between the Amsterdam and Moscow Internationals, is being left to its Congress, which has been summoned for May 6.

The reconstruction of the Baghdad-Busreh railway, after the damage done during recent disturbances, was complete on January 27 from Baghdad to Guehan, 20 miles south-east of Hillah, and from Busreh to Khan Jadwal, nine miles north of Diwanie, leaving only a distance of 20 miles to be repaired.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent telegraphs:—Following on the Sultanieh Decree forbidding contributions from the wages of workers or others to any trade union, association, or other professional group, Viscount Allenby has issued a proclamation that this law shall be applicable to all inhabitants of Egypt, of whatever nationality.

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

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1921.

THE MESOPOTAMIA MANDATE.

In a manner not yet explained, the text of the draft mandate for Great Britain in Mesopotamia has been made public through the enterprise of an American journal. The British Government, as author of the draft, was apparently minded to withhold publication until the approval of the interested Allied Powers had been secured and the document could be submitted to the Council of the League of Nations. In the Note which the Secretary of State for the United States addressed to the British Government last November on the subject of mandates and oil resources it was specifically requested that the draft mandate forms should be communicated to the American Government for its consideration before their submission to the Council of the League, in spite of the fact that mandates are the concern of the League alone and that the United States have refused to join the League. We may conclude, therefore, that the draft text has been officially communicated to the United States, and that the anxiety of the Washington Government to keep the oil agitation alive has facilitated the unofficial publication of the text. There would seem to be no reason, however, why the draft scheme should not have been published officially, in order that the fullest publicity should be given to any modifications of the draft proposed by other Powers. It will be of interest to learn whether the altruism of the British Government does altogether commend itself to actual or potential mandatories. Certainly, if the United States had not refused the mandate in Armenia on general principles, we can well imagine that there would have been no enthusiasm for assuming responsibilities on the terms which will satisfy Great Britain, and if any modifications are proposed they are as likely to be in the direction of strengthening the Mandatory's position as of weakening it still further. The United States Government will be hard put to it to bring its oil grievance within the four corners of the mandate; for its contention, as far as can be gathered, amounts to this, that all pre-war concessions in Mesopotamia, which happen to be British, should be cancelled, in order to give America a chance to benefit from British pioneer work. If publicity can be given promptly to any such demand on the part of Washington the British Government can count on the fullest support in rejecting it. Although the United States were the last in the war and the first out of it, there is no desire on the part of the Allies to differentiate against them in any way; but, on the other hand, there can be no obligation to confer upon them rights and privileges which would not be given to any other Power.

By the terms of the draft mandate Great Britain undertakes, within three years from the coming into force of the mandate, to frame, in consultation with the native authorities, an organic law for Mesopotamia, taking account of the rights, interests, and wishes of all the populations inhabiting the mandated territory. This organic law is to contain a provision designed to facilitate the progressive development of Mesopotamia as an independent State. Pending the coming into effect of the organic law, the administration of the country is to be conducted in accordance with the spirit of the mandate. In spite of the fact that Great Britain has borne the cost of liberating Mesopotamia from the Turks and of administering it during the transition stage, and will continue to bear the cost of government

until the country is self-supporting, it is agreed that there is to be no discrimination against the nationals of any State which is a member of the League of Nations as compared with the nationals of the mandatory in matters concerning taxation, commerce, or customs duties. The effect of this provision is to preclude the chance of Great Britain's recovering directly any of the large sums already spent upon Mesopotamia, and presumably only expenditure incurred after the coming into force of the mandate will rank as a loan to the Arab Government. In view of the outcry that has been raised against the continued occupation of Mesopotamia by certain parties in Great Britain on the score of finance, it may be expected that the economic aspect of the mandate will in particular be severely criticised. But it would be inconsistent with the spirit of mandates if fiscal preference were secured for the mandatory State, and the latter must be content to reap its reward indirectly. Evacuation of Mesopotamia to-day would mean the entire loss of all the money hitherto spent upon the country; much, perhaps most of that money can never be recovered for the British taxpayer; but there could be no surer way of making all of it a dead loss than for Great Britain to attempt to evade the burden of responsibility now.

It is difficult to dissociate the agitation in favour of a policy of scuttle in regard to Mesopotamia from the desire, so overwhelming in some quarters, to embarrass the present Government. There is no less urgency for economy in the administration of Mesopotamia than there is in that of the United Kingdom; and it has to be admitted that expenditure in that country since the occupation has been incurred in a lavish and irresponsible manner. But there is no reason why the most drastic reduction in expenditure should not be compatible with the fulfilment of obligations that cannot be evaded without loss of honour. The mistakes made during the past three years have been sins of omission rather than commission, the outcome of a policy of neglect on the part of the British Government, which left military and civil officials to rival one another in extravagance, albeit with the best intentions. To-day the lesson has been learnt; with order restored in the country, the troops required may well be part of those constituting the Empire's army on a peace footing, who will have to be quartered somewhere; the officials to be maintained for the assistance of the Mesopotamian Government will be, in part at least, a charge on the local administration, although Great Britain will have to lend money until Mesopotamia is self-supporting. Evacuation to-day will not restore the money already spent, but it requires little prescience to make all save the wilfully blind realise that evacuation would in the end prove more costly than the duties of the mandatory State. If the British leave Mesopotamia, their place must inevitably be taken by another Power, at first by Turkey. If no further incentive existed, that development alone would suffice to rekindle in Germany the desire to revive an Eastern hegemony, for once again the spear poised against the British Empire at its most vital spot would be waiting to be grasped. Can anyone suppose that the cost to Great Britain of a revival of German Imperialism will be covered by the total of Mesopotamia's budgets for three or four years, even at the present figure? With the knowledge now possessed of the devious ways in which the ground was prepared for the world-war, it is incredible that Britons, who in the past have denounced the remissness of previous Cabinets in meeting the German danger, should to-day urge a course which must directly contribute towards the hastening of the next world-war.

THE NEAR EAST.

VOLUME XVIII. (JULY 1 — DECEMBER 23, 1920.)

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THE SITUATION IN TRANS-CAUCASIA.—II.

The Russians have a remarkable capacity for colonisation. They never succeeded, it is true, in organising their vast country into a really civilised State or in adapting themselves to amicable relations with people of a higher culture, such as the Poles and the Finns. But in the East—both Near East and Far East—they played the part of true civilisers, spreading science and material advancement, and establishing some kind of law and order in place of confusion and anarchy. For them, the process of expansion involved no hazardous expeditions across the oceans, but only a persistent movement outwards from the centre, which brought one piece of contiguous territory after another under Russian sway. They made Siberia a prosperous land, and built the Trans-Siberian railway. They brought security to Turkestan, and created a lucrative cotton-growing industry. Similarly, the peoples of the Caucasus owe much to Russia—especially for the period of calm which gave them a chance of consolidating their national strength.

The creation of a Georgian Republic as it exists to-day would have been inconceivable if the Georgian people had never profited by the benefits of the Russian regime. Divided into a number of rival principalities always at loggerheads with one another, weakened by foreign and civil war, the Georgian people found under Russian domination a chance to rally its national forces, to develop its ancient culture, and to recreate in embryo a united nation. The German nobility took advantage of the security given by the Russians to develop a high standard of intellectual culture and to create many institutions of great value to the people. Towards the end of the 19th century a new intellectual class, democratic in origin, began to arise, thanks to the numerous Russian schools and colleges. This was the class which contributed most towards the raising of the general intellectual level of the people and their political organisations under the banner of social democracy ("Menshevism"). In fact, two or three decades have sufficed to organise among the Georgian peasants and workers a very powerful Socialist party, which has played an important part since the beginning of the Russian Revolution and held power throughout the two and a half years of Georgia's independence without serious opposition from any other political group.

The Armenians also turned the Russian regime to advantage by creating a national centre, by working in peace to develop their culture, and by building up a rich and influential *bourgeoisie*. But they were unable to devote all their energies to the political education of the people, owing to the existence of the Armeno-Turkish question. The pitiable condition of the Armenians under the Turkish yoke necessitated the concentration of national activities upon an organisation for combating Turkish tyranny. Thus, for thirty years, the flower of the Armenian youth devoted themselves to the cause of their brothers of Turkish Armenia. Some fell, arms in hand, fighting against Turkish soldiers or gendarmes; many perished in prison. In consequence of the absorption of their energies in this struggle, the Russian Armenians found themselves at the Revolution much inferior to the Georgians in general political education and organisation. As for the Tartars, they enjoyed all the privileges of Russian citizenship without some of its duties; they were exempt, for example, from compulsory military service.

These advantages tended to neutralise the glaring defects of Tsarism. But although purely cultural progress was encouraged, rather than hindered, by the Russian authorities, every manifestation of national life having a political character met with rigorous persecution. The Press was strictly controlled, political societies and meetings prohibited, and the propaganda of liberal ideas forbidden. In spite of this, the Caucasian peoples were closely attached to Russian culture and, through it, to European civilisation and modern ideas. The most important result, however, was to bring them into intimate relations with one another. The idea of a Caucasian federation was always warmly

received among the local political parties; and economic and geographical, not to mention political, conditions seemed to provide a substantial foundation for the Transcaucasian Federation which was established after the Revolution. The experiment, unfortunately, lasted only a few weeks, but politicians continued to emphasise the need for working out a new basis for a Transcaucasian confederation. At one time the mountaineers of the Northern Caucasus suggested not a Transcaucasian, but a Caucasian confederation, including Tartar Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, and the North-Caucasian Republic. On other occasions the question was brought forward by each of the three Transcaucasian States in turn.

It does not appear to be true, as is often alleged, that the failure of the Transcaucasian Federation was due to Armenia. The idea, indeed, had been first canvassed and supported in the Armenian Press and among Armenian political circles. Armenia, moreover, stood to lose most by its failure, for the war with the Turks, and the incorporation of some of her richest provinces in Georgia and Azerbaijan, gave her least chance of all of establishing a viable Republic on her own. Surrounded as she was by countries actually or potentially hostile, she had every incentive to ally herself closely with the rest of Transcaucasia.

The question of federation was raised again in the spring of 1919, when the Georgians and the Tartars, fearing an attack by Denikin, proposed a military alliance of Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia to meet that danger. In their view, such an alliance would necessarily have led to a Confederation. A conference held at Tiflis resulted in a Tartar-Georgian agreement for common action in the event of an attack by Denikin. Armenia, however, found herself unable to join, owing to the pressing danger from the Turks and to the amicable relations which existed between herself and Denikin. Other attempts were made, notably in the autumn of 1919, during the meeting of the Armenian and Azerbaijanian Prime Ministers, but without any practical result.

All the foreign Powers which have intervened in the Caucasus during recent years have been impressed by the desirability of a close union of the various peoples, the suppression of tariffs and Customs duties between them, and the unification of their railways, monetary systems, and so forth. The Germans, who entered in May, 1918, had worked out a scheme for a Caucasian State, and tried to persuade the three Republics to adopt it, but their efforts came to nothing. The Americans, too, strove to form a Confederation in the autumn of 1919, but in vain. Even the Kemalist Turks have persistently hinted to the Governments of Georgia and Armenia that, although they question the strength or importance of those States as they exist, they would

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consider a Caucasian Confederation an adequate rampart against any movement from the North.

The causes of these repeated failures are many, but the principal one is undoubtedly to be sought in the mutual distrust of the Transcaucasian peoples. The Transcaucasian Federation of the spring of 1918 proved that if the peoples have certain common interests, they have also other interests which are divergent, and in some cases conflicting. All parties have agreed upon the necessity of discovering a basis of unity, but the difficulty has been to find an acceptable formula for the application of the principle in practical affairs. It is no secret in the Caucasus that even the Tartar-Georgian alliance was never very solid, and that both parties were always on the alert against each other.

The question of a union of the Transcaucasian peoples is the critical problem for Allied policy in the Caucasus. The Allies recognise that the creation of a buffer State between Russia and Turkey would serve their interests. But the peoples are so mingled and their interests so interdependent that it would be practically impossible to create a strong buffer State out of a single one of the national groups. Azerbaijan monopolises the oil, Georgia is the country of transit, Armenia debouches on Persia, and the communications of all three with the world at large pass through the same port—Batoum. Hence, evidently, if the Transcaucasian Republics are to maintain (or to regain) their independence, they must find some form of union compatible with freedom in their internal affairs. The peoples of the Caucasus still aspire to an independent existence, in spite of everything. They are not ungrateful for the material prosperity which Russia gave them, but none the less they wish to determine their own destinies. Their own interests—and the interests of the Allied Powers—require mutual collaboration and mutual concessions. Even now, despite the recent movement back towards Russia, if they can devise a formula for unity in diversity, they have still a chance of achieving political salvation.

Tiflis, December 25, 1920.

R. N.

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How Sultan after Sultan with his Pomp
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—OMAR KHAYYAM.

I see that there has been some correspondence in the *Busreh Times* on the subject of lions in Irak. The editor remarks in a note that he does not think there are any lions left in Mesopotamia nowadays; and hazards the opinion that few people living in the country "have ever seen a lion except perhaps in a menagerie." As far as my personal observations and investigations carried me, they led me to the same conclusion a good many years ago; for the only lion case I could ever hear of was one in which an American traveller "thought" he had seen one in the dim light of early morning, and had driven it off by waving his arms and hopping towards it. That story, I am free to confess, left me *quite* unconcerned, and as far as I could make out, none of the Arabs of Lower Mesopotamia, at any rate, had any good idea of what a lion looks like. On the other hand, they did not hesitate to describe some wild cats which I shot as "lions," and I understand that they referred to some Danish boarhounds by the same title. Loftus and other travellers of his time undoubtedly saw lions in the country, and it would be interesting to know the date of the latest authenticated appearance of one. Can any reader help?

In my *Morning Post* I read a few days ago, of a number of camels, goats, mules, and horses from the Drury Lane production setting out for Newcastle. The "Garden of Allah," it seems, is to be presented in the provinces, and the migrating quadrupeds were bound, in the first place, for Newcastle. What the chilly (and, dare I add, grimy) North will make of the play I do not know; though I suppose it will take to it as kindly as London has done. But I strongly suspect that the mules and camels, with their attendant Arabs, will find the change not at all to their liking. According to the *Post*, they ("the animals and some of the Arabs," at any rate) will encamp on a plot of ground outside Newcastle. It does not sound exactly cosy in this weather, does it?

A very charming lady who has lately returned from India tells me that she travelled on a big ex-German steamer which was barely half full. The boat was in use as a military transport; but even so it seems very strange to me that, in these days of complaints about shortage of accommodation, any steamer should be allowed to sail (or steam) between India and Home with so much cabin room running to waste, so to say. It may be that this is not the exact season that most people would choose to come to England; but there can be very little doubt that many officials and civilians would be thankful for the opportunity of getting home, or sending their women and children home, at a moderate price; and surely the making of arrangements which would enable them to do so on transports that have so much room to spare should not be beyond the capacity of the shipping authorities. If so, they had better hand over their job to Messrs. Cook and Son.

CORSAIR.

A MOSLEM PROTEST.

We have received from the Hon. Secretary of the London Moslem League (Mr. M. H. Ispahani) a copy of a letter addressed by him on behalf of the Committee of the League to the Prime Minister. The letter refers to the intention expressed by King Constantine, in his speech to the Greek Chamber, to continue the campaign in Asia Minor, and to the advance eastwards of the Greek Army in that region. In the opinion of the Committee, the result of this advance, "with its attendant miseries, sufferings and destruction of lives," will be "so prejudicial to British interests in the East that they feel it their duty to bring its full significance to the notice of the Prime Minister." They are of opinion that the ferment in India is "principally due to the conditions prevailing in Asia Minor," and they are convinced that "the restoration of normal conditions in India is impossible so long as Greek ambitions keep Asia Minor in a constant state of disturbance." The news of the sufferings of the Turkish people resulting from Greek aggression and oppression has, the letter states, created intense anxiety and sympathy among the people of India, and unfortunately the British Government is held responsible, however unjustly, for the continuance of the painful tragedy in Western Asia. The letter then urges a revision of the Treaty of Sevres, and renews a suggestion put forward in an earlier letter for the taking of plebiscites among the Moslem populations of Asia Minor and Thrace on the question of their subjection to Greek rule. It concludes with the expression of loyalty to the King, and a request for prompt consideration of the Committee's suggestions.

COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Great Britain and Greece.

One of the most serious problems with which the new Greek Government has been confronted has been the financial question. Our Athens correspondent deals with the position in a message which will be found in another column in this issue. He points out that owing to the great expenditure entailed to maintain the Greek forces in Asia Minor, the Government's requirements amount to about four million drachmæ daily, and there is thus a deficit of, roughly, sixty million drachmæ monthly. Obviously, a loan is the only recourse open to the Government, and an attempt has been made to obtain one from America, but, according to our correspondent, small hopes are entertained of help in that direction; a view which is amply borne out by recent reports from America. Attempts are now being made to enter into negotiations here, and in certain contingencies it would not be surprising if Greece found this country much more willing to come to her aid than the United States. The ties of sympathy between Great Britain and Greece have always been very strong, and recent events cannot be allowed to obscure the wider issue that Greece has now immensely enhanced responsibilities in the Near East, and that upon their adequate fulfilment a very great deal must depend. But a loan, if such be arranged, can mean at the best merely a temporary solution of the financial position, the permanent settlement of which must depend on a rigid policy of economy by the Greek Government. And that, of course, cannot be hoped for so long as conditions demand the existence of large forces in Asia Minor.

America and Mesopotamia Oil.

America's dissatisfaction at the position with regard to the Mesopotamian oilfields would appear to have increased as a result of the publication of the unofficial text of this country's mandate for Mesopotamia. It would appear probable that the paragraph to which exception is taken is that which states that "the mandatory must see that there is no discrimination in Mesopotamia against the nationals of any State which is a member of the League of Nations (including the companies incorporated under the laws of such State) as compared with the nationals of the mandatory or any foreign State in matters concerning taxation, commerce, or navigation, the exercise of industries or professions, or in the treatment of ships or aircraft. . . ." There is really nothing in the paragraph which can justly be interpreted as indicating discrimination against America in regard to the exploitation of the Mesopotamian oilfields, but the phrase which presumably touched America on a sore point is the reference to membership of the League of Nations. It would seem that America regards participation in oil development as the legitimate reward of victory, but since the Armistice she has done nothing to safeguard the results of the Allies' success, and yet expects to share equally with the other Allies who have from the beginning to the end borne the burden and heat of the day, while herself accepting none of the responsibilities.

Retaliation?

Unquestionably, it is much to be regretted that further comments on the other side of the water should not have been suspended pending the arrival of the British reply to America's Note. As it is, opinion there is tending in the direction of restricting foreign enterprise, and it has also been proposed that an embargo should be placed on the export of oil from America in certain conditions. As regards the latter suggestion, a contemporary not inaptly points out that America's exports are largely dependent on her imports of oil, and it would be equally open to other countries to take similar action.

Artificial Trade Barriers—

Discussing the international commercial situation at the annual meeting of the London County, Westminster, and Parr's Bank, Mr. Walter Leaf criticised very strongly the proposal to erect what he termed "artificial trade barriers." The fundamental principle of international banters, he declared, was that "if thou wilt not buy, neither shalt thou sell," and he expressed surprise that there should be talk about "anti-dumping," "key industries," and the like, the effect of which would be to hamper the imports which were

needed to pay for the goods which filled British warehouses, and for which a large part of Europe was hungering. In his view, legislation of this kind will put an effective bar to any export credits' scheme that may be adopted, and will effectually bar any prospect of any improvement in the position of the Continental exchanges. Unfortunately, the question is a many-sided one, and, while admitting the disadvantages attaching to a scheme of special protection, it has to be borne in mind that the object for which it is desired to safeguard our key industries is to prevent any danger in the future of our again being taken unprepared. The real difficulty is obviously in deciding what are, and what are not, legitimate "key industries." "Anti-dumping" is another question altogether, and ought not to be linked up with the problem of "key industries." Here, too, while any measures may be condemned *prima facie* as handicapping the promotion of international trade, there is another side to the question, and that is the effect on the industries of this country if Germany, for instance, were allowed to "dump" goods at will at a time when the state of the labour market causes grave disquiet.

—And Near-Eastern Commerce.

Great Britain, it has to be remembered, stands in a somewhat unique position as regards the necessity for protective tariffs, and any measures that might be adopted would only affect trade with Germany, and they could not by any stretch of imagination be placed on a parallel with the vexatious systems of artificial barriers that have been set up in Europe, and especially in the Near East. I imagine that Mr. Leaf must have had the region with which this journal deals particularly in view when he said that the economic depression on the Continent was largely due to those barriers which states were setting up between themselves. The problem of "key industries" is unknown to Near Eastern countries, and it is difficult also to see how "dumping" could affect any of the states other than by giving the inhabitants an era of low prices. But, despite there being no real reason for it, restrictions of all kinds hamper commerce between the individual states, and, so long as this condition obtains, it is obvious that the process of economic recovery must be retarded. As Mr. Leaf aptly points out, the Brussels Conference unanimously passed a resolution recommending that "each country should aim at the progressive restoration of that freedom of commerce which prevailed before the war, including the withdrawal of artificial restrictions on and discriminations of price against external trade." So far, unfortunately, the Near Eastern states as a whole have shown no indications of willingness to follow this policy.

Progress of British Trade Corporation.

Despite the adverse conditions, the report of the British Trade Corporation for the past year shows a record of consistent progress. The profits amounted to £119,300, as against £88,340 for 1919. The dividend is, however, maintained at 8s. per share, or 4 per cent., and £61,900 is carried forward. Considering the circumstances, the results achieved by the corporation in its brief career can only be regarded as highly satisfactory.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 17.

The Economic Situation.

Cotton has somewhat improved in price, but the movement in favour of holding up as much as possible until the market improves is still strong. This past week another large meeting of cotton-growers, purporting to represent one-third of the whole cotton area, was held in Cairo, when it was decided to constitute an association for the general protection of the agricultural interests of the country as regards both the production and the marketing of crops. In the matter of the present cotton crisis the members of the association engage themselves not to sell their cotton at a price below sixty dollars without the permission of the association. In the event of any member doing so he would be subject to a fine of £E1 per kantar, and have his name published in the papers as a defaulter. It is to be laid down that if members receive permission to sell below sixty dollars 5 per cent. of any amount exceeding forty dollars which they receive for their crop shall be paid to the association. The promoters intend to get the banks to agree to advances up to 50 per cent. of the present value of the crops of individual members on the condition that the loans will not be called in or owners be compelled to sell before October 31 next. A further meeting is to be held towards the end of this month in order to obtain signatures to the agreement. Every member must possess at least ten kantars, and the promoters say they expect to be able to control at least two million kantars of the 1920 crop. This is certainly a praiseworthy effort in the direction of co-operation, the success of which will, of course, depend on the extent to which the more affluent members of the agricultural community afford the association material support, and the banks are prepared to accord the facilities which the promoters want from them. At the same time, this combine, while it is highly probable that it will not attain the result of raising the price of cotton as the promoters expect, may have consequences of serious import to the country, which they evidently do not realise.

CAIRO, January 23.

"Monopolist" Lighting.

A good deal of feeling has been aroused by the action of the Electric Light and Gas Company in increasing the tariff by something like 30 per cent. The company, in both cases, has a concession from the Government, and it is considered that such an increase is quite unwarranted, especially in view of the fact that the price of coal has considerably diminished and the company has in the past been able to declare fairly substantial dividends. The Government appears to have taken no action in the matter, and the general public are powerless to do anything except through the Press. A contrast is drawn with what has taken place in Alexandria, where the municipality has throughout put up a determined and generally fruitful opposition to the exploitation of what it calls "monopolist" companies and Cairenes are asking themselves whether, notwithstanding the drawbacks in other respects, it would not be more satisfactory for their interests if they also had a municipality instead of having to rely upon the Government to protect them.

PORT SAID, January 25.

The Slump and Shipping.

Port Said, in common with the rest of the world, is feeling the slump in trade, but perhaps it is not so much affected as many other places, its business activities being principally connected with shipping rather than cotton, and the fall in freights has not sensibly diminished the number of ships coming through yet.

The stringency of money and the necessity of finding ready cash have made some of the retailers have sales in which the reductions in prices have not been wholly fictitious.

One cannot help again reverting to the uncertainty of conditions at home which is killing British trade. The construction of a large warehouse here has been held up for over a year owing to the non-arrival of the iron necessary. An English firm promised it last May, but after several months said that owing to labour conditions at home they did not know when they could fulfil the order. The order was then given to a Belgian firm, who delivered the goods in Port Said two months after the contract was signed. There is no comment suitable!

It was customary before the war for most of the leading business houses in the town to supply their customers with calendars at the beginning of the year, but few are doing it now. One retailer said that he had had some on order in England since last September, but they had not come to hand yet. Another said that the cheapest calendars he could get were priced at 4s. each, with a minimum order of 500. As he said the least number that he would need would be 2,000 he did not feel justified in expending £400 on what, after all, is fancy advertising. A local printer has been selling office calendars, with his own name very conspicuously displayed, at 7s. each.

THE SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, January 16.

Mechanical Transport.

The Darfur campaign showed up the many difficulties involved in maintaining an efficient transport service in a practically roadless country. Since then the Egyptian Army have gone into the problem with varying results. It appears an essential fact that convoys should consist of not less than six vehicles, with repairing depots at intervals of not more than 100 kilometres. The High Commissioner made a memorable trip from Wad Medani to Gedaref and Kassala and back, with a convoy of some twenty odd cars, including two heavy Rolls-Royce armoured cars, a Rolls-Royce Box car, a Talbot Box car, several Crossley's R.A.F. touring models, and tenders, and, of course, the ubiquitous and ever-useful Ford. On results the tour was an unqualified success, but mainly owing to the efforts of the personnel in charge of the convoy. It is practically impossible to get any statistics of such a trip that could be published for various obvious reasons. The perfect vehicle for desert work has not yet been evolved, and I am inclined to think that an air-cooled engine on the principle of the "Franklin," with a D. J. Smith producer plant, working on charcoal, a staple product of the country, would go a long way towards solving the problem.

The only published record, as far as I know, of any long trip in this country is that by Mr. Joseph Rhodes, of the Sudan Government, who travelled in a 15-ton Fiat light lorry, and whose experiences and ideas give one food for thought. One of the first of the gentler sex to do any long distance trips in the Sudan, was Mrs. Rosita Forbes, who journeyed from Medani to Gedaref in a 5-ton Fiat lorry, and from Gedaref to Kassala and thence to Asmara in a light Fiat. Her account of her travels and experiences will be welcomed by many residents in the country.

GREECE.

ATHENS, January 15.

The Financial Position.

Speaking to a journalist on the financial situation of the country, the Minister of Finance, M. Calogeropoulos, said:—"We will make the best of it. We are determined to do all in our power to retain the Army on a war footing, and we are prepared to spend our last centime for this purpose. I am hoping, however, that it will not come to that, and that the Allies will finally believe in the sincerity of our intentions."

Wheat Imports.

According to information supplied by the Minister of Foodstuffs, 33,000 tons of wheat will shortly be shipped to

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this country from America. On January 17 an adjudication will be held in Athens for the supply of a further 35,000 tons of wheat. The Minister of Foodstuffs states that these 68,000 tons will suffice for the needs of the country for the next three months.

ATHENS, January 25.

A British Loan?

The Ralli Government is actively engaged in endeavouring to conclude a foreign loan, but up to the present its efforts have not met with the desired success. So far the Greek Government has succeeded in meeting its obligations by withdrawing the 200 million drachmæ—the balance of the loan of 400 millions concluded by M. Venizelos—but this sum, which is being used for the settlement of many debts and for the extra expenditure in connection with the indemnities paid to civil servants and officers who had been dismissed by the previous Government and have now been reinstated, will not last for ever, and the Government is showing signs of nervousness. The normal State revenue only amounts to two million drachmæ *per diem*, and is quite insufficient to meet the Government requirements, which, owing to the vast expenditure which the maintenance of the army in Asia Minor entails, are approximately four millions daily. There is thus a deficit of about sixty million drachmæ per month, which could only be covered by a loan. At first the Government considered the possibility of concluding an internal loan, but the idea was abandoned, as it was thought that the two loans which had already been concluded in the country during the last twelve months were more than enough, and that a third would not be a success. The only solution, therefore, would be to conclude a loan abroad, for which the Government is offering special guarantees. America was at first sounded, but although that country has not definitely declined, very meagre hopes are entertained as to a successful issue. The Government has now directed its attention to Great Britain, which, it is thought, is rather friendly disposed towards M. Venizelos's successors, and will not refuse to do something in order to relieve the financial crisis.

Cheap Olive Oil in Crete.

Owing to the prohibition of the export of olive oil from Crete this commodity has fallen considerably in price in the island. Good quality oil is now offered at 3 drachmæ per oke, whereas in Athens one has to pay as much as 5.40 drachmæ.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, January 23.

Banca Nationala.

It is announced that the Government has come to an agreement with the Banca Nationala for the prolongation of its privilege for a further twenty years. This privilege will extend to the whole country, including the new provinces. The capital of the bank is to be increased by a new issue of shares open to public subscription. The State will reserve 12,000 shares as a price for the prolongation of the privilege.

Purchase of Army Equipment.

I am now able to give further particulars of the Roumanian Government's purchase of army equipment. The supplies consist of 500,000 complete uniforms and 750,000 pairs of army boots. The uniforms, as well as the boots, are of American and English make, of very good quality, and were old stock left behind to be disposed of after the war. The

offer was made to the Roumanian Government by Messrs. Barabas Leroy, of Paris. Payment will be in two year Treasury Bonds. A complete uniform costs 150 French francs, and the authorities are very satisfied with the purchase, as they have completed the whole army's equipment for a sum of about 500 million lei.

The Department of Supplies and Reconstruction has contracted a further purchase, on the same conditions of payment, of large quantities of sugar and rice. In connection with this, a special commission has left for Paris provided with Treasury Bonds to the value of 98 million French francs to cover the above purchases. The commission will go to Marseilles to take delivery of the goods in order to transport them to Roumania.

Trade Situation.

The New Year has not started with hopeful prospects for trade. Many merchants have had to carry over large stocks which they received during the autumn, not to mention the large stocks still lying on the quays at the ports, the consequence being that a great portion of the merchants' capital is locked up. The atmosphere is rendered still more unfavourable by the existing stagnation, and during the holidays wholesalers as well as retailers have sold very little. Under such conditions the various offers for goods which come from firms abroad and in the country find no response. England and America, who only a very short time ago sold f.o.b. their ports and payment in advance, are now sending offers with samples, and a great number of travellers, who are very willing to accept even sales on open credit from 9-12 months. Owing to the wholesalers abstaining from ordering any more goods until their present stocks are exhausted, the great wave of reduction in prices which is so rampant abroad has not yet had much influence on the local market.

Miscellaneous.

A marked improvement has taken place in passenger traffic, but goods transport is still in a hopeless condition.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, January 12.

Trade Depressed.

An unfortunate depression prevails in the sphere of trade. There has been a check to all carob transactions. The prices obtained by growers were good, and the outlook for merchants appeared promising. But the results of a shipment to Liverpool proved disappointing, and have led promptly to a fall in prices in England, and to the expectation of a further fall. The consequence has been a disastrous stagnation. A large quantity of carob beans is being held in the hope of a better turn of events; which means some deterioration as time goes on. As regards raisins, there is a real movement towards better methods of preparation, but too late to have much effect on last autumn's output. It is, however, quite probable that the present year will see some real advance, in some parts, at any rate, and if the results should be advantageous, as they could not fail to be, the movement should rapidly become more general. Cyprus raisins, when properly handled, are excellent, and are readily bought at good prices, but the supply of this article does not yet meet even the local demand. There has been some rain, but the distribution has not been satisfactory. There is, however, no need yet to be at all despondent regarding cereal crops.

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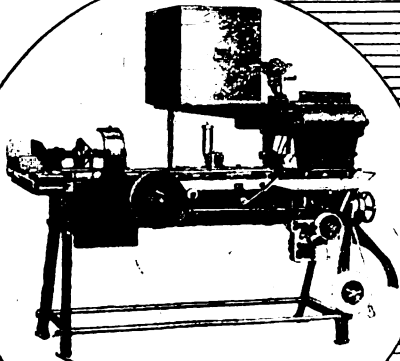
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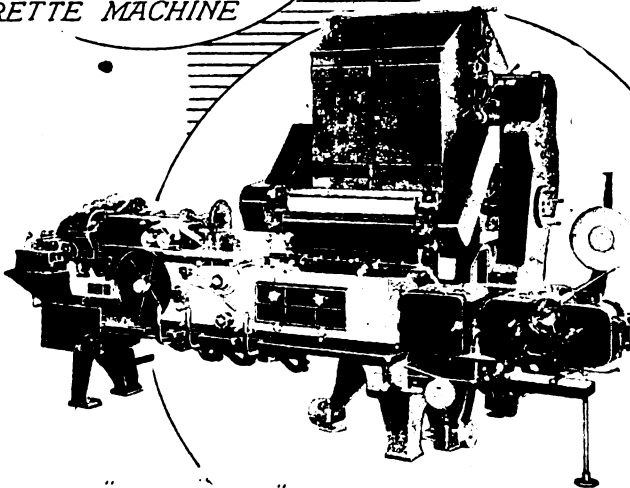
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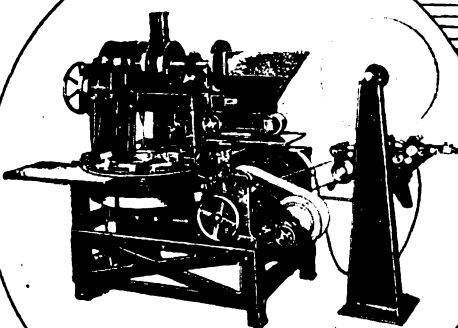
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ENGINEERING.**The Tractor Industry.**

With a view to ascertaining the present extent of the tractor industry in the United States, reports have been asked for and received from some 80 firms engaged in the industry. From these it appears—and the figures should be read and considered carefully by British firms—that during the year 1919 they manufactured a total of 164,590 tractors of all kinds. In the previous year, according to published returns, 132,697 were turned out, so that the increase is considerable. A point which has to be taken into account is a fairly general assertion that the output would have been a good deal higher had it not been for labour troubles and the comparative scarcity and high prices of raw materials.

Some food for thought lies in the fact that during the year 136,162 of these tractors were sold in the United States, only 19,693 being exported. The balance is, of course, in stock. It would seem that makers had expected to export a much higher proportion, and we are faced, therefore, with the deduction that either the price of the American tractor was too high for foreign buyers or that some prejudice exists against American machines in overseas market. If it is a question of price, both British and American manufacturers and suppliers are in the same boat. If, on the other hand, it is a matter of prejudice, there would seem to be an opportunity for British firms to make their tractors more widely known. The Latin-American Press Service pointed out some few weeks ago that, whilst there was a fair demand in Brazil and other Latin-American countries for tractors for comparatively light work, there was a strong feeling against buying these from the United States, and pretty much the same story comes from Colombia, Cuba, and Mexico.

There is no doubt that British made tractors are equal, if not superior, to the best American types and designs, and this fact has been amply demonstrated by the Austin Motor Company, who are turning out tractors by the hundred which are models of efficiency. There are, of course, certain difficulties in the way of export, but these can be overcome, no doubt. Whether that be so or not, one thing is evident, and that is that buyers, whether in the Near East, in South or Central America, or in China and Manchuria, can rest assured that when they obtain British-made tractors they will find them economical, highly efficient, thoroughly reliable, and able in every way to withstand the conditions they will be called upon to meet without any need of frequent repair or highly skilled attention.

Welding Cast Iron.

It appears that the difficulties sometimes met with in welding cast-iron by means of the electric arc are not due to any trouble found in melting the metal or to the presence of impurities, but are due to the fact that the sudden intense heat of the arc over a local area results in the production of a hard weld and the introduction of contraction stresses which are sometimes so great as to result in cracking. When the carbon welding process is used cast-iron welding rods may be fused into a cast-iron piece, but the Lincoln Welding Company inform me that using the metal electrode process and a soft iron or steel electrode, it is impossible to make a reliable weld between the added material and the cast-iron. However, by using the metal electrode process certain work can be done by the introduction of steel studs in the cast-iron pieces to be welded together, so that a certain amount of strength is obtained by the bond formed between the steel studs by the welded material. Care should be taken not to play the arc on the weld any longer than is necessary to give complete fusion, and after the weld is completed the piece should be wrapped in asbestos paper or cloth and allowed to cool, according to the size of the piece, from eight to twenty-four hours.

OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

In order that it may be possible to establish within the prescribed time with the Allied Clearing Offices their claims to repayment at the pre-war rate of exchange of the amount due to them of the funds in marks lying in Germany on account of the Ottoman Converted Unified 4 per cent. Debt, 1903-1906, the British holders of bonds of this loan are invited to deposit, before March 1, the arrear coupons due March, 1915, to March, 1920, inclusive (Nos. 23 to 33), with the Council of Foreign Bondholders, 17, Moorgate Street, E.C.2, from whom details of the exchange can be obtained.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated January 31:—During the week ended January 22 crop prospects generally fair. Recent rainfall very beneficial in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and Bihar and Orissa, and beneficial in the Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, and parts of Central India, Bombay and Madras, where more rain is still required. Crops in Bombay, Deccan and Hyderabad are poor. Bombay cotton market easy; fine M.G. Omra, March, Rs. 251. Piecegoods market shows little improvement, but slightly better inquiry. Calcutta jute market quiet with drop in prices. Hessians steady with fair business done. Heavy goods very quiet. Freight rates on jute and gunnies continue to fall. Imperial Bank of India's rate is 7 per cent.

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EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market Further Depressed.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

Another unsatisfactory week has been experienced, and if anything the situation has gone from bad to worse. There has been talk of an increased curtailment in production, and even when low rates are taken, there is no definite relief, so naturally many firms are contemplating closing their factories altogether for an indefinite period. In raw cotton circles a very unsettled feeling prevails, and there seems to be no end to the weakness in prices. This is due principally to the undecided attitude of American farmers in regard to the reduction in the next cotton crop, but even if next season's supplies are cut down by half, there is no prospect of any shortage. At the present moment the tightness of money is not quite so pronounced as was the case a month or so ago, but even now difficulties are experienced in financing trade, and many firms are naturally harassed by the heavy stocks of dear goods. With regard to cloth, no business worth mentioning has taken place for the outlets of the Near East, but dribbling lots have gone through to Turkey and the Levant. It is reported that there is a shortage of goods in the interiors of various countries; but there are large supplies of dear stocks that are held up at the distributing centres, particularly in Egypt. The news received from India has not been encouraging, and inquiry has fallen off, and only isolated sales at cut figures have been reported. Dhooties, in small lots, have gone through for Calcutta, but the transactions have been generally most unremunerative to the seller. Trade with China has been sluggish, but a brighter outlook is in sight in view of the near approach of the Chinese New Year. Fancies such as cambrics have been in request for Java on certain terms. On the whole, the position of affairs at present is against any increased activity. In export yarns a few odd lines have been booked chiefly for India and the Continent, and demand has also been in evidence for the Levant, but generally speaking the market has been sluggish. With regard to Egyptian counts a very dull state of affairs has existed, and prices continue poor.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended February 3:—

Conditions show practically no change since our last report. Holders of Sakellaridis, especially, have shown an increased willingness to part, and quotations have again given way materially. Spinners appear ashamed to make the low bids they do, yet in nine cases out of ten they get their cotton. In fact, the opinion is rapidly gaining ground that it is fatal to business to refuse a bid of any kind. A fair general inquiry has been experienced, but the actual amount of business resulting was only moderate, and most of that took place at cuts well below the official quotations. We would again impress upon our friends that these quotations are misleading, and that when a reduction is made it is generally a couple of days behind time! For example, although to-day's quotation for fully good fair Sakellaridis is given as 19.00d., or roughly 3d. over contracts, the same cotton could certainly be picked up here and there on the market at about 1d. over the current price of contracts. Trade reports continue to vary round the small compass of bad to worse. C.i.f. business is conspicuous by its absence. Total sales 1,000 bales, which includes 20 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced 2d. per lb., with extra fine exceptionally 1d. lower. Brown and Upper are reduced 1d. per lb.

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LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has improved to a certain extent. There has been a larger demand for currants, and it is evident that supplies in the country are now by way of being exhausted. Figs have also been in much better request. Sultanias, however, continue a weak feature, and rates are generally lower.

Sugar.—The market has been weak. West Indian Crystallised has been done at 63s. to 64s. 6d.; White Mauritius, however, is unchanged at 71s. Home refined has continued to rule in active demand at the official rates.

Coffee.—Prices are lower on balance. Nairobi good bold-greenish has been done at 117s. 6d. to 120s.; while Uganda good gold has come to business at 88s. The futures market shows little change. Quotations are: March, 45s. 6d.; May, 46s.; July, 46s. 6d.; September, 47s.; December, 48s.

Oilseeds.—The market has been pronouncedly weak. Indian linseed has come to business at 17s., a drop of 3s., while La Plata is also down at 15s. 3d. Rapeseed has been weak. Toria has been done at 19s., and bold Ferozepore at 18s., a decline of 6d. in each case.

Seed Oils.—Prices are again lower. Linseed oil at 13s. 6d. is 6d. down. Crude rape oil has lost 3s. at 50s. Refined cotton oil has fallen 2s. to 38s., while Egyptian crude is 3s. lower at 27s. Turpentine is unchanged at 80s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 180s. cwt.; butter, 317s. cwt.; cheese, 160s. cwt.; chillies, 125s. cwt.; eggs, 30s. 6d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 11½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 90s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 114s. cwt.; East India bold, 112s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 116s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 37s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 160s. cwt.; lard, 125s. cwt.; nutmegs, 10½d. lb.; 110's to 80's; pepper (Singapore, black), 4½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 9d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 133s. 6d. cwt.; sultanias (Smyrna), 120s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 90s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 72s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 76s. cwt.; Mauritius, 70s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 25s. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 15s. 6d. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £6 15s. ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 6½d. lb.; Java, 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 105s. 6d. qr.; wheat (English white), 75s. qr.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer: first, 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; cows: first, 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; cows, second, 60 lbs. and up, 4d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4d. lb.; bulls (first), 4½d. lb.; bulls (second), 3½d. lb.; kips (first), 6½d. lb.; kips (second), 5½d. lb.; kips (third), 4½d. lb.; horse hides, 6s. to 19s. Calcutta Market.—Prices in rupees per 20 lbs. Arsenic hides, cows: Agras, 9.0 to 15.0; Durbhargas, 6.0 to 7.8; Patnas, 5.0 to 16.0; salted cows, 4.0 to 8.8; arsenic hides, buffalo, 2.8 to 7.8. Skins: calf, 8.0 to 10.0 per 20 lbs.; goat, 90.0 to 130.0 per 100 pieces.

Metals.—Aluminium, £165 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; antimony, £41 ton; copper (standard), £68 6s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £78 10s. ton; gold bars, 107s. 0½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 215s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 240s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 7s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 2s. 5d. unit; molybdenite, 62s. 6d. unit; nickel, £215 ton; platinum, 300s. oz.; plumbago, £37 10s. ton; quicksilver, £12 5s. bottle; silver bars, 38d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £24 7s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £169 5s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 31s. 6d. box; wolfram, 16s. 3d. unit; zinc sheets, £40 ton.

Chemicals.—Acids: boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 3d. lb.; citric, 2s. 4½d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 0½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £25 8s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £57 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 2½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £21 ton; borax crystals, 38s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 170s. cwt. Potassium: bi-chromate, 1s. 2½d. lb.; chlorate, 7d. lb.; caustic, £70 ton; nitrate, £60 ton; permanganate, 2s. 4½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 4d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £34 10s. ton. Sodium: crystals, 150s. ton; bicarbonate, £10 15s. ton; bichromate, 9½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £10 15s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £25 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £25 10s. ton; prussiate, 11½d. lb.; nitrate, £21 15s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £37 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 4s. 4½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 6½d. oz.; red lead, £44 ton; white dry lead, £49 5s. ton; white ground lead, £59 15s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 9.67d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian, Sakellaridis), 19.00d. lb.; Linseed (La Plata), £16 2s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £19 10s. ton; soya beans, £13 5s. ton; palm kernels, £20 12s. 6d. ton. Oils: linseed, £31 15s. ton; soya, £32 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £29 ton; olive, 13s. gallon; ground nut, £40 ton; palm, £40 15s. ton; rape (crude), £54 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3d. gallon; turpentine, 82s. 6d. cwt. Rubber: plantation (No. 1 crêpe), 1s. 1d. lb.; smoked sheet, 10½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. 0½d. lb.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended January 10 amounted to £E13,733, making the total for the year £E395,700. For the corresponding periods of last year the receipts were £E16,188 and £E294,615 respectively.

DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their monthly report state:—

Currants.—The volume of business passing shows no sign of development, buyers being content to adopt a waiting attitude, and no distinct improvement is to be looked for so long as the present depressing economic conditions continue. In fact, a really substantial revival does not seem possible until the Government scheme relating to European trade is seriously carried out. The European countries which were well nigh ruined by the war cannot rehabilitate themselves without external assistance, and so long as this is withheld export trade is paralysed. The adverse movement in the Greek exchange had an unsettling effect on the market, and some holders reduced their prices, without however increasing sales to any extent. The trade was chiefly in speciality parcels of Zante growth, at 80s. to 82s.; shade dried Vostizza quarter-cases, at 90s. to 96s.; also some good Pyrgos, at 64s. to 68s.; old fruit of good quality shows value, 32s. to 45s. Quotations are: Pyrgos, 64s. to 68s.; Amalias, 68s. to 70s.; Patras, 68s. to 72s.; Gulf and Panariti, 77s. to 87s.; Zante, 75s. to 80s.; Vostizza, 88s. to 96s. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date, 18,165 tons.

Valencia Raisins.—Selected. No inquiry existing, and seedless offered without any response.

Sultanas continue to be pressed for sale, and where transactions take place lower prices are accepted. Quotations are: Ordinary to medium, 120s. to 125s.; good to fine, 127s. to 140s.; Greeks, 125s. to 135s. Further arrivals of Afghans are to hand, but the trade shows very little interest in the fruit. Quotations are: Red variety, 90s. to 95s.; yellow variety, 100s. to 115s.

Figs continue their downward course, and bags Naturals are selling in retail quantities at 35s. to 45s.

COTTON STOCKS IN LIVERPOOL.

The Liverpool Cotton Association reports that the actual stock of cotton in Liverpool on January 28, as declared by warehouse keepers, was as follows (in bales):—American, 670,161; Brazilian, 36,654; Egyptian, 44,463; Peruvian, 171,831; West Indian, etc., 1,558; African, 50,989; East Indian, etc., 72,660.

TRADE OF THE BAHRAIN ISLANDS.

H.M. Political Agent at Bahrain, in a report on the trade and commerce of the Bahrain Islands in the year ended March 31, 1920, states that the total value of imports into Bahrain amounted to £1,414,423. This compares favourably with £1,350,060 in 1918-19, there being an increase of £64,363, which is satisfactory considering the poor state of shipping.

The total value of exports for the year 1919-20 amounted to £946,344 as against £1,317,811 in 1918-19, a decrease of £371,467. The pearl trade continues to dominate the commercial situation.

CULTIVATION IN THE SUDAN.

The following particulars are taken from the C.E.B. report for November:—

Halfa Province.—The Dameira crops are all in and have been above the average of recent years, both in yield and quality. All natives are busy preparing their ground for the Shitwi crops. Efforts are being made to get in all seeds at the same time, with the hope that it will be easier to deal with any bird pests later. Vegetables are very late this year in coming on the market.

Red Sea Province.—Several showers of rain fell during the month, and the grazing along the littoral as far as Mohd. Ghul is reported to be very good. The crops are reported to be far above the average for this province.

White Nile Province.—So far as can be judged at the present, the total crops of dura and dukhn of the province will be estimated at about 550,000 ardebs. The cultivators were seriously handicapped at critical stages of their crops by the universal prevalence of fever owing to the numbers of mosquitoes which bred out in pools and wet grass during the heavy rains. Fortunately, the form of malaria was comparatively mild, and deaths few, but the lack of people in sufficiently good health to weed adequately the large areas sown has turned into a half million ardebs what might otherwise easily have been a crop of three-quarters of a million ardebs. Heavy showers of late and unwanted rain also did considerable damage at the last stage of the crop. Considerable damage is stated to have been done to dukhn in the southern district by the "dueikh" insect. Generally speaking, there has been too much rain for dukhn. The form of the name of the insect pest which has affected the simsim crops so considerably is given from the southern district as aruma.

Sennar Province.—Crops in Sennar, Singa, Dinder, and Northern Karkoj are excellent.

NATIONAL BANK OF TURKEY

(Affiliated to the British Trade Corporation).

ESTABLISHED 1909 BY IMPERIAL FIRMAN.

CAPITAL - - - £1,000,000 Sterling.

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The Bank has Agents in all the principal Cities of Europe, America, and the Far East, and has Correspondents throughout the World.

Every description of Banking business, in all its Financial and Commercial branches, undertaken.

Business Houses trading with Turkey can insure Foreign Exchange with the Bank. Banks, Commercial Houses and others having interests in Turkey are invited to apply for terms.

Manufacturers and Merchants may address their enquiries to the Head Office for Trade Lists of Importers and Exporters.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

LONDON COUNTY WESTMINSTER AND PARR'S BANK.

The International Situation.—"Export Credit" Schemes.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the above bank was held at the Head Office, 41, Lothbury, E.C., on February 3. Mr. Walter Leaf (the Chairman) presided.

The Chairman, after referring to the warnings he had uttered at the meeting a year ago, said the world now recognised that the war had not made it richer, as appeared during the time of unrestricted inflation, but that it was all the poorer. Losses had to be cut on a larger scale, and the natural man always hated cutting a loss. Last year he laid stress on individual extravagance: this year the complaint must be laid against the Government. Individual waste had been largely cut down under the stress of the times. Mr. Lloyd George asked that a lead in economy should be given by individuals. That lead, he (the Chairman) honestly thought had been given: it was high time that the Government should follow suit. The pressure of taxation was such that savings were seriously diminished—that was the real reason of the diminution of credits, and it was mainly in the direction of Government retrenchment that they must look for the possibility of a restoration of their resources.

Having mentioned the changes which had taken place in the Paris management, following the reorganisation of that branch, and alluded to other matters of domestic interest, he made a running commentary on the leading figures in the balance-sheet, observing that the percentage of their "advances" to current, deposit and other accounts at the end of 1918 was 30.8, on December 31, 1919, 42 per cent., and in the balance-sheet then before them 42.4 per cent., whilst their discounts in the past twelve months had also risen from 16.2 to 19.7 per cent. This was a sufficient answer to complaints of restriction of credit. During the boom of last spring the percentage of advances rose on June 30 to 47.8 per cent., but the reduction had been slow and gradual.

The Profits.

Proceeding, he said the year had been one of high rates of interest and hence, on the other hand, of large profits, and, on the other, of a large fall in the value of all investments. Both sprang from the same cause, and the latter had gone far towards cancelling the former. Their profits, already trenched upon by the growth of their expenses, due partly to income-tax, but still more to the liberal increases made in the salaries of the staff—an increase justified by the high cost of living—had been absorbed in providing an investment depreciation fund which enabled them to meet to the full the entire difference between the cost of their investments and the market price on December 31. Since then there had been a material depreciation, but, in this, their position was typical of that of the general industry of the country; it had been everywhere a year of large profits, but ended with the imperative necessity of writing down the value of the stocks, if the position was to be kept sound. The process was painful, but it had to be faced and the banks could, at least, claim to be setting the example when they urged borrowers that loans must not be used to bolster up prices when the only honest course was to cut the loss. To shrink from cutting losses was the way to panic. There was, he thought, no need to fear a panic, and the general situation was easier than a few weeks ago. A great deal in the way of quiet liquidation of losses had already been done without any disaster; large failures had been very few and had been well faced. A great deal had to be done yet, but there was every hope that this could also be dealt with. The most disquieting feature in the outlook was the Continental position, and the problem was how to sell on such terms of credit as would afford reasonable opportunities to their customers to buy. Having alluded to certain favourable factors in the Home trade position, the growth of exports, the improved labour position, the fall in the price of raw materials, and evidence of savings on a considerable scale, he said it could not be denied that taxation had reached a most serious point, but he saw no radical remedy for the present discontent except in world-wide disarmament. It was in the League of Nations that their best hope lay.

International Situation.

The international situation was at the root of everything that most disturbed their view. A year ago he said that all depended on their getting the current of international trade once more flowing freely, but the last twelve months had seen far too little advance in that direction. No progress had been made in setting on foot the exporting power of the enfeebled nations

of the Continent; in consequence their exchanges had gone from bad to worse and their own exports were crippled. They were driven to further issues of a discredited currency and to the process there seemed at the moment to be no end. Their endeavours were being directed to some scheme of barter to which goods could be exchanged for goods. At the moment they were discussing what was known as the Ter Meulen scheme, under which the depressed Continental countries should make themselves responsible for the purchases of their nationals, by the issue to them of bonds, under the auspices of the League of Nations, which they could give in payment for the goods they bought. Another alternative, brought forward by Sir Edward Mountbatten, was also before them, and had the advantage that it did not depend upon the rather ponderous machinery of the Ter Meulen scheme, but enabled them to face the position on their own grounds, with support in reserve from their own Government, with the aid of a part of the £26,000,000 which they had already earmarked for the assistance of export to the ravaged countries. Other proposals were before them, but the ultimate guarantee for all plans was the same. It was essential that all purchases made from them by foreign countries should be balanced by equivalent exports from them, which would enable the respective issuing countries to provide funds for the due redemption of their obligations. It was on the maintenance of this equivalent export that all schemes hung.

Mischievous Legislative Proposals.

It was amazing to him that, at the very moment when these plans were before them, they should be disturbed by rumours of further proposals to hamper the free exchange of goods, on which not only the scheme but any possible hopes of restoring their own pre-war position were entirely dependent. The fundamental principle of international barter, which in normal times was perhaps somewhat obscured by the smooth working of the exchanges, was that "if thou wilt not buy, neither shalt thou sell." It was most distressing to find that, at the very moment when one would have thought that this maxim was forcing itself upon the intelligence of the blindest, they should hear talk about "anti-dumping," "key industries," and the like, all of which were simply a demand for hampering or even prohibiting the imports which were needed to pay for the goods of which their warehouses were at the moment full to overflowing, and for which a large part of Europe was hungering. Plainly, if legislation to this effect were passed, it would put an effective stop to the Ter Meulen scheme, or to any modification of it. It would effectually bar any prospect of any improvement in the position of the Continental exchanges. It would, moreover, by keeping up costs at home place a most powerful means of competition in all neutral countries in the hands of nations whose exchanges were at a discount, and would probably be immediately effective in crushing their own foreign trade, which was surely burdened enough as it was. The economic depression of the Continent was largely due to the artificial barriers which the new states were setting up between themselves. This they were all agreed was wrong. Only a few months ago there sat in Brussels a conference of all the best financial intellects in Europe, and they drew up a series of resolutions showing the principles on which alone the economical restoration of the world was possible. With all their resolutions the best opinion everywhere was in agreement. The conference unanimously passed a resolution recommending that "within such limits and such time as may appear possible each country should aim at the progressive restoration of that freedom of commerce which prevailed before the war, including the withdrawal of artificial restrictions on and discriminations of price against external trade." They had surely had enough of Government interference with trade, and that in this critical moment, such intervention should be extended to the most vital and most delicate part of their commerce seemed to him only too likely to lead to disaster.

Adherence to Economic Laws.

He did not wish to sit down with the word "disaster" on his lips; he did not believe there was any need for disaster. He was convinced that, if their difficulties were allowed to work themselves out on their natural lines, they could see their way through them all. One great lesson of the war was that economic laws would have their way in the end, and that Government attempts at interference with them, if they postponed the inevitable result, only aggravated it. They had had an outcry, which had largely attained its end, for the removal of all political interference with trade and industry. Do not let them at the moment when the removal of the last of these mischievous interventions was in sight, recur to the bad old plan. Let them be far-sighted enough to resolve that they would have no more attempts to bolster up unsound positions and set their faces boldly to the task of working out their own salvation.

The report was unanimously adopted and other formal business transacted. A cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give the following extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for December:—

During the month of December there has been no improvement in the business situation at Constantinople, and it is difficult to see any marked amelioration until the political troubles of the country are settled. The rapid decline in Turkish currency added to the commercial nervousness here, and dealings have generally been very small indeed. Considerable stocks lie uncleared at the customs, and, until the exchange reacts in favour of Turkey, these goods will probably remain there, incurring heavy expenses unless shippers arrange for their withdrawal and storage. There is a certain eagerness, however, to dispose of existing stocks even at a moderate loss. This can be carried too far. Merchants should look forward to the reopening of markets and to the heavy demands for manufactured goods from Anatolia, and other regions which have been cut off from the source of supply for some time. Curtailed production in the manufacturing countries, and the impossibility of reducing to any great extent the costs of production and transport, will doubtless result in keeping prices at the present level and even of raising them again in some lines of goods where the prices have fallen temporarily below present cost. Merchants here are already finding that although it is difficult at the present time to find a market for their existing stocks, it is, on the other hand, impossible to replace these stocks at lower prices.

Manufacturers' prices for the New Year for woollen and cotton goods show surprisingly little fall in comparison with the present prices of stock goods. Small buyers from Anatolia are reported to be in Constantinople, buying chiefly Manchester goods and hardware. These are generally transported into the interior via Adalia or the Black Sea ports.

The question of a commercial exchange has again cropped up here, and is reported to be occupying the attention of H.E. Hussein Kiazim Bey, Minister of Commerce and Agriculture. The usefulness of such a chamber has been generally recognised for some time past both here at Constantinople and in Anatolia. It is thought that it would benefit the poor peasants considerably also; for these people, ignorant of ruling prices, mortgage their crops to unscrupulous moneylenders at exorbitant rates. With an exchange, and widely published prices, the peasant would have a much better idea of the price of the crops. Such an exchange has been instituted at Smyrna for some period with excellent results, and it certainly is time that the capital should follow and establish one here.

The situation in Thrace appears to be as stagnant as here, and very little business is reported from Adrianople or the other towns. The rapid depreciation in Turkish currency during the month has aggravated the situation for merchants who had liabilities to meet in sterling or dollars and who did not provide for their exchanges. On the other hand, those indebted in Turkish currency have seen the depreciation in their goods set off in part by the depreciation of the currency, and the exchange was therefore favourable to them. The general effect, however, is that the purchasing power of the public is reduced, and the fall of retail prices which should have occurred has been arrested. One unfavourable factor is the state of the finances of the Turkish Treasury, which is falling further in arrear with the pay of the Army and the Government employees. The cutting off of this large monthly expenditure is causing a great shortage of money in circulation, and the shopkeeper must be hardly hit by the falling off in sales.

Great inconvenience has been caused to British merchants here through the heavy delays in the mails from England. In many cases as much as three weeks have elapsed between the date of posting in England and the date of receipt in Constantinople. This seems all the more strange when it is remembered that the Paris mail arrives here in six days. It is understood that representations have been made to the British Government by the High Commissioner here, and it is to be hoped that the mails will be speeded up as a result.

Flour and Cereals.—There have been regular arrivals during the month, altogether totalling about 90,000 sacks of 140 lbs., from America, Bulgaria, and Roumania. These were of various qualities, and the prices paid varied from £T13½ to £T14 per sack. Exports during the month were trifling, to the Turkish Black Sea Ports and Batoum. There is a tendency to a firmer market, due to the rise in price in America, and to the depreciation of Turkish currency, and the market closed on December 31 at £T13½-13¾ per sack. The market remains well stocked.

Barley.—The prices continue to be much greater than those ruling in the European markets, although the market is well stocked. Since last month the market has hardened considerably, and there has been strong buying at 10½-11½ piastres per oke.

This is probably due to the fact that barley is now being ground into flour for mixing with wheat flour.

Sugar.—During the month about 2,000-2,500 tons arrived, chiefly Java, from New York, Marseilles, and Holland, some of which was re-exported to Roumania. Prices paid varied from £stg. 59.60 to £stg. 53.54 for different qualities. There now remains at Constantinople a very small stock.

Rice.—Arrivals in December rose to about 800 tons, from Marseilles and America. Prices generally had a tendency to drop, transit prices paid being 19-22 pts. per oke for Saigon No. 1 and 33-35 pts. per oke for American Blue Rose. A few small parcels were sent on to Roumania, and market remains well stocked. Closing prices: Saigon No. 1, 18-19 pts. per oke; American Blue Rose, 33 pts. per oke.

Coffee.—The market is very well stocked, and was increased by the arrival of 3-4,000 bags from Rio and Marseilles. The demand here is poor, owing to the falling off of the transit trade; there were no re-exports. Prices in transit: About 45 pts. per oke, good Rio 60-70 pts. per oke.

Canary Seed.—No trade has been done, and the price continues nominally at about 16 pts. per oke f.o.b.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

Paper, etc.—The Government Press, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of the following material, required for the financial year April 1, 1921, to March 31, 1922:—Paper and Bristol board (tenders close March 15), ink, roller composition, and glue (tenders close March 1), binding cloth (tenders close March 10), antimony (refined), pig lead, tin (in rods or ingots) (tenders close March 10). The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt or must have a representative there, and tenders should be addressed to the Controller of Printing and Stationery, Old Ismailia Palace, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo. Copies of the specifications, conditions of tender, and samples may be inspected by United Kingdom firms interested on application to the Department of Overseas Trade.

Paper, Stationery, Office Requisites, etc.—The Central Stores Department, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of the following articles:—Paper of various types, writing, blotting, wrapping (thick and thin), typewriting carbon, oiled, copying tissue, drawing (including Whatmann), sectional and tracing, file covers, envelopes, filing cards, elastic bands, waste-paper baskets (wicker), note books, copying books, manifold books, cardboard boxes, brooms, broom heads (hair and "Basmat"), brushes (hard floor), brushes (long hair), typewriting brushes, artists' brushes, card index cabinets, calico, despatch cases (leather), paper clips (wire), copying rolls, gelatine, cord (particoloured, green and red), duplicating machines (composition), dust-bins, dusters, paper fasteners, letter files, floor cloths, gum, inks of all kinds, labels, lead seals, numbering machines, nails, galvanised iron pails, coir mats, water-colour paints, pencils, penholders, pen nibs, cardboard and leather portfolios, typewriting ribbons, erasers, sacks (calico), sealing wax, sponges, string, strong tape, typewriting machines. A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent. of the value of the offer, must accompany each tender. In addition, the tenderer must be a person residing in Cairo or must have a representative in Cairo, and must give in his offer the address at which notices may be served upon him. In connection with this contract particular attention is drawn to the following extract from the special customs regulations for Government contracts covering the supply of stores of foreign origin:—"The Customs will accept duty on the contractors' c.i.f. purchase price instead of the c.i.f. value at the time of clearance, and will grant special facilities for clearance provided that the contractor complies with certain regulations." The regulations referred to, together with a copy of the schedule of articles required and conditions of contract for this tender, may be consulted at the Enquiry Room, Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Tenders should be addressed to the Director, Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, and will be received up to noon on February 24.

Greece.

Light and Power Plant.—Tenders are invited for the provision of electric light and power for the town of Rethymo in Crete. A booklet (in modern Greek), giving the conditions of tender, together with a summary translation and a plan of Rethymo, can be seen at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1. March 26.

India.

Hardware.—The South Indian Railway Co., Ltd., invite tenders for the supply of hardware. Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained from the company's office, 91, Petty France, Westminster. February 23.

OAKEY'S

The Original Preparation
for polishing Cutlery.

Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.

Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers.

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"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks,
1d., 2d., and 4d. each, and 1s. Boxes.

KNIFE

Polishing Paste, Furniture
Polish, Plate Powder.

POLISH.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

ADRIANOPLE.

Commercial activity here increased during November and December. Permission to export granted by the Commission de Ravitaillement in Bulgaria has encouraged many of our merchants to import flour of the first quality and food-stuffs of all descriptions from the latter country, where the cost of commodities of the first necessity is much reduced. In general the trade position here can be regarded as very good. The crises with which the world markets have been affected have not been reflected here, and we are happily without any financial trouble.

During the first half of November very bad weather was experienced, and work in the fields came to an end. On the contrary, during the whole of December the cultivators were able to work their lands, and large surfaces were prepared for the spring sowings. The cultivation of tobacco in Thrace is beginning to take the importance that it deserves. Large advances have been made to cultivators by the Tobacco Régie and by private companies in anticipation of the crop. The authorities are concentrating their efforts on the development of agriculture in Thrace, the plains of which form a veritable granary.

JAFFA.

The report for December states :—The commercial position here remains much as in the previous week. Business transactions are confined solely to the needs of local consumption, and in view of this state of things various classes of cereals have undergone a new fall in prices.

As regards cotton goods, foreseeing a new fall in prices, holders are endeavouring to sell their stocks at reductions varying from 25 to 40 per cent. under cost price.

During the month about 30,000 cases of oranges were exported to Liverpool. The price obtained up to the present is about 22-23 shillings.

Olive Oil.—In view of the abundant crop of the present year, and having regard to the large offerings from Smyrna and Mytilene, local soap manufacturers are abstaining from entering into contracts of any importance.

There have been very few arrivals of sesame, and in consequence of the favourable prices of the new Sudan crop the price has fallen from £T4 to £T3.5 per kilo on our market.

The rains have favoured the preparation of the fields, and even in a certain part of Nablous the new crop is said to be good.

Société Générale de Credit,

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Capital, fully paid up: 6,000,000 Levas.
Transacts all kinds of Banking and Commercial operations.

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Textile Factory for Woollen Cloths

(Founded 1888).

Branch

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IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000

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Lt.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs P. REDON
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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 Bank makes advances upon Bills of Lading and other export documents.

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

ON 'CHANGE.

Irregular Tendency Prevails.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday night.

Marked irregularity has characterised the markets this week. The uncertain outlook abroad, and the general trade position, are quite sufficient to counteract any favourable features that may be in evidence, and the welcome news of the coming removal of the Excess Profits Duty failed to have much effect on the markets. Still, it is a factor that is going to count, and *alibi equalibus*—in other words, provided there are no further adverse developments—may be trusted to bring about a very marked improvement in quotations before many months are passed.

Gilt-edged stocks have been fairly firm during the week. Foreign bonds have, however, been somewhat irregular, and some selling from abroad has further reduced rates in some cases.

A rather brighter tone has prevailed in the Industrial group, but to-day renewed depression has set in, and prices have gone back almost all along the line. The Oil market has shown particular weakness in the face of a flood of liquidation, and rates in many cases are much lower. Rubbers continue to show little activity, and, with the price of the commodity a shade lower, the tendency is for lower rates to prevail.

Near Eastern securities which we rank among Government stocks have been fairly firm. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are unchanged at 62, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are unaltered at 58 and 67½, respectively.

Greek securities have been weak. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 3 down at 39, while the 5 per cent. 1884 is a similar amount down at 39. The 5 per cent. 1890 has lost 2 at 39, while Fundings at 39 are 2 down. The 1910 Loan is 30, a decline of 1, but the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan at 39 is unaltered. The 1902 Loan has lost a point at 35.

Banks have been variable. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds and the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 53 and 55 respectively. Imperial Ottoman Banks are ½ down at 8, while National Bank of Egypt have lost ¼ at 17. Land Banks at 4 23-32 have recovered 1-16 of their previous week's fall.

Land shares have been fairly steady. Beheras are unchanged at 8½, while the Preference shares are unaltered at 2½. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are the same at 3½. Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1½d. down at 1s. 4½d., but Delta Lands are 5d. up at 9s. 8d. Gharbieh Lands are unchanged at 1½. New Egyptians are 6d. down at 22s. 6d., while Union Foncières have dropped ½ to 2½. Sudan Plantations are unchanged at 3½.

Oils have almost all declined. Anglo-Egyptians are unchanged at 2 7-16, but Phoenix are 9d. down at 10s. 6d. Roumanian Consolidated have lost 1s. at 11s., but Steaua Romana are unchanged at 17s.

Among miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are unchanged at 3s. Alexandria Waters remain at 7, at which there are unsatisfied buyers. Morums are the same at 13s. 3d., but Egyptian Salts and Sodas are 6d. down at 30s.

Sir Frederick T. Rowlatt, who, as already announced, retires from the Governorship of the National Bank of Egypt on March 1 next, after fifteen years' service in that position, has been elected to a seat on the board. He will be succeeded as governor by Mr. B. Hornsby, at present sub-governor of the bank in Alexandria.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

British Trade Corporation.

The report of the British Trade Corporation for the year 1920 states that, in consequence of the disturbed state of Transcaucasia, the branch at Batoum has been temporarily closed. The Danzig branch has made considerable progress, and the Belgrade branch has substantially consolidated its position. Notwithstanding the unsettled state of the Near East, the reports from the National Bank of Turkey indicate an increasing business. The net profit, after payment of all expenses and making provision for some depreciation of holdings in subsidiary companies, amounts to £119,309, which, with £22,592 brought forward, makes a total of £141,901. The directors recommend a dividend of 8s. per share (subject to tax), leaving £61,901 to be carried forward. Current, deposit, and other accounts totalled £2,478,360 at the end of the year, and acceptances were £2,180,745. Meeting, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moor-gate Place, E.C., February 23, 3 p.m.

Bengal and North-Western Railway.

The net earnings of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Co. for the year ended September 30 totalled Rs.1,34,72,453, against Rs.1,50,75,439 previous year. The company's share is Rs.79,63,960, against Rs.88,77,350. Actual rate of exchange was much higher than 1s. 4d., the book rate, and adding actual gain in remittance, £344,385, net earnings are £875,316, against £708,729. Including £91,754 brought in, providing for excess profits duty, corporation and income taxes, interest on debenture and preference stocks, interim dividend and bonus, contribution to provident fund, £35,000 for sinking fund for redemption of capital, appropriating £55,000 to investment depreciation, transferring £50,000 to reserve and making other adjustments, amount available is £292,089. Directors recommend final dividend of £4 per cent., together with bonus of 2 per cent. on ordinary stock, subject to tax at 3s. 9d., carrying forward £145,839. Meeting, Gresham House, E.C., February 15, noon.

A NEW TRADING BANK.

We understand that Messrs. Lionda and Co., Ltd., of 3, Broad Street Buildings, E.C.2, have practically completed arrangements for the formation of a trading bank for the financing of shipments to the Near East. The head office of the bank will be in London, at first at 3, Broad Street Buildings, but later separate offices will be obtained, and there will be branches at Liverpool, Athens, the Piræus and Salonika. Shippers are invited to communicate with Messrs. Lionda with regard to their requirements.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £ ..	25'22½	55'50-56'50
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25'22½	135-140
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee ..	24d.	1'4½-1'4½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25'22½	280-285
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee ..	24d.	1'4½-1'4½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	568-580
New York	Dollars to £	4'86½	3'83-3'85
Paris	Francs to £	25'22½	54'65-54'95
Prague	Kronen to £	24'02	300-310
Rome	Lire to £	25'22½	108-106½
Sofia	Levas to £	25'22½	335
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £	24'02	1,450-1,575
Warsaw	Marks to £	20'43	3,100-3,200

In some cases quotations are nominal.

The Banque Belge pour l'Etranger are converting their agency at Bucharest into a branch as from February 1.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

DEVELOPMENT OF ROUMANIA'S WATERWAYS.

M. George Popescu, Director-General of the Department of Harbours and Waterways of the Ministry of Communications in Roumania, deals in a recently issued pamphlet (which may be seen, together with a translation of the more important passages, at the Department of Overseas Trade) with the navigable waterways and hydraulic reserves of Roumania.

He points out that Roumania possesses to-day 1,200 kilometres of navigable ways on the Danube, 700 kilometres on the Pruth, and 700 kilometres on the Dniester; that is to say, 2,500 kilometres, to which must be added that of new territories. Some waterways are accessible to sea-going vessels (with a draught of six metres), as in the case of Sulina and Braila. Vessels of two metres can navigate the Danube at all times. On the Pruth, during the driest season, only vessels of one metre can be navigated.

Dealing with the future programme for the improvement of Roumania's navigable ways, the writer says that the Danube, from Galatz down, should have a depth corresponding to the needs of vessels of large tonnage. A minimum depth of eight metres he regards as absolutely necessary in order to allow vessels of 8,000 tons to go to Galatz. In conjunction with this the canalisation of the rivers Pruth and Sireth should be taken in hand so as to float vessels with a draught of at least two metres at low-water level.

On the Danube, he points out, it is necessary to increase the efficiency of and to modernise the installations of river ports by the building of quays, platforms, warehouses, docks, and mechanical appliances for loading and discharging, and to develop railway communications, etc. These improvements will diminish the labour required, reduce expense, and at the same time enable vessels to complete operations quicker. After improving the Danube, the navigation on the Dniester, the present frontier towards Russia, should come under consideration.

MOROCCAN COASTAL SERVICE.

A well-known British steamship company has now inaugurated a coastal service between ports in Morocco in conjunction with their service of general cargo steamers between London, Antwerp, and Morocco. This company is now in a position to accept cargo to and from any port on the Moroccan coast. The intention is to use Tangier and Fedhala as transshipment ports, the former for the northern and the latter for the southern ports; and with the protection afforded on the off-shore side of Tangier Bay, and in the sheltered basin of Fedhala, to tranship cargo direct over-side from the ocean-going vessel to an auxiliary motor schooner, and vice versa in the case of homeward traffic from Moroccan ports. The net result of this arrangement will be that traffic to or from the several ports in Morocco, which have not hitherto been served by direct sailings, will be despatched and/or delivered, as the case may be, promptly, without the necessity of being landed at Casablanca or some other port, and awaiting a suitable opportunity for onward despatch.

Preliminary work is now being actively carried on in Croatia by the company formed recently at Agram by the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, in conjunction with the Yugoslav Government, to work extensive oil concessions there.

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Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Makalla for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, February 19); s.s. Manaar for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 23); s.s. Mahsud for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (leaves London, March 5); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 9); s.s. Mahrona for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, March 23).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 16); s.s. Gloucestershire for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 2).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Glasgow, February 19, and Liverpool February 26); s.s. Tyria for Gibraltar, Patras, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, etc. (Liverpool, February 24).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. City of Palermo for Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria (Liverpool, February 15).

Ellerman's City Line.—S.s. City of York, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 14); s.s. City of London, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, February 14); s.s. Melford Hall, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 26); s.s. City of Poona, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 14).

Ellerman Hull Line.—S.s. City of Lahore, for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, February 28).

Glen Line.—S.s. Gleniffer, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (Middlesbrough, February 18); s.s. Glenogle, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (London, February 24); s.s. Glengyle, for Port Said, Singapore, etc. (London, March 3).

Golden Star Line.—S.s. Mediterranean Star, for Genoa, Naples, Alexandria, and Piræus (leaves Marseilles, March 1).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Patrician, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 12); s.s. Defender, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 19); s.s. Merchant, for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, Zanzibar, etc. (Glasgow, February 10, and Birkenhead, February 17); s.s. Electrician, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 26).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 23).

Holt Line.—S.s. Antiochus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, February 17); s.s. Pyrrhus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, February 17); s.s. Theseus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, February 17).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Venice, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, February 12); s.s. Incemore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 19); s.s. Pomaron, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, February 23).

Moss Line.—S.s. Limoges, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, etc. (Liverpool, February 19).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Austrian, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 12); s.s. Dido, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 12); s.s. Assyrian, for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, February 19).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China, for Bombay (London, February 11); s.s. Nellore, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 11); s.s. Kalyan, for Bombay (London, February 18); s.s. Soudan, for Bombay (London, February 18); s.s. Somali, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 25).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Lena, for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 19); s.s. Morvada, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 25).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince, for Malta and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Syrian coast and Cyprus ports (Leith, February 10, and Liverpool, February 20); s.s. Soldier Prince, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria, also taking cargo for Syrian coast and Cyprus ports (Manchester, February 15).

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week ending January 22, nil tons (last week, nil tons). Hurgada production for week ending January 22, 4,012 tons (last week, 4,099 tons).

The export from Turkey of all locally caught salted fresh-water fish is now free.

National Bank of Greece.—The Administrative Council announces that the dividend for the second half-year has been fixed at 240 drachmæ per share.

A memorandum has been presented to the Roumanian Government by the syndicate of sugar manufacturers in that country declaring that the manufacturers will be in a position to meet the requirements for home consumption next year.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 510.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Near East Conference.

At the time of writing it is understood that the London Conference on the Near East will begin next Monday. Tewfik Pasha and Mustapha Reshid Pasha will represent the Porte, while the Angora "Nationalists," after a good deal of boggling and manoeuvring, are sending a delegation containing "deputies" from at least half-a-dozen towns and districts. Greece is to be represented by M. Kalogeropoulos, whose right-hand man will be M. Coromilas; the Armenian chief delegate will be Boghos Nubar Pasha, than whom no better could be selected; and, we learn from a Bombay report, the Aga Khan has been invited to attend the Conference to represent the views of Indian Moslems. According to this report his Highness was to leave Bombay only on February 12; which, unless he is to fly part of the way, would seem to indicate that the Conference is expected to last long.

Moslem Representation.

We sincerely hope that the report regarding the Aga Khan is a true one, for we share the view expressed by the *Times of India* that although the official representatives of India would present the case for Moslem India as strongly as any Moslems could do, their action would command little public confidence in this time of political excitement. If Indian Moslems know that their views are to be fully put forward by the Aga Khan, and perhaps one or two associates, the agitators will be deprived of one weapon, and genuine Moslem feeling should be reassured. As to the self-seekers and adventurers who care nothing for Islam except in so far as they can use it to their own ends, it would, of course, be hopeless to attempt to make them acknowledge the honesty of Great Britain's intentions and actions. They dishonour the teachings of the great Arabian Prophet daily and hourly, and the pity is that, owing to the long-drawn-out process of settling the peace, they have been afforded an opportunity to play upon the feelings of millions of good Moslems who have failed to detect their hypocrisy.

Kemal and the Khalif.

In the conditions that have been allowed to grow up, it is, perhaps, too much to hope that the Moslems of India will take careful note of the lack of respect shown by the Kemalists for that Sultan and Khalif whose alleged humiliation is said to be causing so much grief to Moslems the world over. Either the Sultan

is the Khalif, and therefore entitled to the respect of all good Moslems, or else he is not the Khalif and the Moslem world need not therefore be greatly concerned about his fate. The question, as we have repeatedly pointed out, is one entirely for Moslems themselves to decide; but even Mustapha Kemal cannot have it both ways; and it is possible that a great many Moslems may want to know which way he is going to have it. As things stand, he is in the position of having threatened to dethrone the Sultan unless the latter recognises the Angora "Government" as the Government of all Turkey; and the fact that in the latter case, the Pasha offers to make his Majesty a suitable allowance and to let him continue to reside at Constantinople—under the watchful eye of a Kemalist agent!—is hardly calculated to make the insult any the less. We have no desire to offer an opinion on the more intimate aspect of the case, but it seems to us that by his impetuous action Mustapha Kemal has placed Moslems on the horns of a dilemma.

Bulgaria and the Conference.

As was to be expected, the Allied Conference to be held in London, at which Greek and Turkish representatives are to discuss the Treaty of Sèvres, has caused some heartburning in Bulgaria. In view of all the circumstances, it must be admitted that Press comment on the subject has shown a commendable restraint. It is pointed out that, while all the other Treaties have been modified, or in some way tempered in their application to facts not previously recognised, Bulgaria alone has not benefited from the tendency towards concessions on the part of the conquerors in favour of the conquered, and it is recalled that Bulgaria alone has submitted without protest to the treaty of peace as imposed on her by the Allied Powers, and loyally set about to carry it into execution. But there has been no serious suggestion, as far as we are aware, that the Bulgarians should take a leaf out of Mustapha Kemal's book. On the other hand, dignified appeals are made to the Allies to give some consideration to realities in the Balkans and to seize in the interest of the whole Peninsula the opportunity for a juster settlement than that provided by the Treaty of Neuilly.

Bulgarian Desiderata.

When it is remembered what a heavy blow the Treaty of Neuilly was to the Bulgarians, it must be regarded as significant of the restraint which the people have placed upon themselves that they can pick out one or two questions as of special significance, which they consider might be dealt with without doing greater violence to

the Treaty than has been done to the other Treaties. These questions are the voluntary army, the treatment of Bulgarian minorities in neighbouring States, and communication with the Ægean Sea. Everyone who knows anything about Bulgaria can testify to the impossibility of Bulgaria's maintaining a voluntary army, and this view has been endorsed by the Allied Military Missions in the country. As for the Bulgarian outlet to the Ægean Sea, provision was made for it by the Allies, and we can only suppose that, if M. Venizelos had not fallen from power, he would have found time by now to come to an agreement on the subject with the Bulgarian Government. Modern diplomacy is a little inclined to model its procedure on that of the nursery, which is always punctilious in the manner of presenting its *bonnes bouches*. In this instance an injustice will be done to Bulgaria, if there is any further delay on account of political developments in Greece in regulating her access to the Ægean; and we hope that the occasion of the Conference will be improved by the announcement of the steps taken to ensure that this access is to be real, workable, and effective.

Reports on Montenegro.

Once upon a time the British Government, under pressure of public anxiety regarding alleged happenings in Montenegro, sent out the one man qualified to investigate conditions in that country. Count de Salis, it was rumoured, was assaulted in the streets of Cettigne, and was forcibly prevented from pursuing his investigations. The refusal of the Government to publish his report confirmed the general impression that he had revealed a state of affairs that could not be made public without grave damage to the reputation of Serbia. In all probability the publication of Count de Salis's report would have strengthened the hands of the Belgrade authorities in dealing with a situation which had passed out of their control owing to more important preoccupations. When subsequently the British Government appealed to the better judgment of the Serbians and more particularly to the high moral sense of the Croatian element in the new Yugoslav State there was an improvement in conditions in Montenegro, where, in addition, the heavy military hand had left its impression. Public uneasiness in regard to Montenegro continued, and in July, 1920, Major H. V. Temperley was sent out to report on the state of the country. Towards the end of November elections were held in Montenegro, and Mr. Roland Bryce, of the British Legation in Belgrade, went to Cettigne with a watching brief on behalf of Great Britain. Portions of Major Temperley's report and Mr. Bryce's report, presumably in full, have now been published as White Papers. The effect of these documents, which bear internal evidence of careful and conscientious compilation, is to suggest that the British Government hope that the omission to publish the De Salis Report will now be forgotten.

The Peril of the Balkans.

Various countries of the Near East are showing a strong inclination to slip back into the bad old way of accusing one another of provocative acts, propagandist activities, the arming of "bands," and so forth; and the readiness with which such accusations, however exaggerated, are believed, is, indeed, unfortunate. At the present time the Greek papers are exercised over alleged Turkish and Bulgarian propaganda in Thrace and the reported concentration of Bulgarian bands on the frontier; they also describe the state of the Christian population in Asia Minor, save that portion of it which is under their own rule, as deplorable; and the Turks reply by launching similar charges about their compatriots and co-religionists under Greek rule. It would be easy to extend the tale, but nothing would be gained by doing so. The astonishing thing is that the countries concerned should think it worth their while to resume or encourage such tactics at this time of the day. If only they would spend half as much energy and ingenuity on suppressing their own mischief-makers as they do on trying to "discover" the "intrigues" of their neighbours, it should be no very difficult matter to bring about a renewal of the Balkan alliance, and perhaps even a

good understanding with Turkey. As it is, it looks as if things are drifting in quite another direction.

Labour Troubles in Greece.

"Labour" has been restless for the last few years in Greece, and now a strike on a comparatively large scale has been attempted. In Athens and the Piræus the gas and electric light workers, and the tramway and electric railway men suspended work; the strike was extended to the provinces, and the chief industrial centres became affected. It was to be expected that the political uncertainty in the country would have its effect on Labour circles. The Labour movement was originally based on certain real grievances of the workers, which M. Venizelos was quick to recognise were not altogether unjustified. His sympathy gave encouragement to the Labour organisations, but as a result of his prolonged absence from Greece they were deprived of the salutary check which he might have exercised, and, lacking responsible leaders they drifted in to an attitude that helped neither their own cause nor the State. The present trouble need not be attributed to any sins of the present Government. It is significant that submission of their case to King Constantine has secured for the workers full satisfaction of their demands—a further proof for the Greek public that, whatever official shortcomings may be, they will always have a personal friend at Court so long as King Constantine is on the throne.

Parliament and Mesopotamia.

The mandate for Mesopotamia is to be considered by the League of Nations on February 21; but on February 17 Sir William Joynson-Hicks is to ask that a copy of the mandate be placed on the table of the House of Commons, and whether the Government will undertake that it shall not be submitted to the League until it has received the approval of Parliament. Provided that it could be done in a non-party spirit we should like to see the whole question of Mesopotamia debated fully in the House, where there are several members who ought to be able to make valuable contributions to the discussion. Such a debate, at this stage, with the mandate on the table, would, in all probability, show that while the country is naturally anxious to see every possible economy effected in Mesopotamia, as elsewhere, it is not going to be stampeded by any Press campaign into neglecting its clear duty. Fortunately, the Government has thus far shown itself less squeezable on this subject than on many others; and the intimation, contained in a semi-official announcement issued last week, that the troops now being sent away from Mesopotamia are only those reinforcements dispatched from India last year owing to the Arab rising, "which are now no longer required," is, in the circumstances, reassuring.

Candidates for the Emirate.

While we are strongly opposed to any policy of hurried withdrawal, such as that advocated by the "stunt" Press, we shall welcome any move that will help towards setting Mesopotamia firmly on its own feet. In this connection the selection of an Emir is of the highest importance, and if the report that it is to be made very shortly be true, it is to be hoped that it will prove a step in the right direction. Subject to the single condition that the selected candidate must not be unfriendly disposed towards the Mandatory, we should like to see the choice left absolutely—as we believe it will be—to the inhabitants of Irak. The Emir Abdullah, who appeared at one time to be a strong favourite, has dropped out in favour of his brother, the Emir Faisal, and the only other candidate with any chance of winning the favour of the people would seem to be the Shereef Ali Haidar. The latter, as a correspondent reminds us to-day, must make a very strong appeal to the region in which stand the sacred shrines of the Shiah, and in which the memory of martyred Ali is held in so great reverence. The Emir Faisal, on the other hand, has won for himself a reputation unique in the Arab world, and a host of friends and well-wishers in Great Britain. Our Allies across the Channel, it is true, do not share our sentiments regarding him, but that fact need not be allowed to weigh against the Emir's chances if Mesopotamia wants him and Great Britain approves his candidature.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday evening.

Parliament Again.

The political world and its wife have now returned from the Riviera, where no doubt it has been meditating statecraft at leisure in the congenial atmosphere of Monte Carlo. Parliament opens to-morrow, and the debates on the Address will last out the week, after which the work of the session will really begin.

The reconstruction of the Government, which has engaged the gossips for so long, turns out to be a modest affair after all. Lord Milner and Mr. Walter Long retire; one will miss the latter's pleasant, rubicund face, long popular in the Lower House, the last of the typical squires. Sir Laming Worthington-Evans goes to the War Office, which will not be quite so prominently in the public eye now that Mr. Churchill has emigrated to the Colonies; Lord Lee, whose Agricultural Bill was docked by the Press in December, takes the Admiralty, in which he held a minor post some years ago. Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen, long Under-Secretary at the Board of Agriculture, now becomes its head—not a very easy post, as the farmers are rallying the Government over broken promises about the price of wheat.

The changes will involve a by-election, and there are others pending owing to other various retirements; half a dozen by-elections will be a pretty fair test of the trend of opinion. The contest at Cardigan between Mr. Llewelyn Williams, of the Independent Liberals, and Captain Evans, of the Coalition, seems to be rousing the Welsh breast to a frenzy of excitement. Meetings are held by enthusiastic supporters, stormed by fanatical opponents, rescued from disaster by intrepid recruits; every denomination is split from top to bottom; and the pulpits are said to resound with curses and benedictions; one almost expects to hear of the doctors in the constituency recommending Liberal or anti-Liberal pills. But the 30,000 voters are enjoying themselves hugely, and the deluge of oratory, like the Welsh rainfall, fortunately does not reach England.

Anti-Dumping and Licensing.

It is understood that the Anti-Dumping Bill is almost ready, so we shall soon be in the throes of the fiscal controversy, as in the old days. The measure is said to be on Unionist lines, with a little gain for the Coalition Liberals; the Opposition will rage and storm—particularly now that it is reinforced by the Free Fooders, Lords Robert and Hugh Cecil—but the measure is pretty certain to pass.

The Licensing Bill, which is to console the Liberals for anti-dumping, is not so forward. And in fact little can be done in this direction at the moment, for the Liquor Control Board is still in being. It is formally constituted to last until the end of the war; and as peace is not yet ratified with Turkey, the Board continues to function. It is a little odd that the Englishman's beer should wait upon the Sultan's signature; and I am quite sure that when his Majesty reads this paragraph he will realise that we too have suffered, and take the appropriate steps.

Ireland, of course, will also come up, and economy at home and indemnities abroad. Now that E.P.D. has gone, the Budget will rouse less interest, but there is further trouble looming with the railways, over the agreement with the Government. And this may lead to a good deal of time being spent on the weary topic of the State and nationalisation, which will bring the Labour Party to its feet. Labour in the House sleeps peacefully and well, but at the mere whisper of the word "State" it stirs in its slumbers and ejaculates "Karl Marx." After that it talks exuberantly for a time, and everybody else goes to sleep. Perhaps things are not so unevenly divided in the world after all.

Mr. Will Crooks to Retire.

It gives one something of a shock to see that Mr. Will Crooks, member of Parliament for East Woolwich,

is retiring. In his own district of Poplar, where most of his life has been spent, he is extraordinarily popular; to most of its people in fact "Bill Crooks" is Poplar. He seldom spoke in the House of Commons, although in a quiet way he had a good deal of influence—it was he who, contrary to all precedent, started "God Save the King" in the Chamber itself when war broke out—and his absolute personal disinterestedness ensured him respect in an assembly where the opposite quality is not unknown. He had no desire for high office, but he threw himself heart and soul into war-work—from the strain of which he has not recovered.

The Labour Party has nominated Mr. Ramsay MacDonald as his successor. He was not noted for his war-work; and he is a stranger to East Woolwich. In other respects he is a contrast to Mr. Crooks, for it is notorious that he has high political ambitions; it has always been said that he expected a seat in the old Asquith Cabinet, but that Mr. Asquith thought him good enough for an Under-Secretaryship, but not good enough for the Inner Circle without the usual official apprenticeship. He has been a prolific political author, but he is better as a speaker than as a writer. Indeed, with the possible exception of Mr. Snowden on his best days, Mr. MacDonald is the best speaker the Labour Party possesses.

He is not very popular among his colleagues, and that for several different reasons. Many of them resent his attitude during the war. Some consider that when he led the Labour Party in the House before the war, he looked on his team as merely the tail of the Liberal dog—and, in fact, he always impresses one as the typical middle-class Liberal rather than the Labour leader—and still others resent his rather superior attitude. I should imagine that his influence, if he is returned, will be given to advocating a coalition between Liberal and Labour—in which case there will be plenty of trouble awaiting him in the Labour Committee Room.

The Last Bank of Issue.

Truly these are revolutionary times. Beckett's Bank, which every Yorkshireman for generations past has looked upon as one of the bulwarks of the British Constitution, was amalgamated with one of the "Big Five" the other day; and now Fox, Fowler and Co., which has filled a similar place in Devon and the West generally, is to be amalgamated with Lloyds. This is the last of the banks possessing the right to issue its own notes.

How steady the process of absorption has been the figures since the Bank Act of 1884 indicate. In that year, when the Act was passed, there were 207 private banks in England and Wales having the right to issue their own notes. In 1901 there were only thirty. By



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November, 1919, when the great amalgamations were almost completed, only six such banks were left. Now the last has vanished into history.

On the whole, one hears fewer objections now than a couple of years ago to these great banking corporations. That they had one merit, increased safety for depositors, was always admitted; but it was suggested that they would disregard local interests and needs, and drain the provinces for the towns; and further, that they would restrict credit everywhere. So far as I can discover, they seem to hold the balance pretty fairly between the country and the town—it must be remembered that it is not a very easy thing to do. And certainly there has been no general restriction of credit. In the interests of safety, they had to pull borrowers in last year, or the whole financial structure would have become top-heavy; but even so, the latest balance-sheets show an increase of loans. After all, a bank makes its dividends by lending, not by merely receiving money.

Coming Centenaries.

The centenary hunters are now in full swing. After Keats, Dante and Napoleon will be celebrated this year; next year is the centenary of the death of Shelley and the birth of Matthew Arnold (who thought the poet a "beautiful ineffectual angel"), and also the bicentenary of Collins, author of "How Sleep the Brave," and of the rollicking Smollett; while printers will reverence the pious memory of William Caxton, born six hundred years ago, and the first "father of the chapel." All these events will be the excuse for—

"Dinners, speeches, and potations,
Orgies, toasts, and bibulations."

The "Athenæum."

The end of the *Athenæum*—its last number was published last week—is one of the minor tragedies of literature. Its great days had long since passed, and its authority had worn thin as a shadow. Some years ago an author whose new book was praised to the extent of three columns in that leading critical review told me that, so

far as he could see, it did not sell an extra copy of the work. That was before the war; during the war the *Athenæum* was a monthly, and a stodgy one, more interested in sociology than literature. Since the Armistice it has made a brave struggle under an editor who was, by common consent, excellent—it is perhaps necessary at this juncture to say that I do not know him personally, and have never written a line for his paper in my life—but the *Times Literary Supplement* had got too long a start, and the older journal committed *harkari*.

The *Globe*, London's oldest evening newspaper, is also dead. It was a great property until 1908, when it was sold by the then proprietors for about £80,000. But it never recovered from its false report of Lord Kitchener's resignation in 1915, and its suspension for a fortnight on that account, and for some time past it has been moribund. Its circulation, which at one time was the largest of any evening paper in London, must have been very small recently.

It is not often that two great papers die in a week. But it must be remembered that several new ones have been started since the Armistice, and there are rumours of other new ventures pending in Fleet Street. Journalism has had a difficult time this last year, but I am inclined to think that the worst is over.

The Week's Books.

"Cecil Rhodes" (Constable), by Basil Williams, although hardly destined to be the final word on the Colossus of South Africa (for another work on the same subject is being written at the moment), is a careful, and, in places, even vivid, portrait. The author has resisted the temptation to exaggerate which many previous biographers of Rhodes have betrayed.

From the same firm comes "The Life of Ambassador Choate," by Mr. E. S. Martin. It has been well reviewed, but I must admit that I should have preferred one volume to two.

OCELLUS.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 31.

Lord Allenby's Tour.

The High Commissioner and Lady Allenby left on Thursday on their postponed visit to the Sudan. They broke their journey at Luxor, where Lord Allenby paid a visit to the Sultan on the latter's steamer Arabia. Later in the day their Excellencies embarked on a Sudan Government steamer and continued their journey by water.

The Political Situation.

Since my last letter the members of the Egyptian Delegation have arrived. I cannot say that the welcome extended to them was nearly as warm as one had been led to expect. They were, it is true, greeted in Alexandria and at the station in Cairo by relatively large crowds; but it soon became apparent that Zaghoul's telegram and the activities of the students and a certain section of the lawyer element had considerably diminished the enthusiasm with which they would otherwise have been received. There had, indeed, been no reason why the people should withhold from these delegates the recognition which the efforts of all the members in the national cause deserve, especially when one remembers the manner in which they were received last September. Zaghoul's telegram was, however, couched in such a way as to convey the impression that the returning delegates were working against him and against the national aspirations; and it is, therefore, not difficult to understand how it came about that the returning members met with what one might call a cool reception.

That the delegates themselves have realised the situation is evident from the contrast between their statements immediately after landing and the declaration which they issued three days later. The latter definitely puts on record the fact that the whole delegation is in complete agreement, and adheres to the decision not to enter upon official negotiations until the demand for the abolition of the Protectorate and the other reservations have been accepted, and until it has been agreed to make them the fundamental bases for the negotiations. The declaration goes on to say that, while the Delegation will not support any other body that starts official negotiations, unless such body is in agreement with the Delegation in principle and in procedure, press polemics such as have recently taken place are inimical to the national interests, since they give the impression that the country is divided, and it is essential that before the world there should be union.

In this connection it may merely be noted that on their arrival the delegates admitted that the amendments that had been proposed to them when the Milner proposals were submitted to the nation were "pious wishes" not "reservations," into which the Delegation itself had taken the liberty of converting them, and that in this connection it was quite prepared to bow to the will of the nation; and further that there was no intention of getting Great Britain to make a formal declaration of the abolition of the Protectorate before the negotiations so that Egypt could enter those negotiations as an independent State; but what was wanted was that the principle should be recognised, and that

all the reservations should be discussed during the course of the negotiations.

In the light of the hostile attitude worked up against them it is, perhaps, not surprising, considering all the circumstances, that the delegates should have issued the subsequent declaration. It will certainly clear the way and enable them to establish relations with all classes and elements, and it is conceivable that, as a result of this contact, out of the difficulty, as regards the British Government, which persistence in the attitude adopted by Zaghoul appears to have created, a way will be found acceptable to all but the ultra-Extremists and those who, like the students and lawyers, have no sense of responsibility and always incline to idealist doctrines.

The Irrigation Libel Action.

The Willcocks-Kennedy libel action continues its weary, and to the general public, uninteresting, course. Practically the whole of the week has been taken up with the examination-in-chief and the cross-examination of Sir Murdoch MacDonald, who, when the Court rose on Saturday, had spent thirteen hours in the witness-box. Nothing very sensational has transpired beyond the production of the complete Blue Nile Memorandum, of which only the second page was put in by the accused at the Nile Projects Commission inquiry, and the authorship of which is attributed to Sir Murdoch MacDonald, who says he has no recollection of having written it.

The cross-examination is based on the plea of justification, consisting of twenty-one long paragraphs. The evidence is of a highly technical nature, and it is, therefore, not surprising that judge and counsel and the general public, not to mention the jury, are at times bewildered by the mass of figures, diagrams, and technical terms which are promenade before them in the course of the explanation of divers points at issue. The case is likely to last some time yet, for there are several witnesses still to be called, amongst them Mr. Hurst, the Director of the Physical Department, whose evidence comes second in importance only to that of Sir Murdoch MacDonald.

GREECE.

ATHENS, February 1.

The President of the Chamber.

The nomination of the President of the National Assembly, which was to have taken place on January 24, had been postponed until yesterday owing to the lack of confirmation of the election of a considerable number of deputies, mostly Venizelist. In the meantime M. Stratos, with his sixty adherents, whose attitude had been causing a good deal of uneasiness amongst Government circles, was persuaded by M. Rallis to support the Government candidate. The other independent parties followed suit, the result being that yesterday's election ended in a complete victory for the Government candidate, M. Lombardo, who obtained 248 votes out of 319. The Venizelist candidate, General Danglis, secured only 71 votes. This figure, however, should not be taken as an indication of the Liberal Party's real strength, which, including the members absent for one or other reason from yesterday's sitting, should reach about 100.

The new President, in a short speech, thanked the Chamber for his election, adding that he was proud to be the President of the first National Assembly in which representatives of Greater Greece also participated. Replying to M. Lombardo's speech, M. Bacalpassis, a deputy from Thrace, and one of the youngest members of the Chamber, expressed the everlasting gratitude of the people of Thrace towards the Allied Powers and those who, both diplomatically and on the battlefield, had fought for their liberation.

Situation in Asia Minor.

Colonel Pallis, the sub-Chief of Staff of the Greek Army operating on the Asia Minor front, has arrived

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from Smyrna. He was immediately received by the Minister of War, M. Gounaris, whom he put *au courant* of the military situation on that front. It is now established beyond doubt that the recent operations in Asia Minor, about which there had been conflicting reports, were a complete success for the Hellenic arms.

According to accounts received from Smyrna, the situation in that part of Asia Minor not under Greek occupation is deplorable, and the sufferings of the Christian population in the hands of the Turks are indescribable. The Orthodox Bishop of Patara has been deported by order of Mustapha Kemal, and all the Greek and Armenian churches and schools in that region have been forced to close, while their properties are confiscated and distributed among the Kemalists.

Forged Passports.

The police have laid hands on a gang consisting of about thirty persons who earned their living by issuing forged passports. Their victims were, as a rule, young men from the country who were anxious to leave this country and proceed to America in order to escape military service. The price charged for the issue of each passport depended upon the financial status of the would-be emigrant, and amounted to anything between 2,000 to 4,000 drachmæ. It appears that the members of the gang were realising substantial profits from their business, as one of them alone was found to be in possession of 72,000 drachmæ.

Propaganda in Thrace.

The Greek papers say that the anti-Greek propaganda which was carried out in Thrace by the Turks and Bulgars during the Allied occupation is again in full swing. Various individuals who had been expelled because of their anti-Greek sentiments and intrigues have now returned to that country. Among these is the famous Tewfik Bey, who was expelled by General Charpy for holding revolutionary meetings and inducing the Thracian population to oppose by force the

advance of the Greek troops. According to information received by the Governor of Thrace, bands of Bulgarian irregulars are once again concentrating on the frontier, holding themselves in readiness to penetrate into Greek territory as soon as the occasion presents itself.

General News.

The new Governor of the National Bank of Greece, M. Maximos, took the usual oath last Monday in the presence of the King and the Minister of National Economy.

The new Roumanian Minister to Greece, M. Djouvara, handed his letters of credit to King Constantine last Tuesday morning. He stated that the two forthcoming marriages between members of the Hellenic and Roumanian Royal Houses would greatly contribute towards the development of both political and economic relations between the two nations.

The Sanitary Council of the Minister of Interior held a meeting to discuss the measures to be taken against the "flu," which is once again raging both in Athens and the provinces. No definite decisions were arrived at, but it is thought that unless there is an early abatement of the epidemic, all theatres, picture houses, and other places of amusement will be compelled to close.

To a delegation of "unredeemed" Greeks, which visited the Premier yesterday to ask him what was the position of the Greek questions from an international point of view, M. Rallis replied that the rights of Hellenism were so evident that the Allies could not possibly fail to recognise them.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 1.

Fears, Hopes, and Suspicions.

The decision of the London Conference of Allied Prime Ministers to convoke a meeting of Greek and Turkish representatives seems to have been as great a

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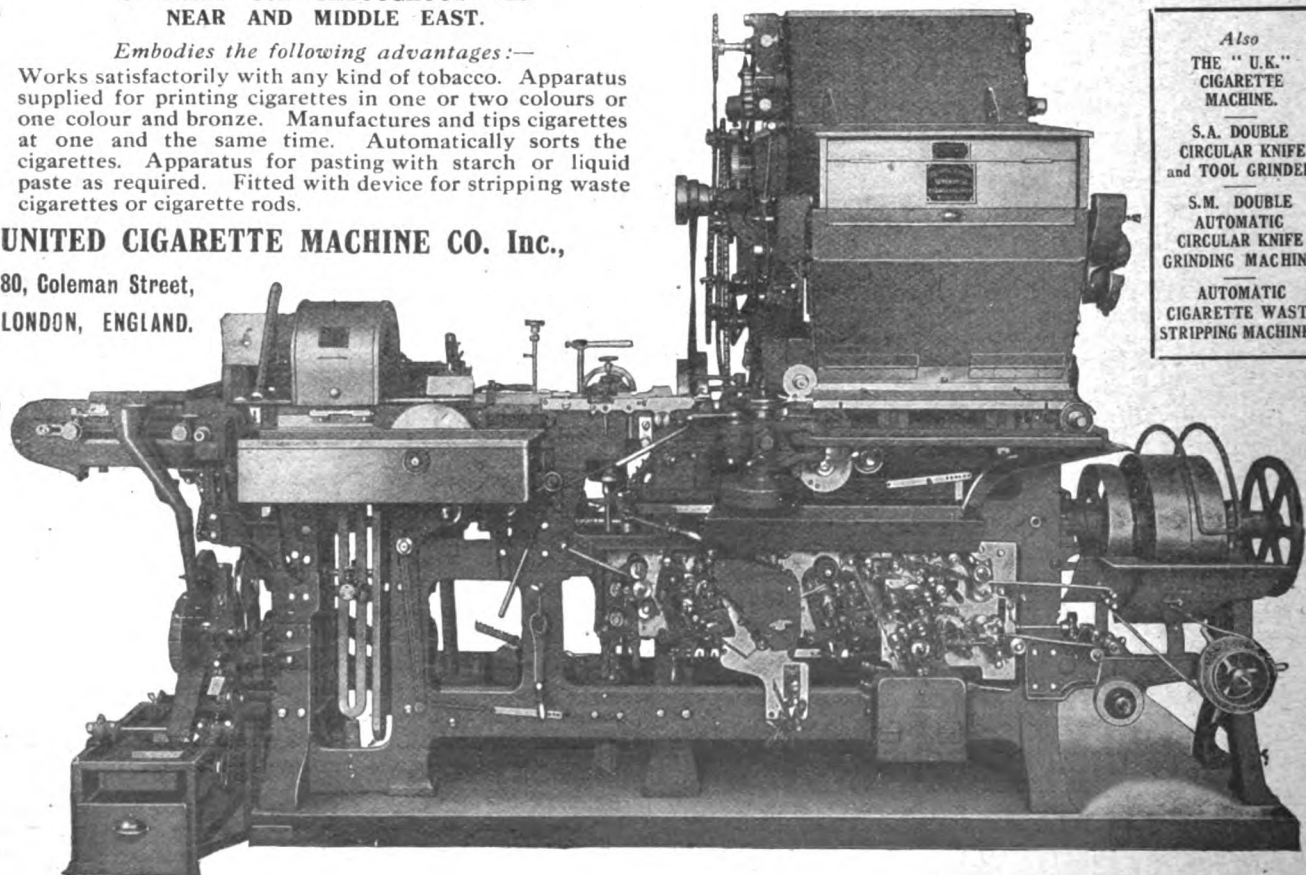
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surprise for the Greeks as for the Turks, and for that reason aroused considerable excitement. Amongst Ottoman Greeks the announcement produced feelings of pessimism altogether disproportionate to the occasion, and the recently-formed Committee of National Defence is said to have decided to prepare for the worst. The following extract from an article published in the *Proia*, of January 31, fairly reflects the Ottoman Greek point of view:—

The Great Allied Powers have not recognised, do not recognise, and never will recognise Constantine. They do not even recognise Greece, over which he reigns, as a friend and ally. Yet the interests of Hellenism demand that they should. If those who are at present in power, in the intoxication of their triumph, have not yet repented of having voted for the fall of Venizelos, and of having brought about the return of Constantine, that is no reason why unredeemed Hellenism should bow to their will, and of its own accord cast the Hellenic question and the desires of the nation into the abyss. (Unredeemed Hellenism) can never agree to that. It is bound by a sacred obligation devolving from five centuries of sacrifices. It is duty imposed upon it by the death of Paleologus, the hanging of the Patriarch Gregory, and the immense woes of the last few years of war. Unredeemed Hellenism can never accept a vote the consequences of which have been so deplorable.

Turkish opinion, on the other hand, seems to be more divided. True, practically all the Turkish papers are crowing over the Greeks, but the Turks seem to have realised that it would be rash to jump to the conclusion that the Allies have any other intention than to attempt to find a *modus vivendi* without altering the fundamental principles upon which the Treaty of Sèvres is based. On the whole the Turkish Press is cautious in its comments. But the Turkish Press reflects only a small fraction of Turkish opinion—that is, the Press of the capital; for the censorship prevents the publication of Nationalist opinions. In the present circumstances, Nationalist opinion is of considerable importance, and in this respect, unfortunately, the prospects of an agreement, a practicable agreement, appear to be very slight. Whilst the anti-Unionist circles in Constantinople are expressing the greatest pleasure that the suggestion for the holding of the forthcoming conference should have come from Lord Curzon, the Nationalists and Unionists see in that very circumstance another perfidious manœuvre of the British Government. The Nationalist point of view seems to be that as the Allies have offered no assurances with regard to the modification of the Sèvres Treaty in accordance with Turkish aspirations, and as this is the only basis upon which they can consent to discuss matters, it would be useless for them to accept the Allies' invitation. The Central Government, while realising that the Allies have given no pledge, take the view that the Turkish cause will be heard with greater benevolence than last year, and that if that cause is pleaded in a careful and moderate manner, there is a good chance of important concessions being obtained.

It is possible that the Turkish delegate, without being the official mandatory of the Nationalists, may combine his official representation of the Sublime Porte with the holding of a watching brief for the Nationalists, and that the latter, if the preliminary results of the Conference are favourable, may send a delegate at a later stage of the proceedings. Izzet Pasha's name has been persistently mentioned as Turkish delegate to the Conference, but it is still doubtful whether the Nationalists will let him go. On the whole, it is very much to be feared that the success of the Conference will be rendered impossible by the obstinate intransigence of the Nationalists.

A Greek Committee of National Defence.

As time passes there seems to be a constantly decreasing probability of a reconciliation between the Ottoman Greeks and their Hellenic brethren who welcomed Constantine back to Athens. The Greeks of Constantinople, perhaps taking a leaf out of Mustapha Kemal's book, have formed a Committee of National Defence, which is directed by certain of the most energetic and enthusiastic supporters of M. Venizelos. A number of Venizelist officers who, to put the matter politely, have "resigned" their commissions, are now in Constantinople, and have found a more congenial sphere of activity under the direction of the Committee.

The Greeks of the Ottoman Empire have always been remarkable for their *esprit de corps*, and this characteristic has never been more evident than at the present moment. This is illustrated, for instance, by the circumstance that the price of Greek newspapers in Constantinople has been doubled, in order to provide the Committee with funds for the maintenance of Venizelist officers serving the Committee. Incidentally, Greek newspapers from Constantinople are strictly excluded from Greece and from the territory occupied by the Hellenic army in Anatolia.

It would also appear that the idea of creating a Byzantine Republic is becoming stronger, but precisely how the Committee of National Defence proposes to set to work upon the scheme is unknown.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA (undated).

Negotiations proceed for the raising of a loan towards the rebuilding of the Pan-Cypriot Gymnasium at Nicosia, recently destroyed by fire. A handsome gift has come from Greece—the library of Professor Constantiniades, of Athens. It consists of 2,340 volumes, many being works of much value. They have been placed temporarily in the Archbishop's palace.

At Limassol a new hospital is being built at a cost of £10,000, as voted by the Legislative Council. It is to be furnished with up-to-date equipment. The large building which it will supersede is to be sold, and the proceeds will probably be applied to the building of a new municipal hall and offices, which are much needed.

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 SHEREEF ALI HAIDER AND MESOPOTAMIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The excuse for this letter is the fact that THE NEAR EAST was the first paper to bring to the notice of the British public the claims of the Shereef Ali Haider to the Emirate of Mesopotamia, so ably stated by Sirdar Ikbal Ali Shah. The object of this letter is an attempt to state those claims in such a way that they may at once combat those arguments advocated by the rival party, and exercise some slight influence on the forthcoming discussion on Mesopotamia at Westminster.

The two salient points for our consideration are: (1) What are the claims that Ali Haider has to British confidence; and (2) what are the claims he has on the people of Irak?

The marked Anglophile sympathies which the Shereef has always shown have been admirably described by the above-mentioned writer, and it is only necessary to corroborate what has already been said and to add a few details concerning his political career. Although it has been stated by the Constantinople Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST that Ali Haider was not a member of the Committee of Union and Progress, the statement has not totally dispelled the illusion that Ali Haider's membership was an undisputed fact. The writer has in his possession considerable testimony to show that this was not the case, and may state the evidence of Mr. A. M. Metcalfe, the English tutor to the sons of Ali Haider from the year 1908: "H. H. Shereef Ali Haider was never, and always refused to be connected with the Committee of Union and Progress Party, owing to its anti-British tendency."

After the declaration of the Turkish Constitution in 1908, owing to the influence of the Grand Vizier, Kiamil Pasha, Ali Haider became a Senator, but as such took no active part in politics, for he repeatedly refused ministerial appointments. The one exception was when, for a few months in 1910, he became Minister of Evkaf (Pious Foundations) solely for the purpose of pleasing the Arabs.

When Shereef Hussein raised the standard of rebellion against the Ottoman Government in 1915, it was essential that the Turks should nominate someone in his place to the Emirate of Mecca. The Turks surmised that Ali Haider's hatred for his rival would far surpass any love he felt for the British; though, in this, they were mistaken, as they found to their cost. Accordingly, they recognised Ali Haider as Emir Shereef of Mecca, and he proceeded to Medina, with the retinue due to his position. Thousands of Arabs flocked to his standard, and urged him to advance against King Hussein and capture Mecca, while the Emirs Ibn-Saud and Ibn-Rashid offered their assistance.

With such a force at his disposal, Ali Haider could have

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defeated King Hussein with the greatest ease, and could as well have driven the Arabs to a fanatical opposition against the Allies, the result of which one would not care to contemplate. On the contrary, however, he restrained all these turbulent Arab chiefs who had sworn loyalty to him, saying that it was not his desire to create more strife and trouble in a war-stricken country. The Turks and Germans tried to force him to embark on expedition after expedition, for they realised the influence, invaluable to them, that he alone could exert on the Arabs throughout Arabia. Ali Haider exerted a great influence over the natives of the Hejaz, Syria, and Mesopotamia, but not in the way the Turks wished for or expected. He never struck a blow against the Allied forces.

From the time when he set foot in Arabia to claim his heritage in 1915, it is an indisputable fact that he and his sons materially helped with food and clothes British prisoners from Kut and elsewhere that he came across in his travels. His family protected various English poor, even when it was dangerous to mention the word "English," and left comforts for those who were alone and uncared for. He continually gave help to be distributed amongst those of the Entente who might be in distress, and, on one occasion, he admitted into his house as an inmate an English woman in trouble, the widow of a Syrian.

What has been said more or less covers our first point. With regard to the second, we must realise that Ali Haider holds a unique religious position, for he is regarded by all Moslems as the living Head of the House of Mohammed. In Mesopotamia the Shiah sect of Moslems abounds, and Ali and his descendants are practically worshipped, whilst at Meshed Ali (Nejef), Kerbela (Meshed Hussein), and other places there are many sacred traditions connected with them. When Abdul-Muttalib, the grandfather of Ali Haider, visited Mesopotamia towards the end of his life, he was hailed with universal respect, and it is a fact that, in many cases, the rooms in which he slept have been held as sacred and kept solely for the use of his direct descendants, just because Abdul-Muttalib was then the living Head of the House of Ali, as Ali Haider is to-day.

Amongst the chiefs of Mesopotamia, Ali Haider has many powerful and influential friends, the Talibs of Busreh, the Haideris of Mosul and Baghdad, Nakeeb Seyid Mohiddin, and many others. If this is the case, it may be asked, why has no open demand come for him from Mesopotamia itself? The answer to this is easily given, for it has been stated in that country that Ali Haider's name is not to be brought forward in the discussion, and the people are therefore frightened of so doing. Ali Haider is, therefore, placed on a very unequal footing with other prospective candidates for the Emirate, which is not only unfair to him, but to the people of Mesopotamia as well.

When we proceed to discuss the claims for the Emirate of Mesopotamia on the respective merits of Ali Haider and others, it must first be pointed out that it is the idea of many that the natives of Mesopotamia will elect one of their own number to the Emirate. If this is to be the case, we can well contemplate Mesopotamia turned into a large-sized constituency at general election time with rifles instead of rotten eggs. As the Baghdad papers continually point out, there are only two families from which an Emir can be chosen in safety, viz., Ali Haider's and Hussein's, and from the point of view of degree Hussein's sons cannot be compared with Ali Haider.

An important question to be considered is whether the adherents of Faisal or Abdullah would create a disturbance in the country if Ali Haider were selected to fill the Emirate. This all depends on the strength of those adherents, and it is a matter for those on the spot to decide. If a conference were called in Mesopotamia consisting of the present Nakeeb and other prominent people, and Ali Haider's name were put before them as a possible candidate, it would be the best and fairest means to discover the extent of the influence he could exert. As for Ali Haider himself, his life shows that he has always been a lover of peace, and is not a reckless adventurer. It might be said that, having lived so much at Constantinople, Ali Haider might have become de-Arabised like so many other nobles of the Koreish under similar circumstances. No one who knows him personally can say this, for he has retained every characteristic of his race.

One other point to remember is that the sons of Ali Haider speak perfect English.

In conclusion, it is the desire of His Majesty's Government to secure peace and tranquillity throughout Arabia, and, if Ali Haider continues to be treated in a cavalier fashion by the British, it is possible that we shall see hostility and trouble begin between the rival houses. If, on the other hand, fair treatment is secured for him, he has promised to adopt the friendliest relations towards Hussein and his family, while the influence he has always been able to exert, when in a position of authority, over those chiefs who are to-day playing the most prominent part in the destiny of Arabia, will be exerted to the advantage of everyone.—I am, etc.,

CHAMPION.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Greek Elections.

Writing under the above title in the February number of the *Fortnightly Review*, Mr. H. Charles Woods sums up his impressions upon the defeat of M. Venizelos gained from a recent comprehensive tour in the Near East. The primary cause of the reverse he shows as follows:—

The first consideration is that the Liberal *débâcle* of November 14, which was the certain sign for the return of King Constantine, appears to indicate that the Hellenic people do not possess the stability, the breadth of view, and the gratitude to recognise what the ex-Premier has done for them. Put in another way, as they are deservedly famous for their patriotism and love of their country, all that one can say is that political bias has prevented the Greeks from seeing that, even if his internal régime did leave a good deal to be desired, the great Cretan was and is the only man who could have brought about the regeneration of Greece, or who could have obtained for that country the advantages which she secured as a result of the Balkan campaigns and of the European conflagration.

He proceeds to discuss the segregation of Venizelist and anti-Venizelist:—

The campaign which culminated in November last, therefore, began in March, 1915, for, whilst two intervening elections were held, and whilst M. Venizelos and the King were respectively in practical exile for part of the time, events possessed of a bearing upon the ultimate issue were in continual progress. The King undoubtedly remained and gradually became more and more identified with the sentiments of a large section of the people. This was the case because of his general popularity, because he favoured neutrality at a moment when the idea of war was not popular, and because he was able to show himself as the opponent of a policy which his partisans suggested was to be imposed from abroad. M. Venizelos, on the other hand, gradually lost ground, for the reasons that the programme for which he stood did not originally meet with public favour, that the enemy was temporarily successful, and that the Allied handling of the Greek situation was widely resented. This last-mentioned question remained most important up to the end, especially in that our failure to distinguish between "Constantinism" and "Pro-Germanism" on the one side and between "Pro-Alliyism" and "Venizelism" on the other alienated from us and from the ex-Prime Minister many Greeks who idolised the King, but who wished at a given moment to support the Allies in a policy destined sooner or later to free thousands of Hellenic nationals from the Turkish yoke.

Mr. Woods then demonstrates that, although M. Venizelos was returned to power in June, 1915, "he was not in a position to carry out the principal plank of his policy." While he was in Salonika events were taking place in Athens that undermined his power, chief among which was the Note delivered to the Greek Government in June, 1916. Of this he says:—

That Note, containing all sorts of demands, including one for the immediate dissolution of the Chamber, was itself most unpopular. That unpopularity was increased by the fact that new elections were never held, according to the Royalists, because of the attitude of the Allies, who in their (the Royalists') opinion feared a public expression of opposition to the policy of a man whose cause we had definitely espoused. And then there is no doubt that the manner in which the French handled the incidents which followed was responsible for great ill-feeling against that nation, which for many reasons is now greatly disliked in Greece. Thus, whatever were the nature of the assurances given by the King in regard to the question of the Allied landing at the Piræus on December 1, 1916, that landing is still considered to have been an infringement of the sovereign rights of an independent people. Once more, and advisable as it was for the Allies to take any measures required to safeguard their military interests in the Balkans, no present-day visitor to Greece can fail to realise that the rôle played by M. Jonnart, which included the Allied demand for the abdication of the King, in fact greatly increased the influence of a monarch who, throughout, has been the real and central figure in the whole drama.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"NOTES ON AGRICULTURE IN CYPRUS AND ITS PRODUCTS." (Reprinted from the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute.) By W. Bevan. Director of Agriculture, Cyprus. [3s.]
- II.—"AROUND THE SHORES OF ASIA: A Diary of Travel from the Golden Horn to the Golden Gate." By Mary A. Poynter. (London: George Allan and Unwin. 16s. net.)
- III.—"THE BULGARIAN PEACE TREATY." Speeches delivered in the British Parliament, with an introduction by J. D. Bourchier. (London: Christophers. Ninepence.)

I.—AGRICULTURE IN CYPRUS.

Annual reports on Cyprus, often noticed by THE NEAR EAST, have tended to show that little substantial progress has been made in island agriculture. Sir William Ramsay's verdict that our administration "will stand out in history as a record of incapacity" may be too severe; but a perusal of these Notes leaves one more than ever convinced that the development of the island's main industry has fallen far short of what might have been reasonably expected, during an administration dating from 1878. An Agricultural Department was established in 1896, Mr. P. Gennadius being the first Director. Mr. Bevan, the present chief, regrets that the work of Mr. Gennadius on "Hellenic Agriculture" has been published in Greek only. But his valuable reports on "Agriculture in Cyprus," and his numerous leaflets, have been accessible in English, Greek, and Turkish, and it would have been well had much of his advice been adopted and carried into execution. It is no secret that each succeeding Director has laboured under a keen sense of disappointment on realising how little he could accomplish with an inadequate staff and absurdly insufficient grants.

It seems clear from the present and previous reports of Mr. Bevan that his hands have been similarly tied, and work, if not hampered, certainly not adequately supported. One feels that if there were some excuse for attempting nothing on any large scale, much more might have been done by judicious expenditure to stimulate various branches of local industry. What progress there has been has been on so small a scale that ages would be required, at the present pace, to bring about any marked improvement. Just as the Cypriot still prefers to drink his wine well flavoured by the tarred goatskin, and to take his olive oil as it comes from the unclean and rancid output of the native press, so are all his methods survivals of a primeval past. Take one example, that of cereals. Cultivation remains as in the Stone Age. The patriarchal winnowing is wasteful and injurious to the grain. There is little selection of seed; indeed, to mention one aspect, the tithe grain taken by Government (wheat, barley, and oats) includes all kinds and qualities, each mixed and stored promiscuously, and it is from these that seed corn is issued to many cultivators. At the same time, the report speaks of experiments with imported grains, which—if Government efforts were serious—should assuredly have led to good results many years ago.

As regards cotton, large tracts suitable for it cannot be used for lack of water, but this is not the only element lacking. As to the silk industry, which could be very largely increased, we read that if cocoons were reeled in the island considerable sums could be saved. We gather that this industry, instead of prospering, has rather degenerated, owing, apparently, to preventable causes.

Much might be done in the profitable field of carob production were it not for the pernicious goat. These animals are still the deadly enemies of agriculture as of forestry. "If," says the report, "they are to be preserved it is essential that both they and the shepherds be brought under strict control." But surely, after forty-two years, the control should already be such as to protect efficiently both forests and husbandry.

As regards tobacco, it is still questionable whether it can be made to compete on favourable terms with the Macedonian leaf. Fruit culture is capable of vast extension.

but whether this would be profitable seems very doubtful from the last page of the Notes.

Admitting that there is much ground for the criticism which native members of Council direct against the administration as regards agriculture, it must be observed that they have themselves done but little to help, being more engaged over fruitless political agitation than in loyal co-operation for island welfare.

Disheartening as are the conditions of agriculture (certainly through no fault of the Directors), praise must be given for such advance as has been made in some districts, including the improvement of live stock. Also Mr. Bevan is able to report that there is "a more receptive and enlightened attitude" among many of the peasants. This is a hopeful conclusion and augury for the future.

II.—SKIRTING ASIA.

At the end of 1913 Mrs. Poynter accompanied her husband on a mission which he undertook on behalf of the Ottoman Public Debt Administration. Their travels took them across Asia and to the United States and Canada; but it is with the former portion of their experiences only that this book deals—from the Golden Horn to the Golden Gate, as Mr. Hugh Poynter remarks in his introduction. It appears to have been an unhurried journey, with time for occasional "side trips" to points of special interest; and a knowledge of the Near East and its customs, with an obvious liking for and sympathy with what can only be described as the spirit of the Orient, enabled the travellers to take far greater advantage of their opportunities than anyone quite new to the East could have done. Mrs. Poynter has the seeing eye and the gift of making us see what she saw and enter into the feelings aroused by what she saw; and when she is telling us what she saw we find it far more interesting than when she tells us what other people saw, or what they told her about the places she visited.

It was on December 30, 1913, that the travellers left Constantinople, and it was at the end of May that they reached San Francisco. In the interval they had visited some of the most interesting cities of India, Burma, the Malay Peninsula, the Dutch Indies, Siam, the Philippines, China, and Japan; and the book gives us many enjoyable peeps at these cities and their inhabitants. In spirit we visit cities into which the jungle seems likely to overflow at almost any time, and into which strange denizens of the jungle actually do find their way quite frequently. For instance, Mrs. Poynter tells us that the last tiger to be seen at Singapore was killed in the billiard-room of Raffles' Hotel only some six years ago, and the frequent mention of snakes of the distinctly deadly kind remind us that the fairest Eden has its drawbacks. Upon the whole, however, the picture presented is a very attractive one.

Here is an interesting comparison drawn between the man of the Near East and his brother of the Mid-East, taken from the record of Bombay impressions:—

This mid-Eastern man does not seem at first glance so reposeful, so contemplative as the man of the Near East with whom we have been long acquainted. While he has more vivacity, he does not foregather in coffee-houses or sit in the open street to the same extent as his Near Eastern brother. Perhaps he has not the money to pay; perhaps if he be a Hindu his caste will prevent him, even if the cups were proffered him. He is not so fine a man physically as the Turk or the Arab, though some of the North India people and the hillmen are stalwart enough.

And here is another Indian impression, from Delhi this time:—

In recalling later the experiences of this day, I am sure a seemingly unimportant picture will always come to mind, that of a cart rumbling along the road and leaving a trail of dust in its wake for miles—dust that would not float away or lie, but hung in the hot, heavy, silent air just as it was raised by the passing wheels. This feature, also, is a part of India as much as her tombs and temples, an older part even than these, and makes an impression as lasting as that peculiar odour that one always notices on approaching an Indian town or village—that pungent, acrid odour of fires burning and the cooking of food out of doors. And the sunsets, glowing, glorious, and distinct from all other sunsets, are, like the long trails of dust and the scent of evening fires, one with the land.

Such impressions may have little value for the student, but they are likely to call up before the plain man or woman a much more vivid picture than many pages of scientific detail; and there can be little doubt that the book will fulfil the hope expressed by Mr. Poynter in the introduction—that it "may recall pleasant memories to those who have visited or resided in the places described, and who still 'hear the East a-calling'." It will also make those who have not yet visited the Orient wish to do so. And that shows—does it not?—that it is a good book.

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III.—THE TREATY OF NEUILLY.

This small pamphlet reproduces the speeches delivered in Parliament by Lord Bryce, Colonel Malone, Colonel Wedgwood, and Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy on the second readings of the Treaties of Peace (Austria and Bulgaria) Bill in April, 1920. All these speeches were appeals for the modification of a treaty that was felt to be at variance with the Allies' pledges, and that offered no permanent settlement of the Balkan question. A more detailed analysis of the main provisions of the Treaty is attempted in the introduction, which must have been one of the last published writings of the late J. D. Bouchier on behalf of the country whose cause he had so wholeheartedly championed. The appeals have fallen on deaf ears, and only the future can show whether Europe in general and the Balkans in particular would have been better off if they had been listened to. The pamphlet forms a handy publication of reference, which speakers, publicists, and others who want to be in touch with current affairs will do well to keep by them.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Serbo-Croatian Self-Taught." By the Natural Method. With Phonetic Pronunciation. By J. J. R. O'Beirne. (London: E. Marlborough and Co. Wrapper, 3s. 6d.; Duxeen, 4s. 6d. net.)

"Topee and Turban: or Here and There in India." By Lieut.-Colonel H. A. Newell, I.A. With Illustrations from Photographs. (London: The Bodley Head. £1 1s. net.)

"A Book of Gardening for the Sub-Tropics." By Mary Stout and Madeline Agar. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby. 6s. net.)

MUSICAL NOTES.

A Persian Pianist.

There is at the present time in London a very great, though little known, pianist, a Persian. His private name is Hadjar, and I am informed that he is related to the Royal Family of Persia; but for public purposes he has adopted the name of Leff Pouishnoff. I heard him for the first time on February 10 at the Wigmore Hall, where he gave the second of a series of five recitals (the remainder are at the same hall on February 22, March 3, and 17); but I have little doubt from this one recital that he will become one of the world's executive artists.

This recital was devoted to Schumann and to Chopin, a recital designed, therefore, to show the poet rather than the intellectual, the feminine rather than the masculine side of M. Pouishnoff's temperament. It was a severe test, but the pianist stood it magnificently. His technique one soon forgot to admire, so certain and effortless it was; and from his pedalling to the colours of his tone he showed a definite, finely equipped, though, as yet, immature personality. The dreamy beauty of his tone in Schumann's rather turgid Romance in F sharp major (Op. 28) was followed by a perfectly exquisite interpretation of "Vogel als Prophet." But in spite of much very fine playing it was the youth (M. Pouishnoff is but twenty-eight) of the pianist which informed his "Carnaval." Too many times here his impetuosity ran to rash lengths, became streperous, in fact. In Chopin the virtuoso in him was easily demonstrated, but it did not overcome the artist; there was never any playing for effect. M. Pouishnoff is one of the most thorough and accomplished musicians who have visited London; and I shall be surprised if before the end of his recitals he has not created a *furor*. The general quietness of his methods may make his appeal less rapid, but it certainly adds to the charm of his playing. That this

Persian should have become under Russian tuition so completely familiar with Western musical thought is really a marvellous thing.

The Music Society.

It was in the memory of the late Gervase Elwes that a programme of chamber music was performed under the auspices of the Music Society at St. John's Institute, Westminster, on February 8. No appreciation of such a thing is in place; and if it be added that the vocalists were the English Singers and the instrumentalists Miss Anne Mukle and a string quartet consisting of M. André Mangeot and Misses Katherine Kendall, Rebecca Clarke, and Mary Mukle, it will be at once clear that homage to one of our finest artists was beautifully paid. It was very meet that the essential Englishry of Elwes should be remembered in a selection of Byrd, Gibbons, Purcell, and Vaughan-Williams.

The Ladies' String Quartet.

Upon its first appearance in London, a few weeks ago, when it was notoriously sponsored by Dr. Ethel Smyth, I wrote about the above quartet; and I remember mentally noting how little sincerity as a primary factor in art counts. Since that time this quartet does not appear to have improved. At a concert which it gave at the Mortimer Hall on February 7, it showed, together with any amount of keenness and desperate anxiety, real sincerity; but it simply has not the technique to make of this a virtue. Three sketches of McEwen and Beethoven's third quartet I heard played; the first was well enough, but a lack of intellect and of real grip in the Beethoven made it very unpleasing.

This new quartet was assisted (and, in fact, had to lean heavily upon) Mr. George Parker, whose choice of a wearisome extract from a Bach cantata and of some English songs was unfortunate. His best songs were two of George Butterworth's: "Is my team ploughing?" and the rollicking Sussex folk-song, "Come, my own one"; but the Mortimer Hall is an unhappy place for anyone to sing in, so difficult to reconcile are the relations between singer and accompanist.

Mr. Leonard Borwick.

It is easy to recall the time when one thought that all that the old-fashioned school of pianists did—the school of Miss Fanny Davies, and of Mr. Leonard Borwick, for example—was right. One had in these pianists a sweet confidence that "classical" music, at any rate, they played as it should be played; and at Mr. Borwick's recital at the Æolian Hall on February 9 the old faith tried hard to reassert itself. Now, for this pianist's artistry I have immense respect; but he was really asking too much of us in playing Beethoven's thirty-three variations on a waltz tune of Diabelli. Mr. Borwick actually succeeded in infusing some meaning into some of these variations, but all his skill, and very evident sincerity, could not rid one of the conviction that this 120th Opus of Beethoven should be heard only by the hardened inhabitants of one's own house. In a Chopin group the pianist's tone was uniformly excellent, but how one longed for some romance, some colour in it! Chopin is not a composer in whom these "traditional" pianists excel. For you cannot let Chopin tell his own tale; you must, for example, cover up or expose all sorts of things with the pedals; and it was particularly in disregarding this necessity that Mr. Borwick failed, except in the Prelude in C sharp minor, to move us. But how refined, how subtle an artist he really can be he showed us in Ravel's "Gaspard de la Nuit," the piercing reality of "Le Gibet" especially being magnificently portrayed. The effortless mastery shown over this extremely difficult music was a thing very rarely seen in our concert halls.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

February 17 (New Style).

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Jumada II., 9, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Adar 9, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

On his return journey to France, General Franchet D'Esperey stopped at Agram.

M. Venizelos concluded his private visit to this country on February 10, when he left for Paris.

The Hon. Cecil and Mrs. Campbell have left London for Tunis, and will be away about two months.

M. Alexandre Cretziano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on February 13 for Paris.

General Pellé, the new French High Commissioner in Constantinople, arrived there on February 10.

Captain Petroff-Tchmakoff has arrived in London to assume the duties of First Secretary at the Bulgarian Legation.

M. Aharonian, President of the Armenian Peace Delegation, will come to London for the forthcoming Near Eastern Conference.

The Dowager Maharani of Cooch-Bihar embarked for India in the mail steamer Mantua at Marseilles on February 12.

The marriage of Mr. F. W. Victor Ellvers with Miss Audrey Elliott will take place on March 29 at All Saints, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Princess Beatrice was expected last week at Oran, Algeria. After a short stay there she will leave for Algiers, where she is to spend the rest of the winter.

It is announced that on May 19 Sir Charles Greenway, Bart., will lecture before the Central Asian Society upon "The Oil Resources of Mesopotamia."

Lieut.-Colonel Paun, of the Roumanian Army, is arranging a section of historical trophies and Roumanian equipments to be placed in the British War Museum.

General Lyautey was to have left Casablanca on February 15 to consult with the French Government on important questions in regard to the French protectorate in Morocco.

The Senate of Durham University has decreed the establishment of a Diploma in Arabic. Candidates, who need not be graduates, will be required to keep three terms and to pass the requisite examination. Two separate syllabuses are provided, one intended specially for missionaries in Mohammedan lands, the other for persons desirous of entering on an official or a commercial career there.

Bishop Taylor-Smith, Chaplain-General of the Forces, is proceeding on a tour of inspection in Egypt, Palestine, and the Mediterranean, and will not return before the end of April.

From Cambridge it is announced that the managers of the Craven Fund have made a grant of £150 to the managing committee of the British School at Athens in aid of further excavations at Mycenæ.

The marriage arranged between Captain J. D. MacKenzie, 41st Dogras, I.A., and Miss Phyllis M. Thomson, 163, Woodstock Road, Oxford, will take place, leave permitting, towards the end of March, in Bombay.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place at Constantinople, between Philip Basil Cuddon, the Hampshire Regiment, and Evelyn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cummings, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Sir Frederick and Lady Lewis and Miss Frieda Lewis have left England for a yachting trip up the Mediterranean. Included in the party are Sir John and Lady Esplen, Lady Fisher, and Mr. G. H. Shakespeare. They will be away for two months.

Mr. Theodore D. Moscona, of the Manchester Egyptian and Oriental Society, gave a lecture on February 10 at the University of Manchester, on "Coptic Clergymen Whom I Have Known." Prof. M. Canney, M.A. (Professor of Semitic Languages, Manchester University), was in the chair.

The engagement is announced of James Drummond Anderson, I.C.S., eldest son of the late J. D. Anderson, D.Litt., I.C.S. (retired), teacher of Bengali, and Mrs. Anderson, Mostyn House, Cambridge, and Jean, youngest daughter of William C. Macpherson, C.S.I., I.C.S. (retired), and Mrs. Macpherson, of Blairgowrie, Perthshire.

M. Michel B. Boeresco, Roumanian Minister, and Lieut.-Colonel Douglas Capitaneano, Military Attaché, entertained at luncheon last week, at St. James's Club, Major-General Wilkinson Dent Bird, Lieutenant-Governor of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, who was in command of the Guard of Honour supplied by the Coldstream Guards when the Roumanian Standard was deposited at the Royal Hospital. There were also present Lieut.-Colonel Paun, of the Roumanian Army, and M. Djuvara, Secretary of the Legation.

A special course of three public lectures will be given during the Lent Term at the University of London, King's College, by Dr. F. Chudoba, Lecturer in Czechoslovak Language and Literature. They will be delivered on February 24, March 10, and March 24, and the subjects will be respectively:—"Historical Relations between England and Bohemia," "The Early Development of Czech Literature down to the end of the Hussite Wars," and "The Development of Czech Literature from the end of the Hussite Wars to the end of the Thirty Years' War."

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Minos G. Yanopoulos has been appointed Secretary to the Greek Legation in London.

Fosshe Zeitung states that Count Von Spee has been appointed German Chargé d'Affaires in Athens.

Dr. Kumanudi has been appointed Minister of Finance of Yugoslavia. He was formerly Professor at the University in Belgrade.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Sir William Blake Richmond, K.C.B., R.A., the famous portrait-painter. Much of his inspiration he derived from his frequent sojourning in Greece and Egypt.

The death has occurred at Teheran of Mr. William King Wood, C.I.E., C.B.E., Director of the Persian Section of the Indo-European Telegraph Department. Mr. King Wood, who was born on May 1, 1867, was first appointed to the Department in October, 1892, and became Director of the Persian Section in June, 1913. During the winter of 1898-99 he surveyed a route for a telegraph line through Central Persia from Ardistan to the frontier of India, travelling on foot or on horseback 3,000 miles, and twice traversing the Kerman desert. For this valuable work he received the special thanks of the Secretary for India.

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Between 1902 and 1907, in numerous journeys, he laid out an entirely new telegraph line from Teheran to the Perso-Baluch frontier, a distance of 945 miles. For this arduous and successful work he was awarded the C.I.E. During the Great War his zeal and tact enabled him to maintain telegraphic communication between Teheran and India, in spite of all opposition and the efforts of German agents to get the line destroyed. His knowledge of Persia and the Persians enabled him to afford assistance to successive British Ministers in Persia, and in recognition of these services he was given the C.B.E. in 1919.

A Moscow message announces the death of the Russian General, Alexis Nicolaevitch Kouropatkin. The following notes are taken from the *Manchester Guardian* account of his life. Born in 1848, he joined at the age of eighteen the forces then operating in Turkestan, and took part in numerous actions, including the taking of Samarkand. Later, while studying in France, he saw the collapse of the Second Empire at Sedan, and afterwards took part in the Expedition from Algiers into the Sahara. For his services he was rewarded by Marshal MacMahon with the Legion of Honour. On returning home he was soon appointed Chief of the Divisional Staff of the army operating against Kokand under Skobelev, and again distinguished himself. On the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish War in 1877 he was appointed by Skobelev to be his Chief of the Staff. He was now a colonel and the heir-presumptive of the "White General," whom he soon followed to Central Asia, there to carry out with success the siege and the capture of Geok-Tepe. On Skobelev's death he became Russia's most renowned soldier, and for eight years he was occupied in the military reorganisation of the Empire as Assistant Chief of the General Staff. In 1890 Central Asia was formed into a province under the name of Transcaspia, and Kouropatkin returned to the scene of his early glories in the capacity of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the troops of the district. Here he laboured for another eight years, building railways and developing the economic resources of the country.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A French Air Attaché will shortly be appointed in Bucharest.

In the process of disarming the Syrian population, the French authorities have collected some 21,000 rifles during the past year.

£1,600 in British gold has been confiscated from smugglers by the French Customs authorities on board a liner about to leave Marseilles for the Near East.

An Algiers message reports that an Englishman living at Djendee, near Affreville, has been murdered by natives, who broke into and ransacked his house.

As a result of the electricians' strike, Athens was plunged in darkness at 7 o'clock on February 9, and the sitting of the Constituent Assembly was cut short.

A telegram from Beyrout received in Paris states that the Druse chiefs have requested that their country should be constituted an autonomous province placed, as is the State of Damascus, under a French mandate. No French detachment has so far penetrated to the Jebel Druse.

Applications for vacancies in the Indian Educational Service are invited by the Board of Education, Victoria and Albert Museum, from ex-Service men who hold University war degrees and credentials showing that their University career, if interrupted, would have been distinguished.

In reply to a message from the Governor of Bengal conveying the new Indian Legislative Council's expressions of devotion to the King-Emperor's throne and person, and its loyal message, the Secretary of State for India has telegraphed stating that he is commanded to express the King's gratification at the successful opening of the Council, and his appreciation of its message of loyalty.

The Secretary of State for India has received from the Government of India, with regard to the reception at Delhi of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, information that all functions so far have passed off very well, though the non-cooperators were successful in reducing the size of the crowds of spectators. A very impressive ceremony was the inauguration of the Chamber of Princes. A large gathering of Princes attended it, and they accorded His Royal Highness a most cordial welcome. His speech at the inauguration of the Legislature was very well received by its members. Frequent and general applause was elicited by it, particularly by the portion containing a personal appeal, by which a deep impression was made on the audience.

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ALLIED REPARATION COMMISSION IN BULGARIA.

The Inter-Allied Commission provided for by Article 130 of the Treaty of Neuilly "to facilitate the discharge by Bulgaria of the obligations assumed by her" under the Treaty, is about to take up its duties in Sofia. It is composed of three members appointed by the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Italy. The British Commissioner is Sir Elliot Graham Colvin, K.C.S.I., formerly of the Indian Civil Service. The other members of the British Delegation are Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E., Deputy Commissioner and Secretary-General, and Colonel H. Pears, Chef du Service. According to the terms of the Treaty the Commission is to continue in existence as long as any of the payments due under the terms of the Reparation clauses of the Treaty remain unpaid. The costs and expenses of the Commission are paid by Bulgaria and are to be a first charge on the revenues payable to the Commission.

The members of the Commission and their staffs are due to leave Paris by special train on February 23.

TURKESTAN UNDER THE BOLSHEVISTS.

On February 8, before the Royal Asiatic Society, a vivid account of Turkestan under Bolshevik rule was given by Miss R. Houston. In 1913, said the lecturer, Turkestan was a peaceful and delightful region. In January, 1919, however the outbreak of civil war transformed the country into an inferno. Soldiers of the Red Army took possession of the town and tortured the people without provocation; entered houses and seized provisions and household goods. Everyone had to work, even women with children over five years old. She herself taught in a school, and if the children were dissatisfied their Soviet made a complaint. The so-called requisition laws for food were only a synonym for wholesale thieving. Sir Percy Sykes, in a brief address, congratulated Miss Houston on her lecture, which, he said, should be published in book form.

General Sir Robert Baden-Powell and Lady Baden-Powell have held a review of Indian Boy Scouts at Allahabad.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1921.

PRINCES IN COUNCIL.

Last week's ceremonies at Delhi may be regarded as marking the formal beginning of the new epoch in India. An interval of little over three years has elapsed since the announcement that His Majesty's Government had decided to undertake a task without precedent in the history of the world, and now the first stage of the great experiment is accomplished, and the institutions inaugurated by the Duke of Connaught are definitely in being. British India has, what India never had before, a Legislature based on direct election, and, despite the narrowness of the initial franchise, already entitled to speak for the great mass of the population hitherto governed by the autocracy of Delhi or Whitehall. The rest of India has as yet no such organ for expressing the popular will; in its place there is an institution, surely unique in modern history, which is designed to give expression to the collective opinion of the autocratic rulers recognised by the British Government. It would not be easy to overrate the significance of either institution, and if on the present occasion we confine our attention to the Chamber of Princes, our justification lies in the fact that owing to its very novelty its nature and functions lend themselves readily to misconception. The idea of an elected legislature is familiar to all, though not all countries have yet gained experience of its practical working; but to many of our readers the idea of a chamber of autocrats may sound almost grotesque in these days when autocracy is so commonly regarded as a thing of the past, and it will be worth our while to explain the circumstances in which this institution has come into existence, to indicate its present functions, and to attempt a forecast of what it may become.

The extension of the British power in India proceeded by a gradual movement, and in accordance with the facts of a highly complex situation. In some places there was no effective government, in others the existing government was of such a nature that its subversion was judged imperative; in this way British India was formed by slow degrees. Elsewhere there were governments which the British were not disposed to subvert; their existence was recognised, and their powers defined, by treaties entered into with their rulers, and thus we find interspersed among the British provinces several hundreds of States, extending in the aggregate to 700,000 square miles and containing populations of more than 70 millions. The treaties were made with individual States, and the limitations imposed by them differ widely, but the essential point is that the States rest on treaties, and the good faith of Britain is pledged to their maintenance. Relations between the Indian Government and the States are diplomatic, except in those rare cases where active intervention is justified by breaches of a ruler's engagements, and, as is only to be expected, the princes are jealous and tenacious of their rights. It is obvious that a council of these princes could be formed only with their consent, and in point of fact a demand for such an institution has gradually arisen among them. The demand is by no means unanimous, for some of the most "advanced" States, and some of the most sagacious princes, are known to have discouraged the proposal, but it has been pressed actively by

others, and has won the favour of the majority, with the result that the Chamber of Princes is now definitely in existence. Its functions follow naturally from the conditions of its origin. It cannot have, and does not aspire to have, any power of interference in the internal affairs of any of the States, it cannot intervene between individual States and the Government of India, and from the nature of the case it can possess no executive authority. When these forms of activity have been excluded, there still remains an extensive field of usefulness, which cannot be better defined than in the words of the Royal Proclamation by which the Chamber of Princes has been called into existence. The Viceroy, it is here announced, will take its counsel freely in matters relating to the territories of the Indian States generally, and in matters which affect those territories jointly with British India, or with the remainder of the Empire; it is thus an advisory body available for consultation on questions of three classes, in regard to two of which a need has long existed, while a demand for the third is rapidly coming into being. The first class consists in great part of matters of procedure; the system of intercourse between the Viceroy and the States is by no means perfect, and must in any case change with changing times; it is not desirable that these changes should be determined by the Viceroy alone, and the new Chamber is an eminently suitable body for discussing those modifications of form and practice which are apt to produce very substantial results. The importance of the second class, the joint interests of Provinces and States, is increased by geographical conditions, for States and Provinces are inextricably mingled on the map, and the needs of the people imperatively require harmonious and concerted action in matters which are independent of political frontiers. Railway policy, to take one instance, must be determined largely by the natural conditions, which may involve the construction of a trunk line through a dozen or more political units; in matters of sanitation, again, action over a large area may be rendered nugatory by the maintenance of insanitary enclaves; currencies, posts, and telegraphs must sometimes overstep frontiers; and in many branches of the administration there is an urgent call for action based on common principles. Agreement on such matters is almost hopeless while each State remains in primitive isolation, and the best chance of securing it is to bring the States together for consultation with each other and with representatives of the Central Government. As to the remaining class of questions, the interest of the States in matters which concern the whole Empire, it must suffice to say that the position was conceded when Indian princes were summoned to the War Cabinet and the Imperial Conference; those precedents cannot be ignored, and it is obviously desirable that some formal arrangement should exist by which the views of the princes can be put forward with authority on matters in which their concern has already been admitted.

From the outset then the new Chamber of Princes will have an assured position and definite functions, but perhaps its chief significance lies in the future. For the moment it can only formulate the conclusions of autocrats, but it is impossible to believe that autocracy can survive indefinitely in the States while responsible democratic government is making way throughout the length and breadth of British India. No constitutional means exist for imposing democracy on the States, and no thoughtful person is likely to suggest such a measure; the change must come from within, but the forces tending to produce it are already at work, and we anticipate a gradual and cautious movement in the direction of liberalisation, leading eventually to a time when the Princes shall meet in council, no longer autocrats, but constitutional rulers entitled to speak for their subjects. When that time comes the Chamber of Princes will stand out as one of the two great organs for the expression of Indian opinion to the world, representing that large portion of the country which has no voice in the legislature of British India; its forms and its composition will doubtless alter with changing circumstances, but even to-day we can regard it as the forerunner of an institution which shall form an essential part of India, the new India which Britain has undertaken to build out of the ruins of the old.

MOSLEM WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

By ESTELLE BLYTH.

There is for all Western women a great fascination about the veiled and guarded lives of their Eastern sisters, and little is known as yet concerning Moslem women at Jerusalem, where old custom is still firmly established, and such liberty as the Turkish women enjoy is almost unknown. We



[Photo by Mr. Martin Briggs.]

JERUSALEM: A TYPICAL STREET.

will begin by describing a wedding; for that is the most important event in a Moslem woman's life.

The preliminaries of a wedding take place weeks, or even months, beforehand, and are conducted with a rigid observance of custom and tradition that shows the power of the old generation over the younger. When her son has attained a marriageable age (anything from eighteen upwards) the mother sets to work in earnest to find him a bride. Probably she has had her eye fixed for some time upon a likely girl; if not, she will discuss the matter with her friends, and in this way she will soon hear of a suitable bride. She then discusses everything in detail with the girl's mother, and the arrangements are made to the satisfaction of the two mothers, the contracting parties having no say at all, let alone the fathers. If a man is of full age, and has no near relation to whom he can entrust so delicate a matter, he will depute some old woman (a recognised agent in such affairs) to act as his ambassador.

The girl having been promised in marriage, the prospective bridegroom pays down a sum of money agreed on between the parents; this custom has given rise to the belief that a Moslem buys his wife; but the money represents rather a settlement upon her. The money is absolutely her own, and no one can touch a farthing of it; she can have it in any form she chooses—in cash, furniture, clothes, or jewels; if her husband divorces her she can take it with her, and no

one has the power to stop her. I am reminded here of two cases bearing on this money settlement. A man borrowed money from a friend, which he found himself unable to repay; the lender then insisted upon marrying the debtor's little daughter, saying that if he could not have the money he would still have something! The only sufferer here was the bride, a wild little creature of thirteen, who ran away three times during the first few months of her married life. After that she settled down most happily. In this case the bridegroom made no settlement on the bride, but instead forgave her father the debt. In the other case, a man divorced his wife because he wanted to marry again and could not afford to support two wives. The first wife was partly revenged, however, for her settlement had been in kind, and so she was able to take with her practically the whole of the household furniture, leaving the man to re-furnish the house for the second wife.

The wedding ceremony always takes place at night. In the afternoon the bridegroom's friends escort him to the mosque for prayers; if there is no mosque near enough, these prayers can be said at a friend's house instead. This is the only religious part of the ceremony. The wedding takes place at the bridegroom's house, which, by the way, he must not enter himself until after the bride has gone in. After dark, about seven o'clock, the bride is taken to her new home, being escorted thither by her friends and relations with much shouting and clapping of hands; while tall brasiers, filled with flaming wood and charcoal, throw vivid lights and shadows across the moving figures. In the centre, under a canopy and closely veiled, walks the bride, a sword being held over her to signify the readiness of her men-folk to protect her in case of need. She must be fairly tired even now, for before leaving her old home she has had to sit upright on a chair with her eyes shut, holding out open hands into which her friends drop such offerings of money as they can afford. At the bridegroom's house, the bride and her nearest relations and friends are shown into a room where the ceremony of robing the bride takes place. It is a very protracted affair, as everyone lends a hand. The wedding-dress is often an heirloom, most costly and beautiful. Such was the case with a bride we once saw, who was wearing her grandmother's wedding-dress of the loveliest sapphire blue velvet richly embroidered in gold, with a high close-fitting cap of the same, from which hung a soft veil of rose-coloured silken gauze powdered with spangles of gold. Friends and relations vie with one another in lending the bride their choicest ornaments to wear on the greatest day of her life, not only for kindness, but for luck; and so the bride is radiant with gold chains, pearls, diamonds, and all the chief treasures of many jewel-cases. Her cap will be studded



THE "MOSQUE OF OMAR," JERUSALEM.

with diamond earrings and brooches, and her fingers heavy with rings; gold leaf is deftly laid over her nails, and her fingers and hands are stained with henna. While the bride is being dressed the women and children, who fill the room to overflowing, sit round her, chattering busily and passing frank and admiring comments upon her and her clothes; breaking off from time to time to eat rich cakes and sweetmeats or to utter the wedding cry. This is a



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most curious sound, and girls learn while young to produce it; they place their hands on their hips and, leaning forward a little, emit a long, shrill, and earsplitting scream which at close quarters has the most distracting effect upon the untrained foreign ear. However, it expresses the height of joy, and announces to all the world that a wedding is taking place to-night.

When at last the bride is adorned to the complete satisfaction of herself and her friends, she is conducted to the room in which the bridegroom is awaiting her. This takes a long time, as she must walk very slowly, signifying her reluctance to quit her maiden estate; her eyes are shut and her hands held up before her face, the palms turned inwards. All the other women cluster about her like flies round a honeycomb, some bearing lighted tapers, whilst one holds over her a drawn sword to show her husband that if he is not good to her the men of her own family



OLIVE TREES NEAR JERUSALEM: ON THE JERUSALEM-JAFFA ROAD.

will interfere for her protection. From time to time the wedding cry shrills out. It must be remembered that only women are present; the bridegroom is the one man allowed in, as all the women are unveiled. It is, indeed, the one occasion on which he can see the faces of women who are strangers to him, or only distantly related; but he is far too shy and nervous to enjoy the opportunity as he might under less trying circumstances. Moving with slow, reluctant steps, the bride is guided to a chair at the bridegroom's side, where she seats herself. He lifts her veil to obtain a clearer view of her, and then gently passes his hands over her face to show that he is her master. It is said that some men give a blow instead, but I have never seen this done, and certainly no man of good birth and breeding would do such a thing. In any case, it must be a very trying moment for them both; for the man now sees his bride for the first time, and she, poor thing, is still obliged to keep her eyes fast shut, for to open them would be immodest as well as unlucky. After this, refreshments are brought in, and then the bridegroom leads the bride to their own room, where at last she may open her eyes and see her husband.

The wedding festivities now begin in good earnest, though, as the bridal pair have retired, it is only the guests who enjoy them. There is singing, dancing, playing on musical instruments, and any amount of talking, while constant relays of rich sweets and scented lemonade, syrups, and coffee help to keep the assembly busy and contented. The wedding guests bring with them as many changes of costume as they can afford, and these they don in public at intervals during the night, to the envy and admiration of one another.

The bride is not allowed to leave the house for eight days after the wedding, but these days are filled with a succession of visitors who come to inspect her clothes and presents. Her nearest male relations also visit her during this period, and bring her further gifts; at such visits the women of the bride's family may be present, but, of course, none of her husband's relations. It is considered polite for visitors on these occasions to stay a long time, usually several hours on end, and they must be generously entertained. The Syrians have great ideas of hospitality, and will always give of their best, so that a wedding is a severe tax on the family finances, and usually means going into debt.

The married life of a Syrian Moslem woman of the upper class is not the degraded and restricted existence that so many English women imagine it to be. The men, more often than not, are good husbands and fathers, and in her management of the house and the children the wife is practically unfettered. If she chooses to shut up the house and go off for the whole day on a visit, or to picnic under the trees with her friends, she does so without troubling to mention the fact to her husband; and he, returning at midday to find the house deserted and locked up, departs quite placidly to

seek his dinner in some cookshop in the town. As a woman grows older her authority increases, and a mother-in-law has absolute power over the married son and his wife and children, which power she may not always use too kindly. It must be understood that this refers to Moslem townswomen of the upper class; the lot of the peasant women is indeed a hard one.

The Turkish ladies, as a rule, are carefully educated, and know French well. Those we came across in Jerusalem dressed in the latest French fashions under their covering *izzar* (or sheet), which was of silk, while their pretty features were clearly visible through the thinnest of black gauze veils. They read French novels, and moulded themselves as much as possible upon French models; and they never troubled to disguise their contempt for the Syrian ladies, whom they considered old-fashioned and dowdy beyond expression. Readers of Pierre Loti's novel, "*Désenchantées*," will remember the Turkish ladies so delightfully described by him.

Religion, selfishness, and also respect on the part of the men have combined to seclude the Moslem townswomen, and these are strong barriers to overthrow, even if the Syrian Moslem women were ready for a complete change of life and thought. A Moslem gentleman once put the case from his standpoint: "Have I then so little honour for my wife or my daughter as to let her walk unveiled in the town, so that any common fellow can look at her face?" And he went on to explain the Moslem view of Western customs. "We do not think that English fathers care very much for their daughters, or they would not let them come out here alone, with no man to look after them." He was referring to the way in which single missionary ladies settled, one or two together, in outlying towns and villages, working from the highest motives and putting up with much discomfort and even hardship; but, to his mind, the situation was indefensible. The Moslem point of view cannot be dismissed as ridiculous by those who are ruling their land. Colourless and monotonous as the life of the Syrian Moslem woman seems to us, it is not unhappy. The unrest of Western ideas is only slowly penetrating her still unawakened faculties. Her round, contented face shows that she is perfectly satisfied with life on the whole; if it gives her little, it gives her all she asks of it—as yet. She knows nothing about women's rights, and never talks about them; she is content to take them, and within her small realm her authority is seldom disputed.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Fair.

Next week the British Industries Fair will be upon us again, but this time, unfortunately, in anything but favourable conditions. A year ago trade was flourishing, and it seemed at a superficial glance as if we were in for several years of plenty; the fair was thronged with buyers, and the results were fully in accordance with anticipations. Within the short space of twelve months the position has altogether changed, and the fair will be held in an atmosphere of unprecedented trade depression—a depression which is not limited to one country or one continent, but is literally world-wide. But that fact should by no means be taken to indicate that excellent results will not attend the fair; as a matter of fact, the contrary is almost certain to be the case. In the opinion of the most competent observers, the trade slump has passed the worst point, and from now onwards things will gradually begin to improve. Assuming that buyers will take the long view, and will endeavour to prepare for the inevitable trade "boom," it may safely be anticipated that very substantial orders will be placed. They will certainly be there in their thousands, and they are not making the journey from all parts—and especially from the Near and Middle East—merely to undertake the arduous duty of walking round miles of exhibits for nothing.

Soviet Oil "Concessions."

After utilising all the portable valuables on which they could lay their hands, it was only to be expected that the Bolsheviks would turn as a last resort to concessions as a means of obtaining the wherewithal for carrying on their propaganda. Oilfields in these days naturally hold out special attractions to the concessionaire, and it is not surprising, therefore, to learn of the report that the Bolsheviks have been industriously attempting to dispose of concessions in the Baku and Grozny oilfields. It would appear that efforts have been made to interest groups in a number of countries, but always with no result when the location of the "concessions" was learnt. Obviously the only hope left to the Bolsheviks is that they should dispose of the "concessions" to the rightful owners of the properties; but if the Soviet rulers pin much faith to that eventuality they must possess even more eccentricity than they have been credited with—and that is saying a good deal.

Anglo-Persian Oil.

The continuous expansion of the interests of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company made it certain that additional capital would eventually be required, and in a circular just issued to the shareholders the directors now propose large increases of capital. It is proposed to issue Second Preference shares, part of an authorised issue of £10,000,000, and to create an additional 5,000,000 Preference shares, ranking *pari passu* with those now to be issued. It is further proposed to raise the cumulative dividend on the First Preference shares to 8 per cent. The additional capital is required for further pipelines, tank vessels, refineries, etc., to enable the company to deal with the largely increasing output of crude oil, and for the additional distributing facilities that will be required after the end of next year, when the existing contracts with the Asiatic Petroleum Company expire.

Trade and Unemployment.

A very able survey of some of the problems of unemployment was given by Mr. E. C. de Segundo in a paper which he read recently before the Royal Society of Arts. Mr. de Segundo dealt dispassionately and very thoroughly with this many-sided subject, which constitutes the most vital issue of the day, indicating the outstanding facts of the case, and the lines on which, in his view, the sound industrial state should proceed; and he undoubtedly succeeded in making a very real contribution to the solution of the problem. Very rightly he laid great emphasis on the fact that our trade relations with foreign countries must be taken into careful consideration in working out any scheme for the mitigation of unemployment in this country. As he points out, increased production of itself will not cause adequate relief unless commodities are produced of a character and at a price that will (a) reduce imports and (b) enable us successfully to compete with other producers in foreign markets. Of these two points the latter is obviously the more impor-

tant, and the remedy is almost wholly in the hands of Labour, which at present, by exorbitant requirements, is making the path of our competitors easy.

"Dumping" and Key Industries.

Mr. de Segundo joins issue with those who would have nothing of any measure of protection against "dumping" or for the safeguarding of "key industries." His opinion is that a new industry, if deemed worthy of support, should be protected against foreign competition long enough to give it a proper opportunity to hold its own, and that all industries adjudged to be essential should be permanently protected in a suitable manner. Judged merely from the standpoint of tending to enlarge the scope for employment, this view has everything in its favour; but if it can be proved, as those who are now arguing for unrestricted trade are endeavouring to show, that only absolute freedom from restrictions will serve to restore normal trade conditions to the world within a reasonable time, then this view would obviously lose its force. But, as I pointed out last week, other and more cogent reasons enter into the argument, at any rate so far as "key industries" are concerned.

The Imperial Bank of India.

The end of last month saw the commencement of the operations of the Imperial Bank of India, which, as my readers are aware, has been constituted by the merging of the three famous Presidency banks—the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay, and the Bank of Madras. The departure is one of great importance for the development of Indian banking. The three banks which have now disappeared played a great part in the economic development of India, but with the changed conditions arising out of the war it was obvious that India would henceforward need a central institution which would be to India to a limited extent what the Bank of England is to this country. It is intended in due course to extend the operations of the new bank by the opening of numerous branches throughout those parts of India which have hitherto suffered by the lack of adequate banking facilities.

Egypt's Cotton Trust.

Judging by the latest reports to hand, it would appear certain that the recently-formed association of Egyptian cotton growers intends to make a bold bid to enhance the price of cotton. The main obstacle with which the syndicate was bound to be confronted was the financial aspect of the scheme. It is stated, however, that the syndicate has been able to obtain the support of an American bank, which is prepared to advance half the value of the cotton. Given that that is the case, the success of the syndicate's operations must nevertheless be extremely doubtful. An attempt of this kind has been made before in America, and was defeated, I believe, by the temporary curtailment of production in Lancashire. At the present time the demand for cotton is so restricted that it is comparatively immaterial what the syndicate does, but when in due course cotton is again in great demand, and it should be found that Egyptian could be obtained only at an unsatisfactory price, it is at least possible that ways could be devised to render an attempted "corner" unworkable.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, January 22.

Unfavourable Financial Position.

The State accounts for August just published by the Ministry of Finance are not altogether very pleasant reading, though they do not come as a surprise to those who have followed recent developments in the local financial and economic situation.

Revenue during the five months in question has amounted to £E13,723,896, as against £E10,043,899 at the end of August, 1919. There is therefore an increase of £E3,679,997, for which customs receipts (£E1,540,093), tobacco dues (£E600,018), railways (£E835,182), military exemption dues (£E101,820), Ghaffir cess (£E165,317), and mixed courts fees (£E185,254) are mainly responsible.

Expenditure has amounted to £E15,537,043, as compared with £E9,371,726 during the same period last year—i.e., an increase of nearly 70 per cent., or £E6,165,317, towards which railways (£E3,684,360), indemnities for cost of living (£E707,557), education (£E156,215), prisons (£E143,100), irrigation (£E126,011) and survey (£E107,534) are the main contributors.

As a result there is a deficit of £E1,813,147, as compared with a surplus of £E672,173 at the end of August, 1919. In other words, the situation for the financial year is £E2,485,320 worse than it was a year ago, and it is not surprising that the Ministry of Finance have issued instructions that the budget for the new year must be rigorously cut down to only the most necessary expenditure, and that new works must be excluded as much as possible.

It should be pointed out, however, that the first six months of the year are usually the worst, in that while normally expenditure is evenly spread over the whole year, the third heaviest item on the receipt side, viz., the land tax, is as to quite 60 per cent. collected during the later periods of the financial year. It is highly probable that a good deal of the leeway may be made up during the remaining months, since nearly 70 per cent. of the railway expenditure, which is the heaviest item in the current budget, has already been paid out. Nevertheless, we must expect in the future, unless and until new sources of revenue are created, a contraction in revenue, and, if not an expansion in, at any rate a maintenance of the current rate of expenditure.

GREECE.

ATHENS, February 1.

Shortage of Flour.

The authorities at Corfu have cabled to the Ministry of Foodstuffs asking for an immediate despatch of flour, as the entire stock in the island has been consumed. In addition to Corfu, Patras and Salonika have been clamouring for flour. Although stocks are running very low indeed, the Government has ordered the immediate despatch of 500,000 okes of flour to Patras and Salonika. The Minister of Foodstuffs states that this shortage of flour will only be felt for another fortnight or so, as three boats with a cargo of 9,000 tons each are expected to arrive at the Piræus during the first week in February.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, January 26.

Economic Depression.

The papers discuss seriously the present economic depression, which is attributed largely to the new tastes in the mode of living. Many blame the wave of extravagance which has swept over the island since the war, and urge a return to economy. The importation of many luxuries should, at least temporarily, be curtailed. Figures recently published show a large excess in the value of imports over exports for the quarter ended September 30. Imports were valued at £509,374 (as against £422,776 for the corresponding quarter in 1919); exports at £314,442 (as against £307,990). The excess of imports over exports was thus £194,932.

The chief imports included cotton cloths £40,229, sugar £24,920, petroleum £22,421, mechanical appliances, iron, etc., £20,809, cars £15,778, preserved foods £13,533, chemical fertilisers £12,619, woollen cloths £11,321, coffee £10,701, and tobacco £9,917. It is necessary that the balance should be brought again to the right side, and meanwhile an equilibrium could without difficulty be restored, as advocated, by checking much expenditure on various luxuries which are quite a new feature in the island. The money that has enriched many Cypriots through the war should have enabled many of the rural classes to pay off their debts; and in the towns money is available, and should be applied to the extension of profitable enterprises.

Locusts.

As the season for the hatching out of this pest approaches the question of the annual campaign presents itself. For some years the Government has been satisfied with the method of spraying the young insects with a solution that has been fairly effective. But the discovery of a new preparation by Mr. Solomides, of the Agricultural Department, seems to promise still better results. If its merits as an insecticide are all that is claimed for it, it should—on the acquisition of an international patent—supersede all other solutions in use, and consequently be adopted in Cyprus, the land of its origin. It is said to be more deadly in its effects, while harmless to vegetation and other animal life, and to be comparatively cheap. The inventor's demonstrations in France and England have been very successful. Facts and figures regarding the progress of locust destruction appear, for some unaccountable reason, to be studiously kept out of reports and Blue-books.

Yugoslavian Chambers of Commerce are being opened at Berlin and Munich.

Roumanians have recently made considerable purchases of clothing at Constantinople, for export to Bessarabia, Bukovina, Dobruja, and Transylvania.

American portable buildings containing from five to seven rooms each have been erected at Bebek, about five miles from Constantinople.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended January 10 amounted to £E13,282, making the total for the year £E408,932. For the corresponding periods of 1919 the figures were £E14,004 and £E308,619.

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COTTON GROWING IN MESOPOTAMIA.

I.—Experimental Work.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

BAGHDAD.

Details of the history of the experimental work with cotton in this country may be gathered from the published reports of the cotton expert who was seconded for this work from the Indian Agricultural Service in the autumn of 1917. He imported cotton seed of the best procurable varieties—both American and Egyptian—and has grown them now for three years on experimental plots. It was his desire to repeat this work with the best half-dozen varieties on four experimental stations scattered over the country. This extension work was started in 1919 and repeated in 1920. With the outbreak of the recent disturbances work was temporarily discontinued on these farms, and the value of any experimental work conducted on them has been vitiated. It was fortunate that the work could be carried on unchecked at the cotton farm near Baghdad.

Other experiments have been laid down, each of which has an important economic bearing. From the experiments conducted in 1918 and 1919 it has been definitely proved that Mesopotamia can grow cotton as good as the best "Egyptian" and better than the best "American." In regard to yield, it is hoped that the work undertaken in the current season will give results of value in determining the commercial possibilities of cotton in this country.

A search is being made for that variety of cotton which will give the best average returns to the cultivator. To discover that particular variety is no easy matter for two reasons. First, it is only after experimenting on a variety of soils for three or four years that the average yielding capacity of any variety can be discovered; and, secondly, during this period the relative value of each variety under trial may vary to such an extent as to displace it from the position it held on the basis of previous prices. There is, however, at the present time a very marked tendency for the finer quality types of cotton to command high premiums, and as long as the motor tyre trade continues to use long stapled cotton for tyre manufacture, the demand is likely to remain. This factor has assisted in eliminating a number of short stapled varieties of cotton under trial. Some of these were very heavy yielders—more especially those bred from seed selected by officers of the Agricultural Departments in India from American cotton grown there spasmodically for the past few decades.

Of the three varieties which would appear to be eminently suited for cultivation in this country, two are of Egyptian and one is of American origin. At the end of the current season it is hoped that the authorities concerned will be in a position to decide definitely what particular variety they are going to distribute for commercial cultivation in the coming season. A study of the cotton problem in other cotton-growing countries reveals the grave dangers attendant on the promiscuous cultivation of a number of varieties. To allow this contingency to arise in this country would be tantamount to setting a premium on bad farming.

All experimental work with cotton undertaken during the past three years has been devised so that material assistance can be given to the industry on a commercial scale when the time arrives for the Agricultural Department to start its propaganda work in earnest. Seed of the best variety of cotton has to be provided in sufficient quantity to meet the prospective demand; the best time of planting and the method of planting had to be discovered; the water requirements of the crop had to be ascertained.

Much information of value has been collected, and arrangements have been made to meet the demand for seed.

The work has now arrived at that stage when propaganda work might be started in earnest. Up to the present no attempt has been made to induce the Arab population to grow more cotton. The more influential landholders have from the commencement maintained a perfunctory interest in the work, so also the commercial community. In order, therefore, to pave the way for propaganda work in the coming season, representatives of the local landholders, and also of the commercial community, were invited to visit the cotton farm near Baghdad towards the end of last September. In this connection the following extract from the *Baghdad Times* of October 1 is of interest:—

By invitation of the Officiating Director of Agriculture and Cotton Expert to the Department, a representative gathering of officials and British and local gentlemen interested in commerce and agriculture attended an exposition at the cotton farm below Baghdad on the evenings of September 28 and 29. . . . Members of the Department showed the party round the farm, gave a most interesting account of the experiments in growth of the different varieties of cotton, and outlined plans for the future.

Captain Thomas expressed the desire of the Department to afford all facilities for further inquiries to those interested in the question of cotton cultivation. The demonstration and practical results obtained speak volumes for the untiring labour which has been exerted in the development of this most important cultivation. The insight into the plans and hopes for the future of cotton in Mesopotamia created the deepest interest in the minds of those present.

Subsequent to the visit it would appear that the representatives of both the commercial community and landowners regarded the visit as constituting a red-letter day in the development of the resources of Mesopotamia.

This brings us to the all-important subject of the commercial aspect of cotton cultivation in Mesopotamia, which we shall deal with in a later issue, to be followed by a consideration of the cotton crop as a factor in the political situation.

ROUMANIA TO-DAY.

Transport the Key to the Position.

We give below a report issued by Messrs. Watson and Youell on conditions in Roumania, dated February 12:—

We have to-day received the following telegram from our Galatz house, dated February 12:—"Railway goods traffic restarted. Signs revival." This traffic has been held up since the railwaymen's strike on October 19.

The stocks of grain in the country of last year's crops are reported to be as follows:—About 2,000,000 tons of maize of good quality and in excellent condition; and about 300,000 tons of barley and oats.

The country was covered with snow in November, which, gradually melting, put the land in excellent condition for ploughing, enabling good progress to be made during the winter; and it is reported that a considerable area has been put under cultivation with barley and oats, and the ground is being prepared for maize planting in March and April. It is also reported that a certain amount of spring wheat has been sown this winter, but the maximum selling price of wheat fixed by the Roumanian Government mitigates against this cereal being cultivated on a large scale, and the probabilities are that there will be none for export again this year.

The measure of exports will, of course, be regulated by the extent of transport from interior points to shipping centres, especially railway transport; and it is refreshing to hear that this has been resumed. This will also enable the

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congestion of imported goods at the respective ports, especially at Galatz and Braila, to be relieved.

Given the necessary railway transport, there should be fair quantities of timber for export from the Danube this year, and as the oilfields imported considerable quantities of plant and working material last year, and are likely to continue importing such plant and material, this year the output of oil should be much greater than last. There are insufficient oil storage tanks and refineries in the country, and until these are increased there will continue to be a shortage of fuel oil available whilst the Roumanian Government prohibit the export of crude oil.

Two groups of contractors, one British and the other French, have offered to take over the railway repairing shops in the country, and their proposals are being considered and debated in the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies. The Roumanian State Railway Direction are very short of locomotives, and although some new ones have been imported from America, and negotiations are in progress for the purchase of others, it will take a good long time before the requisite number of locomotives are acquired to put the railways in anything like normal conditions. The railway workshops, therefore, if adequately equipped and organised, would do much towards repairing the locomotives and other rolling stock in the country and keeping them in working order. The problem of the very adverse exchange on Roumania could undoubtedly be solved by the restoration of reliable railway transport.

THIS YEAR'S FAIR.

On Monday next the British Industries Fair for 1921 will be opening its doors at the White City to the buyers of the world. This will be the seventh London fair and promises to surpass its predecessor even as that in its turn added to the roll of success. It is estimated that there will be some four and a-half miles of stands displaying British goods at the White City.

Since its inception in 1915 the record of the British Industries Fair has been one of continuous growth in scope,

utility and reputation. Started as a means of promoting the manufacture in the United Kingdom of articles previously made in enemy countries, the fair made so instant an appeal and received such warm support from its exhibitors that it has never looked back, and is now established in a predominant position among the great trade fairs of the world.

Participation in the fair, limited to manufacturers in specified British trades, is both cheap and simple, offering equal opportunities to both large and small firms. This year's exhibitors cover both categories and form the most representative body of British manufacturers ever assembled. Their names alone are a guarantee of the quality of the goods to be displayed, and their keenness to exhibit is shown by the fact that the available space in every section of the fair has been applied for several times over.

The goods to be displayed in the London section include books, cutlery, silver and electro-plate, jewellery, watches and clocks, hard haberdashery, glassware of all descriptions, china, earthenware and stoneware, paper, stationery and stationers' sundries, printing, fancy goods, including travelling requisites and tobacconists' sundries, medical and surgical instruments and appliances, leather for the fancy goods, bookbinding and upholstery trades, brushes and brooms, toys and games, sports goods, scientific and optical instruments, spectacle ware and opticians' supplies, photographic and cinematographic apparatus and requisites, drugs and druggists' sundries, and musical instruments.

The Birmingham Fair also opens on February 21, at the Castle Bromwich Aerodrome. The overseas visitor will have the opportunity to inspect some twenty sections covering the trades for which that city is world famous. Every type of fitting for lighting and cooking and a wide range of hardware, including household ironmongery, will be on display, together with metal furniture and saddlery, indiarubber goods, and motor accessories. In fact, almost every branch of the British metal industry will be represented. The exhibits at the well-known Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, will include textiles of all sorts, ready-made clothing, hats, boots, carpets, foodstuffs, chemicals and dyes. This fair opens and closes a week later than the other sections.

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ENGINEERING.

A New Belting.

Ordinary oak-tanned leather has been used for generations for the purpose of transmitting power, by reason of its resistance to tension, the ease with which it can be handled, cut, and jointed, and its remarkable resistance to wear. It possesses certain disadvantages, however, which are well-known to every engineer, amongst which may be mentioned its tendency to slip, especially when in a dry state; and the fact that it cannot be made to grip a small pulley running at a high speed unless considerable tension is used. This has the effect of bringing about rapid wear of both belt and bearings, and it is impossible to transmit power without an extremely high loss by friction.

Attempts have been made from time to time to use chrome leather for power transmission, but hitherto these have been far from satisfactory, as chrome leather in itself possesses comparatively little resistance to tension. Fasteners will pull out, rivets or stitches give way, and unless a very wide belt, in comparison to the power transmitted, is used, the belt itself will give way. In favour of chrome leather are the facts that it does not become unduly dry, it is soft and flexible, gripping metal surfaces well, and has a high power of adherence, especially when dressed with a little ordinary tallow or castor oil.

In the new type of belting referred to, full advantage is taken of the good points of both beltings. The grip and adherence of the chrome leather is added to the tensional strength of the ordinary oak-tanned belt, and a number of improvements in design have been made, based on sound scientific principles, all of which tend to increase the efficiency of the belt.

This happy combination of the two consists of a backing of high-grade oak-tanned leather to the underside of which longitudinal strips of chrome leather are attached by rivets. These strips are of a good width, and the arrangement is such that a narrow air space lies between each strip. There is one strip of chrome only for the one-inch width of belting; for a two-inch belt two strips are used; the three-inch and four-inch have three strips, and beyond that size there is an additional strip for each inch and width. Instead of a backing of oak-tanned belt, a backing of balata belt can be used if preferred, and for special purposes the under, or pulley side of the belt, can be scored with grooves running the same way as the chrome strips to enable the belt to get a better grip on a well-rounded pulley of small diameter. The rivets with which the chrome and oak-leather belts are joined together have solid heads, but hollow shanks, and the ends are well hammered into the chrome, so as to leave depressions of appreciable area. These, added to the hollow ends of the rivets, allow a small air space at each rivet which causes a sucking action during use which still further assists the gripping power of the belt.

I understand that belts of this type have recently emerged with credit from exhaustive tests at the National Physical Laboratory, and that the superior adherence and transmission qualities claimed for the belt have been amply confirmed. The makers recently conducted a test for the co-efficient of friction with one of these belts, running it over two pulleys, and transmitting 26 horse-power. The pulleys in this test were about 35 inches in diameter, by about ten inches wide. The belt was five inches in width, and had five strips of chrome on its underside. Its speed during the test was approximately 29½ ft. per second. The test was carried out by means of a brake horse-power testing-machine, the arm of which acted upon a steelyard which had previously been calibrated and tested. The tensions determined were 228.15 kilograms on the tight, and 6.15 kilos on the slack sides. The angle of "lap" on the driving pulley, the belt being very loose on the underside, was 145 degrees. Using the same formula as is employed by the National Physical Laboratory, it will be seen that these data indicate a co-efficient of 1.42, which can only be considered as an extremely satisfactory result.

It is pointed out by the makers that the increased adherence given by this belting enables a given power to be transmitted with a proportionately reduced tension in the belt, and with a consequent saving in the wear of the belt and the bearings. Alternatively, the width of the belt may be reduced without affecting the total adherence. The reduc-

tion in width may, it is said, be so much as 30 per cent., and for that, and the reasons given above, it would appear that the new belt should be eminently suitable for centrifugal fans, blowers, or electric motors, where, owing to the high speeds used small pulleys have to be employed for either driving or driven purposes.

A Car de Luxe.

In spite of the efforts of foreign, chiefly American, competitors, to produce motor-cars of as well-made a type, and as luxurious a design as the best British products, it appears that when any discriminating purchaser, regardless of expense, wishes to own as fine a production as money can buy, he comes to this country to make his selection. This thought is the outcome of inspection of a remarkably handsome 40-50-h.p. Rolls-Royce cabriolet which has just been sent me for inspection by my friend Mr. Johnson, the general manager of the company.

The car, before delivery to the purchaser, is to be exhibited at the forthcoming Indian Motor Show at Delhi, and it will certainly do a great deal to enhance the already high reputation of the firm in that country. The three-quarter cabriolet body is by Messrs. Maythorn, the well-known carriage builders.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.**Second Preference Share Issue.**

In a circular dated February 14, the directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., state:—Additional capital is required for providing the further pipe-lines, tank-vessels, refineries, etc., necessary to enable the company to deal with its largely-increasing output of crude oil, and also for the additional distributing facilities which will be required after the end of 1922 (when the existing contracts with the Asiatic Petroleum Co. expire) to enable the company to dispose of its refined products independently and to the best advantage.

The directors propose, when the necessary resolutions have been passed, to make an issue of second preference shares (part of an authorised amount of £10,000,000), ranking both as regards dividend and capital after the existing preference shares. In view of the fact that the dividends on the proposed second preference shares would, unless otherwise provided, rank before the participating dividend of 2 per cent. on the existing preference shares, the directors consider that it is desirable to protect the interests of the existing preference shareholders by merging this participation of 2 per cent. with the cumulative 6 per cent., thus making the existing shares 8 per cent. cumulative first preference shares as from April 1, 1921. The right to participate up to the extra 2 per cent. is at present non-cumulative, and only becomes payable after a dividend of 6 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares. Under the arrangements proposed this 2 per cent. will become not only fixed and cumulative, but it will also be a charge on the profits in priority to any dividend on any other class of shares.

The existing preference shares are repayable on liquidation at a premium of 10 per cent. on the amounts paid up thereon. As a further benefit to the holders of these shares it is proposed that this provision should be altered, so that if for the six months prior to liquidation the average price of the shares on the market has been higher than the above 10 per cent. on the amount paid up thereon, then the preference shares will be repaid at such average market price. These alterations will considerably augment the security and value of the existing preference shares.

The existing preference shareholders will at the same time be asked to authorise the creation of additional £5,000,000 preference shares ranking *pari passu* with those now issued.

To preserve the present voting majority of his Majesty's Government when all the preference shares have been issued, it is proposed that the existing preference shares and the new second preference shares shall have one vote for every five shares instead of one vote per share. The participating dividend of 2 per cent. on the existing preference shares for the year ending March 31, 1921, will, if the resolutions are passed, be paid six months earlier than usual, viz., on July 31 next, together with the dividend of 3 per cent. for the half-year to March 31, 1921, and thereafter the fixed dividend of 8 per cent. per annum will become payable half-yearly on January 31 and July 31. The return of proxy forms on or before February 19 is requested.

An extraordinary general meeting is called for noon on February 22 at Winchester House, and will be immediately followed by a separate general meeting of preference shareholders.

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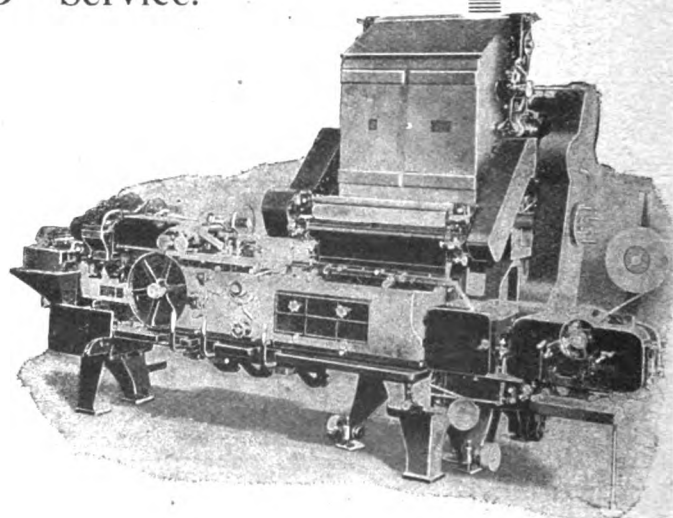
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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—The market has shown no change. West Indian Crystallised has been done at 63s. to 64s. 6d.; White Mauritius is the same at 71s. Home refined has been in good demand at the official prices.

Coffee.—Prices have risen considerably. Costa Rica has been done at 132s., an advance of 4s., and Indian, at 116s., is 8s. up. The futures market has remained quiet. Quotations are:—March, 44s. 6d.; May, 45s. 6d.; July, 46s. 6d.; September, 47s. 6d.; December, 49s.

Oilseeds.—The market has shown signs of improvement. Indian linseed has come to business at 19s. 6d., an increase of 2s. 6d.; while La Plata, at 17s. 6d., is 1s. 9d. up. Rapeseed is lower, with Toria 6d. down at 18s. 6d. Other transactions include cottonseed at 9s. 3d. and Egyptian black at 10s. 3d.

Oilcakes.—Prices have been variable. Linseed cake, at 16s., has lost 1s. 6d., while cottonseed cake is 6d. up at 11s. Groundnut cake is unchanged at 14s., but coconut cake has declined 6d. to 12s. 6d., and arachis cake has come to business at 12s. 6d. to 15s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Oils have been variable. Linseed oil has advanced 2s. to 33s. Rape oil, at 50s., has dropped 3s. Refined cotton oil has lost 2s. at 38s., but the Egyptian variety is unchanged at 30s. Turpentine has lost 10s. at 70s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 180s. cwt.; butter, 298s. cwt.; cheese, 160s. cwt.; chillies, 125s. cwt.; eggs, 30s. 6d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 10½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 81s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 117s. 6d. cwt.; East Indian bold, 112s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 112s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 35s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 160s. cwt.; lard, 125s. cwt.; nutmegs, 110s. to 80s., 10½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 130s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 119s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 90s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 72s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 76s. cwt.; Mauritius, 70s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 24s. 6d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. 6d. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £6 15s. ton; tea (Indian), 7½d. lb.; Ceylon, 7d. lb.; Java, 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 94s. 6d. qr.; wheat (English white), 70s. qr.

Metals.—Aluminium, £165 ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; antimony, £41 ton; copper (standard), £68 15s. ton; copper (electro), £77 10s. ton; gold bars, 106s. 7½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 20s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 230s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 2s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 2s. 4½d. unit; molybdenite, 60s. unit; nickel, £212 10s. ton; platinum, 320s. oz.; plumbago, £35 ton; quicksilver, £12 5s. bottle; silver bars, 36d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £24 5s. ton; tin (standard), £162 ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 31s. 6d. box; wolfram, 15s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £39 10s. ton.

Chemicals.—Acids: boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 1d. lb.; citric, 2s. 5½d. lb.; tartaric, 2s. 0½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £25 12s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £56 5s. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 1½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 10s. ton; borax crystals, 38s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 170s. cwt. Potassium: bi-chromate, 1s. 2½d. lb.; chlorate, 7d. lb.; caustic, £65 ton; nitrate, £58 10s. ton; permanganate, 2s. 3d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 3d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £34 10s. ton. Sodium: crystals, 150s. ton; bicarbonate, £10 10s. ton; bi-chromate, 9½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 10s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £24 ton; hyposulphite, £24 ton; prussiate, 11d. lb.; nitrate, £20 10s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £37 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 4s. 4½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 6½d. oz.; red lead, £42 10s. ton; white lead, £43 2s. 6d. ton; white ground lead, £57 5s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 9.27d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian, Sakellarides), 17.50d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £14 15s. ton; rape (Toria), £18 ton; soya beans, £12 ton; palm kernels, £18 5s. ton. Oils: linseed, £30 5s. ton; soya, £28 15s. ton; cotton (erude), £27 10s. ton; olive, 11s. 6d. gallon; ground nut, £37 10s. ton; palm, £37 ton; rape (crude), £53 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3d. gallon; turpentine, 80s. cwt. Rubber: plantation (No. 1 crepe), 1s. 0½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 10½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 1s. lb.

IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

In accordance with the terms of the Imperial Bank of India Act, 1920, the undertakings and business of the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Madras, and the Bank of Bombay were transferred to the Imperial Bank of India on January 27, and all communications which otherwise would have been addressed to any one of the above banks should now be addressed to the Imperial Bank of India. Sir N. H. Y. Warren and Sir Robert Aitken are the managing governors of the bank; Mr. S. A. H. Sitwell is secretary and treasurer, Bengal; Mr. N. M. Murray is secretary and treasurer, Madras; and Mr. R. A. Don is secretary and treasurer, Bombay. The London offices of the Bank are for the present at 2, Prince's Street, E.C. Sir Bernard Hunter is the manager.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market Depressed.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

The tone of the market which has prevailed through the past week can be rightly termed distinctly depressing, for business has been extremely dull. Sellers have experienced another unsatisfactory period, and the larger inquiry that was in evidence only a short time ago has practically died away. At the present moment there are no expectations of any immediate revival of demand, in fact, the position appears to be going from bad to worse. Here and there the opinion is expressed that the bottom in prices has been reached, but who can prophesy the time when buyers will regain confidence and commit themselves to lots of any weight, when there is no stability in the price of the raw material? If dealers in England knew to what extent the acreage in America was to be reduced, then we should probably see some increased activity in the yarn and cloth section, for producers would be able to purchase the staple to suit their requirements. It has been a very uninteresting week in the Egyptian cotton market, there having been practically no demand, and prices have eased to a further extent. No particular change can be reported in the cloth demand for Egypt and the Levant, though here and there isolated sales have taken place, chiefly in bleaching cloths and fancies. On the whole, however, inquiry has been very sluggish, and any bids that have been about have generally been accepted with a loss to the seller. In Egyptian spinnings the position of affairs appears to be going from bad to worse. Producers have been naturally looking at the situation through a pessimistic eye; and well they might, for it is mentioned that certain producers have been forced to sell at simply ruinous figures. With regard to cloth inquiry for India there has not been anything worth mentioning, and even when bids have been received, they have generally been impracticable. China appears to have slipped into a groove of depression and beyond a few trifling lots of greys and whites the business reported has been of a negligible quantity. The remaining outlets East and West continue quiet, and buyers are holding aloof. The American yarn section has been uninteresting, and prices when tested have favoured buyers. Isolated transactions have occurred for the Levant in extra hard descriptions.

COAL PRODUCTION IN GEORGIA.

The production of coal at the collieries in the province of Tkivbuli has been increased by 23 per cent. during the last few months, notwithstanding the decrease in the number of workers caused through general mobilisation. In view of the stoppage of the supply of naphtha by the Bolsheviks, and of the necessity of substituting the industrial liquid fuel by coal, the union of the miners of Georgia decided to work on Sundays and public holidays. This decision is being carried out by the workers conscientiously and whole-heartedly.

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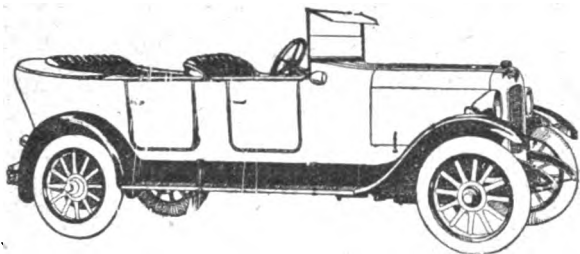
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COMPANY MEETINGS.**LAND BANK OF EGYPT.****Increased Profits.**

The following is a translation of the report of the Land Bank of Egypt for the year ended September 30, which was presented at the annual general meeting held at Alexandria on December 7:—

The various measures taken by the British and Egyptian Governments at first for regulating the cultivation and the trade in cotton having been withdrawn, a rise which was perhaps excessive was produced during the first part of the cotton season. The very high prices reached in January and February have been followed by a constant decline up to the end of the year. Although the proprietors of moderate means who constitute the greater part of the clientele of the Land Bank of Egypt have not benefited as a whole from the high prices, they have nevertheless been favoured by prices unknown before 1919-20. The profits of previous years have been employed by the producers in meeting their debts, and the amount left in their hands this year has enabled them to bring their lands into full cultivation, and subsequently to enlarge their rural estates.

The rise in the prices of agricultural products has naturally resulted in a considerable rise in land values; in some districts the increase has exceeded what might reasonably have been looked for. Naturally the Land Bank was not influenced, in the estimate of the value of its properties, by this excessive increase. The development of mortgage transactions which we recorded in our last report increased during the course of the past year. The borrowers are for the most part buyers of land who have applied to us to finance their purchases. Thanks to this state of affairs, the bank has been able during the year to conclude 254 new loans for £E887,016.806, and to effect 39 sales for £E54,877.602. The total of our mortgage investments, not including those comprised under "tiers adjudicataires d'immeubles," amount to £E3,834,878.191, as against £E3,521,468.341 for the previous year. It is necessary to go back to the balance-sheet of the year ended March 31, 1914, before the period of serious economic disturbances caused by the war, to find a total approaching that of the year 1919-20. The total of our annuities under recovery then amounted to £E269,631; to-day it has been reduced to £E160,931.115, of which £E55,860.853 concern previous years, while £E105,270.262 represent the amount falling due in the year. Our various reserves and provisions for the future amounted in 1913 to £E325,382.161. In our balance-sheet for 1919-20 the same accounts figure at £E594,324.826, not including £E18,700 for the equalisation of dividend. The liquidation of our property is being carried out as in the past. Mortgaged properties put up for sale have readily found purchasers when the adjudications were made, and our account "properties acquired" has been reduced from £E127,868.980 to £E65,146.315 as a result of 22 complete sales and 26 partial alienations for a total sum of £E64,805.

Gross Receipts.

Our gross receipts amount to £E368,970.418, as against £E342,871.756 the previous year. Our expenditure, on the other hand, has risen owing to the increase in French taxes and the measures we have taken to improve the position of the staff, to whom we take this opportunity of expressing our

thanks. The amortisations which we consider necessary are as follows:—(1) Head office, furniture, brokerages on mortgage loans, £E5,506.003; (2) loss on the value of shares of the statutory reserve, £E12,219.494; (3) administration of the estates and sundry expenses, £E2,291.386—£E20,016.887. The provisions for the future that are allowed for amount to £E17,589.223, and are comprised as follows:—Provision for the amortisation of debentures and debenture charges, £E14,589.223; provision for risks on loans, £E3,000. After these deductions from the profits, both for amortisation and for contingencies, the available profits amount to £E144,403.652, or higher than those of the previous year, which were £E140,174.084. In the opinion of the board it is advisable to continue a prudent policy and not to distribute the whole of the net profits made during the past year. The exceptional character of some of the profits, on the one hand, notably those obtained from the sales of properties or profits on exchange, and, on the other hand, the certain increase in expenditure due to higher taxation and to the increased salaries of the staff, made it requisite for us to prepare for the future. We propose, therefore, a distribution of 9s. 6d. per share, and of £3 15s. for each founder's share, and to carry forward £E16,000. The bank's position will thus be strengthened, and we shall be enabled to maintain a certain stability in the distribution of future dividends. The board is fully confident that you will approve the proposals presented to you.

The general meeting (1) approved the accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended September 30, 1920, and gave the directors their discharge for their administration. (2) Approved the division of profits proposed by the directors, and fixed the dividends as follows:—9s. 6d. on the ordinary shares, £3 15s. on the founders' shares. An interim dividend of 3s. per share having been paid on June 15, it will remain to pay as a final settlement for the year 1919-20 6s. 6d. per share. (3) Decided to carry forward £E12,867.246, or 333,564.21 frs. for the shares and £E4,979.255 or 129,080.05 frs. for the founders' shares. (4) Re-elected MM. R. C. Abdy, P. Zarifi and Ed. Bourre, the retiring directors. (5) Nominated as auditors MM. Franz Sofio, H. Pougin, and A. Ferren at the same remuneration as before. (6) Fixed the directors' fees at £5 per meeting.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 7:—During the week ending January 29 beneficial rain has fallen. Crop prospects generally fair but rain still urgently required in the Punjab and North-Western Frontier Province and in parts of Central India, Bombay and Madras. Bombay cotton market dull. Fine M.G. Oomra, March, Rs. 241. Piecegoods market dull with little demand and easier rates. Calcutta jute market quiet but steady. Hessians quiet with some buying from America. Prices rose on expectation of mills curtailing work to 4 days per week but have since fallen again upon mills deciding to continue working 5 days per week. Heavy goods very dull. Tea market lifeless except in good liquoring grades. Burma rice forward buying restricted as stocks up country being held in hope of higher prices. No change in bank rates. S.s. Boyne, the first steamer of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, from Montreal to India direct, has arrived.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended February 5 amounted to £8,774.

CREDIT NATIONAL OTTOMAN

(Established by Imperial Decree dated January 1, 1917.)

Subscribed Capital - £T. 4,000,000

Paid-up Capital - £T. 2,000,000

Reserve Fund - £T. 140,000

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

ALEPPO.

The report for December states:—The stagnation which has existed in our market for some time seems to be on the point of developing into an unprecedented crisis as a result of the general decline in values abroad, especially in cotton goods. Our market is overflowing with manufactured goods, imported months ago at relatively high prices, which continue to undergo a ceaseless and disastrous fall in price, and cannot be disposed of as the outlets in the interior are not available owing to the interruption in communications. On the other hand, the fall abroad is discouraging exporters of the products of our district.

The lack of rain during December and the severe cold which is continuing deprives the district of the necessary pasturage for cattle, and is making the sowings difficult and belated, the result of which, it is to be feared, will be that the coming harvest will give only a moderate yield.

ALEXANDRETTA.

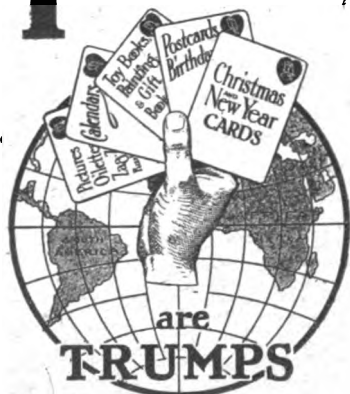
The report for December states:—As a result of the economic crisis in America and Europe, and of the fall in the prices of commodities which has followed the merchants of Aleppo and those of the whole of Syria have suffered very considerable losses. Our market, however, occupied as it is principally with transit business, has not been very seriously affected. All the same, transactions between Aleppo and our port have greatly diminished.

Communications between Aleppo and Alexandretta continue to be assured. On the other hand, those between Antioch and Alexandretta have been interrupted on several occasions by bands of brigands, the result being that trade between the two centres has come to a standstill.

We continue to lack telegraphic communications with Europe and Syria, which renders very difficult the quotation of the exchanges, and compels us to maintain a large margin between purchases and sales.

The Bulgarian Government propose to introduce a Bill with the object of encouraging production, and to this end it is proposed to give the workers a share of the profits of the industries.

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ON 'CHANGE.

Tone Generally Dull.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday night.

Conditions have been generally unfavourable during the week in almost all markets, and it will evidently need a very strong tonic to bring about a pronounced upward tendency. So far the removal of the E.P.D. has had a most transitory effect, though obviously it will eventually exercise a most important influence.

The gilt-edged market after showing considerable firmness amidst the prevailing depression, is closing on a weak note. Foreign bonds have been variable, with Japanese and Chinese issues fairly strong.

Industrials have been pronouncedly weak. Except with regard to a few shares there has, however, been no great amount of liquidation, and indeed, for the most part business has been carried on on very restricted lines. Oils after an irregular week have firmed up somewhat.

Near Eastern shares which rank among Government securities have been featureless. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are unchanged at 62, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are unchanged at 58, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. are the same at 67½.

Greek securities have risen. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan and the 5 per cent. 1884 have both advanced 1 at 40, at which there were buyers. The 5 per cent. 1890, at 40, and Fundings, at 40, are both 1 up. The 1910 Loan is unchanged at 30, but the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan has dropped a point at 38. The 1902 Loan is unaltered at 35.

Banks have remained unchanged. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are the same at 53. Imperial Ottoman Banks and National Bank of Egypt are unchanged at 8 and 17 respectively. Land Banks, at 4 23-22, are unaltered.

Land shares have shown a very irregular tendency. Beheras have shed a point at 7½, while the Preference shares are unaltered at 2½. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are the same at 3½. Egyptian Consolidated Lands have lost ¼d. at 1s. 4d., and Delta Lands are 5d. down at 9s. 3d. Gharbieh Lands are unaltered at 1½, while New Egyptians, at 22s., have dropped 6d., and Union Foncières have lost ¼ at 2½. Sudan Plantations at 3½ have declined ¼. Oils have declined. Anglo-Egyptians have shed 2-16 at 2 5-16, and Phoenix, at 10s. 3d., have declined 3d. Roumanian Consolidated have lost 1s. at 10s., but Steaua Romana is unaltered at 17.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £	25 22½	52 25-53 25
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25 22½	138
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1 4½-1 4½
Bucharest.....	Lei to £	25 22½	265-275
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee.....	24d.	1 4½-1 4½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	570-590
New York.....	Dollars to £.....	4 86½	3 88½-3 90
Paris	Francs to £.....	25 22½	53 50-53 80
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24 02	290-300
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	106-106½
Sofia	Levas to £	25 22½	335
Teheran	Krans to £	50	- 46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24 02	1,450-1,600
Warsaw	Marks to £	20 43	2,800-3,000

In some cases quotations are nominal.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

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

Wood.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of wood required during six months from April 1, 1921. March 15.

Steam Rollers.—The Mechanical Department of the Public Works Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two 10-ton steam rollers. March 10.

Roofing Tiles.—The Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Bulaq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 40,000 "Marseilles" roofing tiles (specification, 50 millimetres). March 17.

Lubricating Oils.—The general manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo station, invites tenders for the supply of 1,630 metric tons of mineral lubricating oils (specification, 200 millimetres). April 9.

India.

Rails, Etc.—The Chief Engineer of the Baroda State Railways is desirous of obtaining quotations in sterling, prices to be either f.o.b. port in the United Kingdom or c.i.f. Bombay, for the following:—(1) 1,160 tons of rails, 34 lb. per yard, with 32 tons of fishplates, 10 tons of fish bolts, and 39 tons of spikes. British standards. (2) 1,800 tons of rails, 41½ lb. per yard, with 47 tons of fishplates, 12 tons of fish bolts, and 40 tons of spikes. British standards. (3) 450 tons of rails, 70 lb. per yard, 28 tons of fishplates, 5 tons of fish bolts, and 14 tons of spikes. Communications should be addressed to the Chief Engineer, Baroda State Railways, India, and sent under cover to H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon, P.O. Box 683, Allahabad Bank Buildings, 6, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta, with the request that he will hand them to the addressee.

Water Pipes, etc.—The Municipal Committee, Simla, invites tenders for supplying, laying, and constructing cast-iron (steel or hume) water pipes, sluice valves, washout valves, specials, etc. Tenders are also invited for supplying, erecting, and running for one month a new purification plant consisting of filters, coagulating and chlorinating gear pipes, and all fittings for water supply. (Specifications at Municipal Office, Simla, Rs.10.) March 28.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended February 10:—Extreme dullness has characterised the spot market during the past week, and the general situation shows no improvement since our last report, the only feature worthy of comment being a further narrowing of the premium which spot Sakel holds over contracts; in fact, the premium which remains is more apparent than real, for, in spite of official quotations, fully good fair Sakel can be purchased on the spot at about 1d. over February contracts to-day, and the tendency is towards a still further narrowing. A limited, but fairly steady, demand appears to exist for the best Sakel, and also for Sakel between fully good fair and good, but it is hardly necessary to state that bids are not attractive to sellers. A large number of five bale purchases were made this week—a fact which speaks for itself. A weak future market has not helped matters, and as we write the outlook is extremely depressing. Manchester reports continue to be gloomy, and c.i.f. business is again on negligible lines. Total sales, 700 bales. Quotations of upper are reduced 50 points, Brown 100 points, and Sakellaridis is 150 points lower on the week. Fully good fair Sakel 17.50d. (official quotation).

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPPING AT THE PIRÆUS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, February 1.

Four thousand eight hundred and ten steamers arrived at the Piræus during 1920, of the following nationalities:—Greek, 3,774; British, 243; Italian, 229; Inter-Allied, 156; American, 75; Russian, 71; Roumanian, 61; French, 59; Dutch, 47; Swedish, 24; Spanish, 18; German, 23; Japanese, 11; Canadian, 2; Belgian, 4; Norwegian, 9; Polish, 1; Uruguay, 1; Danish, 1; Serbian, 1. The number of sailing vessels of various nationalities which entered the port during 1920 was 5,851. The arrivals at the Piræus during 1919 were 3,389 steamers and 7,479 sailing vessels.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS

Anchor Line.—S.s. Kingsmere, for Bombay (also taking cargo for Karachi and coast ports) (Glasgow, March 2, and Liverpool, March 7).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Makalla for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, February 19); s.s. Manaar, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 23); s.s. Mahsud, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, March 5); s.s. Manipur, for Calcutta, (Birkenhead, March 9); s.s. Mahrona, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, March 23).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 2); s.s. Oxfordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 16).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Lord Erskine for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, February 19).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Macdonald, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, February 19); s.s. Clan Alpine, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 24).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Tyria, for Gibraltar, Patras, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, etc. (Liverpool, February 24); s.s. Cypria, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, February 26).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Trentino, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, March 12).

Ellerman's City Line.—S.s. Melford Hall, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 26); s.s. City of Lahore, for Calcutta, (Birkenhead, March 14).

Ellerman's Hall Line.—S.s. City of Karachi, for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, February 28).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Douro, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (London, February 19).

French-Levant Line.—A steamer, for Bordeaux, Algiers, Mersina, Alexandretta, Beyrout, Jaffa, Port Said, Alexandria, and Cyprus (Hull, February 26).

Glen Line.—S.s. Gleniffer, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, February 24); s.s. Glengyle, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 10); s.s. Glenogyle, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 24).

Glynn Line.—S.s. Alaveno, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, February 28).

Golden Star Line.—S.s. Mediterranean Star, for Genoa, Naples, Alexandria, and Piræus (leaves Marseilles, March 1).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Benefactor, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 28); s.s. Defender, for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 14).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, February 23).

Holt Line.—S.s. Pyrrhus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, February 24); s.s. Agapenor, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, March 3).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Pomaron, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, February 23); s.s. Cranmore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 5); s.s. Ince-more, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 5).

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Transport, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, early in March).

Moss Line.—S.s. Limoges, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople (Liverpool, February 19).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Assyrian, for Malta and Alexandria (also taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Jaffa, Haifa, Mersina, Port Said, Cyprus, etc.) (Liverpool, February 19).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kalyan, for Bombay (London, February 18); s.s. Somali, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 25); s.s. Kaisar-I-Hind, for Bombay (London, March 11); s.s. Devanha, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 11).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Lena, for Bombay and Karachi (London, February 19); s.s. Morvada, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 25); s.s. Mashobra, for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 4); s.s. Hatarana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 12); s.s. Australia, for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 19); s.s. Nardana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 26).

Power Line.—S.s. Pangbourne, for Gibraltar, Tangier, Larache, Rabat, Casablanca, etc. (London, February 19); s.s. Petworth, for Gibraltar and Moroccan ports (London, early March).

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria (also taking cargo for Syrian coast and Cyprus ports) (Manchester, February 18).

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended January 29:—The sales this week on our market amount to 37 cases, but for the three previous weeks we have had no sales to report. The prices paid this week for druggist manufacturing qualities are 12s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. per lb. as to quality and morphia strength. The exchange is to-day 585 piastres per pound sterling, or cheque, and 0.65 dollars for one Turkish pound of 100 piastres. The arrivals are 1,131 cases, against 1,405 at same date last year. Our stock in first and second hands is now 1,138 cases.

Messrs. Barker Brothers report as follows for the week ended February 5:—The sales this week on our market amount to only seven cases of druggists' manufacturing qualities (11½ to 12 per cent. of morphia strength), at 12s. 6d. to 13s. 6d. per lb., c.i.f. The exchange is now 580 piastres per £ sterling for cheque, and 0.66 dollars for one Turkish pound of 100 piastres. The arrivals are 1,171 cases against 1,475 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second hands is now 1,171 cases.

OTTOMAN UNIFIED CONVERTED 4 PER CENT. DEBT, 1903-1906.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders give notice that, in accordance with the announcement of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, which was published in the Press on the 4th instant (copies of which can be obtained on application to the undersigned), British holders of the above Bonds are invited to deposit with the Council (acting as depositary on behalf of the said Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt) the eleven arrear coupons due March, 1915, to March, 1920, inclusive (Nos. 23 to 33), for the purpose of (1) establishing within the prescribed time with the Allied Clearing Offices the claims of the holders to repayment at the pre-war rate of exchange of the funds deposited in Germany during the war, and (2) receiving a distribution on account of one shilling and threepence in respect of each of the said eleven coupons per unitary Bond of £20.

Receipts will be issued in exchange for the deposited coupons, reserving the rights of the holders.

The eleven coupons must be deposited en bloc, and all deposits must be made before 1st March, 1921.

A special Declaration of British nationality will be required, which, together with lists, can be obtained on application.

The above-mentioned payment is subject to the deduction of income-tax and twopence per receipt for stamp duty.

The Inland Revenue has authorised deduction of income-tax at the rates in force at the time when payment of the coupons would, but for the war, have been made.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN BONDHOLDERS.
JAMES P. COOPER, Secretary.

17, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.2,
7th February, 1921.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 511.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Allies in Conference.

With the Greek and the Turkish aspect of the settlement that the Allies will try to reach in London this week we deal elsewhere in this issue. Much of the uncertainty attending the issue of the Conference is due to the fact that the Allies themselves are not in agreement as to their aims, and the position has not been simplified by such statements as that attributed to the French Prime Minister that he will never ratify the Treaty of Sèvres while King Constantine remains on the throne. If the Allies can muster no more effective statesmanship than that of the Angora order, the outlook is gloomy. M. Briand's declaration is tantamount to saying that the Allies' Near Eastern settlement had nothing to do with justice or realities, but was based entirely on King Alexander of Greece remaining on the throne for ever with M. Venizelos as his Prime Minister for the same period. The provisions of the Treaty of Sèvres for the most part are sufficiently wrong in themselves without these further admissions of muddle-headedness on the part of the authors. Unless, therefore, the Allied Governments can get back to principles the Conference may prove a work of supererogation.

Modifications of the Treaty of Sevres.

The only safe basis on which the Allies can hope to build a lasting settlement in the Near East is that of peace between the different peoples. It is the height of irony that in their first attempt to settle the Near Eastern question, fresh from imposing terms upon Germany, they should have deliberately created one or more Alsace-Lorraines in the East, and should have expected oil and water to mix in their arrangements for the Greeks and Turks. With the French desire to modify the Treaty of Sèvres, therefore, we have every sympathy, provided that the proposed modifications have some solid foundations, and are not merely prompted by pique or selfishness. M. Briand's references to King Constantine, however, will not inspire confidence in regard to the reason for the French attitude, and it remains for the British Government to lead the discussion on to higher ground. Whether that higher ground is compatible with the desire to restrict the discussion to the Smyrna clauses of the Treaty alone must be regarded as doubtful. We cannot help thinking that the Allies will find themselves in a safer position if they decide to take into reconsideration at the outset the territorial clauses

affecting both Thrace and Smyrna. They know well enough that the position in regard to Thrace is not stabilised, and, however convenient it might be to avoid the subject to-day, there would seem to be little sense in bringing Turkey and Greece into line in one direction with the certainty of having to reopen the question again in a few years' time.

M. Venizelos and Greece.

We could wish in the interests of Greece, of fairplay, and of strict diplomatic procedure that something had been done to regularise the position of M. Venizelos in regard to the Conference. He claims to be attending in his "private capacity"; but while no one challenges or doubts his wholehearted championship of Greece's interests, the fact remains that he has fled his country, and has indulged in slighting references towards his King, which, in the mouth of anyone else, would have prevented the speaker from being received by responsible people in any other State. But the Allies have allowed Near Eastern affairs to get into such a hopeless tangle that they find no incongruity in running with the Greek hare as well as with the Greek hounds. It is to be regretted that Greece has lost the services of M. Venizelos; but if here again we apply the peace test, no one can suggest that Greece will know peace and political stability with a fresh exchange between King Constantine and M. Venizelos. Time may work wonders, but it should be given a fair field, and we can hardly believe that M. Venizelos himself is anxious to force the pace. The strange infatuation of the Allies can only embarrass him. He has been careful to explain how it was that Greece grew weary under his régime, or rather the Administration that governed in his name while he was absent from the country. Even the present Prime Minister and Chief Delegate to the Conference was arrested and imprisoned, to be liberated because there was not one tittle of justification for this high-handed action. To-day, in Greece, the Venizelist Government is identified with the acts of the "security police," whose leader is reported to have found parts of Africa less exposed to extradition warrants than France. Time must be given for ill-feeling to die down, and the Allies should be thankful for whatever régime guarantees the maintenance of order and internal peace.

The "Milner Report."

The Report of the Special Mission to Egypt, which, under the chairmanship of Viscount Milner, has been in effect considering the future relations of that country and Great Britain, was issued as a White Paper last

Friday. Although it contains little that is new regarding the main conclusions reached by the Mission, it is a deeply interesting report, for it gives a good deal of fresh information about the difficulties encountered by Lord Milner and his colleagues and the methods by which those difficulties were overcome; while the reasons which led up to the conclusions set forth are stated with a clearness and directness that must win the respect even of those who cannot accept the conclusions themselves in their entirety. It is unfortunate that its appearance should so nearly have synchronised with the opening of the London Conference, since this may result in its receiving less careful attention from the public than it certainly deserves. For our part, we must frankly admit that the fact makes it impossible to deal adequately with the Report this week, and we shall, therefore, reserve our chief comment for our next issue. In the meantime we may note that the Report has been accorded a reception far more favourable than might have been expected upon the whole, although criticism of its recommendations has not been by any means wanting.

A Word to the Egyptians.

The most interesting question about the Report at the time of writing is whether the Egyptians will make up their minds to accept the view which it puts forward, or whether they will determine to grasp at the shadow and lose the substance. They must, however, bear in mind that when they have reached their decision, decisions will have to be taken elsewhere. In a word, if there is to be a Treaty there must necessarily be two parties to it—and Egypt will be only one of them. The report makes it clear that while there is a not inconsiderable body of moderate opinion in Egypt, it is unhappily the case that the Egyptian temperament lends itself only too readily to be played upon by the agitator, and that, as a result, there is a very large body of opinion—no matter for the moment how manufactured—which cannot possibly be described as moderate. We are anxious to avoid saying anything that might increase the difficulties of the problem, but we cannot refrain from adding that the present situation appears to indicate that even at such a critical time as the present the spirit of intrigue is not absent from the inner circle of Egyptian Nationalism. If that spirit be not promptly crushed out of existence, it may well be that the work done in London at the cost of so much labour and patience may be undone in a very short time in Cairo and Alexandria.

Mr. Winston Churchill in the East.

It is announced that Mr. Winston Churchill is going to pay a short visit to Egypt, and possibly to Palestine, for the purpose of obtaining first-hand up-to-date information upon Middle Eastern questions. So far, the proposal is quite a good one, but when we are told that British representatives from Aden, Koweit, and Bahrain are to be called off to Cairo to meet him and "confer" with him, we are not entirely enthusiastic about the suggestion; and when we learn further that Sir Percy Cox may also be summoned from Mesopotamia to be present our enthusiasm dwindles to vanishing point. For unless all these men of action are to be conveyed from their own centres of work to the "conference" by aeroplane, it is obvious that some time must be occupied on their journeys; and that means that they will be called away from their work at a time when—if we read the signs aright—they can ill be spared.

The Duke at Delhi.

The heavy ceremonial programme at Delhi has been successfully accomplished, and in the result the Duke of Connaught stands out as the Nestor of the new India. To each audience in turn he has offered wise counsel as well as cordial greeting, and the best thing that can happen is that the institutions inaugurated by him should approach their task in the spirit displayed in his addresses, the spirit of hopeful looking forward. The India of the past has been too apt to look backward, to brood over former glory and more recent woe. We do not suggest that the past should be forgotten or ignored, for it has lessons which may be of great value if they

are rightly learned; but it is the future that matters most, and the importance of the past lies in its use as incentive and as warning. If India was ever glorious, it can hope to be glorious again, and if there has been a time of depression, a study of the facts will do much to facilitate improvement. But to brood is not to study, and the dangers of the practice are sufficiently illustrated in India at the present moment, when strong efforts are being made to drive the people backward; the event is still doubtful, but the Duke's call to go forward is not likely to be without result.

The Indian Legislature at Work.

The first proceedings of the Indian Legislature are not discouraging. In the state of feeling which prevails, it was inevitable that the story of Amritsar should form the subject of a debate, and the acceptance by the Assembly of a resolution, from which a demand for punitive measures had been eliminated, was perhaps the most satisfactory outcome which could be expected. In the Upper Chamber the initial debate took place on a resolution recommending the abolition of what are known as the "repressive" laws, and here, too, a barren controversy seems to have been avoided. The truth is that these repressive measures fall between two stools; they are sufficiently drastic on paper to be irritating, but the leniency of their application has of late rendered them almost ineffective. By and by, when Indian popular Ministers have gained practical experience of the effects of unconstitutional opposition, they will probably insist on measures of repression at least as drastic as those now in existence, and they will use their powers with a vigour which may take some people by surprise. There is something to be said for keeping these weapons safe in the armoury until Ministers require them, but from the practical point of view it is perhaps as well in this matter to leave the future to take care of itself.

The Agrarian Question in Oudh.

Of the various provincial legislatures, that of the United Provinces will have to face the most difficult task, for the reform of the Oudh Tenancy law is to be the first undertaking of the reconstructed Government. The fact that the tenants have substantial grievances was recognised by Sir Harcourt Butler in his speech at the opening of the Council, and we may take it that some concessions to them are certain; but the constitution of the Council, in which the landed interests predominate, renders revolutionary changes improbable, and the debates will afford a searching test of the political capacity of the new legislature. As we said when writing of the recent disturbances, the key to the position is held by the great landholders known as *talukdars*. If they stand on their privileges they can make remedial legislation uncertain and its practical effect almost nugatory, but there are indications that their leaders, some of whom are remarkable for their practical sagacity, are willing to move with the times, and if they adopt a statesmanlike policy at the present juncture there is no reason why Oudh should not quickly regain its old reputation as a happy province.

Burma.

The discussions over the new constitution for Burma have reached a further stage. It will be recollected that the local authorities were of opinion that Burma should develop from the outset on lines different from those of India, and with that object they proposed institutions which were condemned whole-heartedly by that small proportion of the population which as yet takes an active interest in the question. The Secretary of State rejected these proposals, and referred the whole subject for discussion to the Legislative Council, and this body has now recorded its approval of the dyarchic system already adopted for the provinces of India. Apparently there is no alternative scheme in the field, and we may conclude that Burma will make a start on Indian lines, leaving the question of ultimate divergence to be settled by time; but if the views of the Council are accepted there will be one difference from the outset, for the members are unanimous in favour of female suffrage.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

Cardigan and Westminster.

The Cardigan election was frankly a personal vote of confidence in Mr. Lloyd George, rather than the Government. The Coalition candidate was his private secretary; the Independent Liberals put up their strongest local man, Mr. Llewellyn Williams, and Labour stood out. The Independents brought down all the big guns of the old party to assist their man; Sir John Simon even left the greatest legal practice of modern days on three separate occasions to look after itself in order to make speeches in Welsh villages. The Asquith ladies also did their best, while Mrs. Lloyd George toured the constituency on the other side.

But the shrewd electioneers saw the way things were going about a week ago, and when the Wee Frees claimed two or three days before the polling that whatever the result might be, their man would have put up a good fight, one knew the result already.

I doubt whether the independent Liberals could have defeated the Prime Minister's man in the Prime Minister's own country in any event; but I am quite sure that here, as in so many other cases, they are making a profound mistake in tactics in continuing this personal vendetta against Mr. Lloyd George. It is amusing. It causes laughter and cheers at excited meetings—indications which are often delusive. But it is not quite cricket, and the average elector, who is not altogether a fool, realises that there is a good deal to be said on the other side. Certainly, as at Cardigan, it does not win by-elections. And when it comes to practical politics, the Independents have nothing solid or constructive to offer—indeed, there are two rival schools among the Wee Frees, the "old gang" holding out for the old cries, while the new Manchester school formulates new doctrines which the older members will not accept. Until they sort things out in their own house, they are not likely to be acceptable to the country as a substitute for the Coalition.

At Westminster, after a very poor King's speech—any journalistic hack could have bettered its English—the Government settled down to work. The House is little changed, except for Lord Robert Cecil and Lord Hugh Cecil sitting on the Front Opposition Bench. The Labour Party, however, has done one wise and one foolish thing. It has elected Mr. Clynes, instead of Mr. Adamson, its sessional leader, and Mr. Clynes carries mental weight, whereas Mr. Adamson only carried physical weight. Indeed, Mr. Clynes is a singularly graceful and good speaker, with a voice of very fine *timbre*—with just a touch, in fact, of that bell-like quality which men recall in Gladstone. Mr. Clynes, too, often says good things, which stick in the memory, and he has a sense of responsibility in his words. If only he had a constructive political intellect, he would go very far indeed, but he possesses every gift except that most important one of all.

On the other hand, Labour has issued a manifesto against the German indemnity. It is not its own—the thing has evidently been inspired, and probably written by some of those outside intellectual influences which Labour always distrusts, and too often obeys. Somebody has fooled labour again—they must be a singularly gullible crowd, or perhaps it is the way their system works. Anyway, it will not do them any good in the country, which believes in the German indemnity, and does not pay any attention to the arguments against it, for the simple reason that these are put forward by men whose record during the war was not above suspicion. We are not all economic experts, but most Englishmen have a keen political nose.

To Dump or not to Dump?

Dumping will soon be the question of the day. The Opposition, in an attempt to raise prejudice in advance, have already disclosed their hand; they intend to denounce the protection of key-industries as a means of bribing the profiteer, and increasing the cost of living.

I have heard many a feeble political cry, and I have also often been astounded at what passion will make people believe in; but I have never heard quite such a feeble cry as that, or one that was less likely to take folk in. It has not even the elements of probability.

Most of the internal troubles of the Government have come from the increased cost of living; is it probable that they would take steps to add to their own embarrassments at the very time when the cost of living is falling? (It fell 14 points last month.) Nor will the theory that the Government is tender to the profiteers work any better. It has taxed them pretty thoroughly, and has kept on E.P.D. to the last moment when there were any excess profits to exact. In any case, the profiteer is not in the new key-industries; that is far too uphill a job for him—the get-rich-quick people are found in the old trades where sudden increase of demand made abnormal profits possible; and more particularly, perhaps, among the distributing interests—Free Traders almost to a man—which founded fortunes by merely sitting on the goods which the public were clamouring for.

Cigars and the Budget.

Incidentally, a curious situation has arisen in the cigar trade. Owing to successive increases of duty, hardly anybody now smokes Havanas; they are altogether too expensive. The Havana cigar trade is consequently moribund, and those engaged in it are naturally asking that the duty should be reduced to a reasonable amount, which, they say, and probably with justice, would benefit both the Treasury and themselves by increasing the consumption again.

On the other hand, the trade in British-made cigars has increased out of all knowledge; and the quality has also steadily improved, until one can now get quite a decent smoke at a reasonable price. Presumably a fair amount of money has been sunk in the business, and these people would not welcome a reduction of the duty, which indirectly protects them.

Another Mining Crisis.

Those hopeful souls—of whom I was not one—who anticipated that the mining settlement last autumn would bring permanent peace to the coalfields, are now perturbed by the reports of another imminent crisis in the coal trade. The settlement was altogether too complicated, and the atmosphere of goodwill was apparently transient and illusory. Now control is to go, another great conflict seems preparing between owners and operators on the question of wages. Not very much has been published up to the present, as both sides appear to be perfecting their plans behind the scenes. But since the desire for an agreement is less strong than the desire for another trial of strength, it is likely that, for the time at least, matters will go from bad to worse.

A Revival of Trade?

The dispute comes at the worst possible time. There are signs in various quarters that the bottom of the slump has been reached in various trades, and, although unemployment has not diminished, it is getting no worse. Indeed, some manufacturing towns have reported a slight revival of activity this last month, and there is hope that things may slowly improve this spring. No agreement has been come to with the building trade unions, but houses are nevertheless being built all over the country, although less slowly than is required, and any activity in the building trade helps all round. A recent series of municipal loans for building purposes has been well taken up, and several great capital issues are known to be pending; and, although industrial shares are generally extremely depressed, the brokers admit that things are likely to look up soon.

Further, a recent attempt at a railway strike—a revival of "direct action" by Mr. Bromley which was not supported by his rival, Mr. Thomas—failed to come off, and it was evident that master and man alike had had enough of strikes for the present. All these are hopeful signs, but if there is another serious dispute in the coal trade, which is a basic industry that affects all the rest, they will count for little.

Rates and Ratepayers.

The trouble over the high rates, which is pretty general in most municipalities, has come to a head at Norwich. More than thirty shillings in the pound is demanded in that otherwise charming city, and a good many of the inhabitants either cannot, or will not, pay. One or two other boroughs, almost as heavily rated, are reporting much the same experience.

It happens that in the highest-rated districts a Labour majority generally has control, and it is too much to ask of human nature to expect that political capital should not be made out of municipal bankruptcy—indeed, that is the only sort of capital that can be made out of so hopeless a position. "Extravagant and visionary Socialistic schemes" are blamed, to which the Socialists retort that they are only in power in the poorer towns, where the rating is necessarily higher. There is a great deal of truth in their answer, but it does not cover the whole ground; on the other hand, the advocates of economy are overdoing the part, and under the cover of economy they conceal the real motive, which is pure reaction.

A Change of Tenant.

When Devonshire House was sold a few months ago, the gossips began to discuss the future of its neighbour, Lansdowne House. That great mansion has now been let furnished to Mr. Selfridge, and there has been some tendency for the writers of society paragraphs in the papers to speak as if the golden age had passed, and to cry *Sic transit gloria mundi*, because "a mere tradesman" follows a great marquis. But this is all nonsense; what is happening is a mere repetition of the past, and *plus ça change plus c'est même chose*. The Lansdowne family was founded on trade, the cloth and tailoring business, I believe, which is not very far removed from the occupation of the new inhabitants of Lansdowne House. If history repeats itself, in another hundred years Mr. Selfridge's great grandson will probably be a Peer—the Duke of Callisthenes, for example—and one of the old guard of the Tory party.

Public Schools Again.

The discussion on public schools has broken out again, Dean Inge as usual being responsible. But Dr. Lyttelton, the late Headmaster of Eton, has also rushed into the fray. He declares that what the English boy needs more than anything else is discipline, and that this is what he gets at a public school. He has no great opinion of the intellectual capacities of contemporary youth; "only a genius perhaps here and there has ever induced English boys to think, and even the geniuses have only succeeded with a few." I suppose most schoolmasters are persuaded that boys are stupid; as a schoolboy I remember we thought precisely the same of our masters.

Perhaps that is the root of the trouble; but since, by the mercy of Providence, I was not made a schoolmaster, the solution of that problem is beyond me.

But I think Dr. Lyttelton is altogether wrong when he says that "no one can inspire a boy with the conviction that this universe and mankind at large are

interesting as long as he grows up at home to believe the opposite." From what I have seen of the world, the average boy finds the universe and mankind at large (with the possible exception of schoolmasters) an extraordinarily interesting affair; his curiosity is voracious, and it is only the silly round of useless pedagogy which dulls his inquisitiveness.

As a boy, for instance, I perfectly recollect my schoolmaster discovering me reading Shakespeare out of school hours, and telling me to put that kind of thing away and get to work on something useful. When appealed to for a definition of utility, it turned out to be Cornelius Nepos! I must in candour admit that when a few days later in class I construed "an enemy of the human race" *sotto voce* as a schoolmaster, and was overheard, I deserved the chastisement which followed. But there was something in the mistranslation, after all.

The Increase of Drunkenness.

Some figures have been published, showing that drunkenness is increasing. But the statistics of convictions for drunkenness are always notoriously unsatisfactory, the practice of the police in arresting, and of magistrates in convicting too convivial souls varying a great deal in different districts, largely on account of personal whim. The temperance people are naturally using these figures in furtherance of their pussyfoot campaign, but the country is not visibly impressed thereby, any more than it is by the reported results of prohibition in the United States. The other side is pinning its hopes to the reformed public-house.

Anglican Finance.

A committee of inquiry has at last been appointed to inquire into the whole question of Church finance. The committee is a strong one, and it needs to be, for no more complicated or difficult question exists, and it will have hard work to cope with the various conflicting interests within the Church. It is doubtful whether the inquiry can proceed very far without touching on the thorny question of episcopal appointments and private patronage, a Serbonian bog which engulfs almost all who venture on it; but the time is surely appropriate for a complete reform, now that the Enabling Act has altered the whole basis of power in the Church. The union of small benefices in depopulated villages would also help to solve the problem, but here the Church has to fight a good deal of local feeling.

Rubber Streets.

The experiment of paving one of the main roads in South London with rubber instead of wood blocks has proved so successful that the substitution of rubber for wood is likely to be considered favourably in many other main thoroughfares. The initial cost of rubber is considerably higher, but it is said to last ten times as long, which would make it cheaper in the end. But a greater merit even than its cheapness is the fact that it is silent, and anything that reduces the racket of London will be a boon. If the street vendors could be supplied with rubber lungs!

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

GREECE.

ATHENS, February 9.

The New Cabinet.

The climax of the Ministerial crisis caused by the dissension between M. Rallis and M. Gounaris, over the question of Greece's representatives at the London Conference, was reached on Saturday, when the Prime Minister, M. Rallis, tendered his resignation to the King. With his rival safely out of the way, M. Gounaris's chances of securing the Premiership and subsequently "appointing himself" first Greek delegate greatly increased; but so did the value of sterling, which on Saturday night was quoted at 60 drachmæ. On Sunday morning, however, M. Gounaris had a nasty little surprise in the form of a telegram received by the British Legation from London and given to the Greek newspapers for publication. This expressed the astonishment caused in the British capital at the news that M. Gounaris's name was mentioned as a likely member of the Hellenic delegation at the Near East Conference. The telegram went on to say that the Allies were well aware of the anti-Entente sentiments of M. Gounaris, and that his being entrusted with a mission upon which largely depended the interests of Greece would certainly not be to that country's advantage. The contents of this telegram caused much excitement in political circles, and by noon it was known to everyone that M. Gounaris had definitely decided to postpone his journey to the British Metropolis until some more opportune date. At 7.30 in the evening the new Government was formed as follows:—

Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs	M. N. KALOGEROPOULOS
Minister of War	M. D. GOUNARIS
Minister of Marine	M. RALLIS, JUN.
Minister for Home Affairs and Ways and Communications ...	M. P. TSALDARIS
Minister of Finance	M. P. MAVROMIHALIS
Minister of Agriculture	M. G. BALTADJIS
Minister of Justice	M. N. THEOTOKIS
Minister of Education and Public Assistance	M. TH. ZAIMIS
Minister of Food Supplies	M. P. PROTOPAPADAKIS

The Minister of Marine, M. Rallis, jun., resigned on Monday morning.

The London Conference.

The decision of the Allied representatives at the Paris Conference to hold a new meeting in London for the purpose of settling once and for all the troublesome Near East question was a bitter blow to all political and public circles here. But the bitterest pill of all was the news that Mustapha Kemal, too, had been asked to send his delegates, Greece being thus put on the same level as the Turkish rebel. Although the Royalist Press of the capital pretends to view the situation with optimism, and M. Rallis himself, prior to his resignation, said that he in no way went back upon the optimism which he had always shown about the upholding of the Treaty of Sevres, very serious fears are entertained whether the Greek delegates will succeed in convincing the Allies of the soundness of this Treaty. The great question now is who will represent this country? Nothing definite has so far been decided, but it is almost certain that the new Prime Minister, M. Kalogeropoulos, will be at the head of the delegation. The other members are yet to be found, but it is persistently rumoured that the High Commissioner for Smyrna, M. Stergiadis, who has just arrived in Athens, will accompany the Premier. M. Gounaris, whose stubborn attitude in the matter was really the cause of M. Rallis's resignation, has at last realised that, not being *persona grata* with the Allied Governments, his presence at the London Conference would do more harm than good to his country's interests, and has decided to stay at home. The Venizelist and the Independent section of the Press, in face of the evident danger of a revision of the Treaty unfavourable to Greece, openly point out that the only person who could save the situation would be M. Venizelos. Telegrams from Paris and London inform us that the ex-

Premier is already working very hard—quite unofficially, of course—to prevent his work from falling to pieces; and if only those governing Greece at present would forget the past and, sacrificing their *amour propre*, give their hand to the great patriot who has done, and is still doing, so much for his country, the danger—if such a danger does exist—of losing Smyrna or Thrace would probably be averted, and the close collaboration which would necessarily follow would surely mark the commencement of a new era of revival and progress for Hellenism.

The Liberals Score.

The Parliamentary elections in the small island of St. Eustratios, in the province of Mitylene, which had been put off last November, took place on January 30. The final results now to hand are as follows:—Out of 108 votes the Venizelist candidates, M. Marangos obtained 93; M. Vamvoulis 88, M. Vallis 87, M. Mitrelis 87, M. Paritsis 87, M. Vassilakakis 86, M. Saltas 86, M. Kyprianos 84, M. Lelios 83, M. Savas 78, and M. Kaldis 78. Of the eleven Royalist candidates the most successful was M. Tountas, who secured thirty-one votes, *i.e.*, forty-seven votes less than the least successful Venizelist candidate. Two of the Royalist candidates only obtained seventeen votes each. All twelve deputies elected in the whole province of Mitylene belong to the Liberal party.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, February 11.

Political.

There is nothing very definite to report on the progress of Government business in the Chamber. The Liberal Party has recently gained two seats at by-elections, bringing their number in the Chamber up to about eight. Their Press is very active in attacking the Government and predicting its coming fall. Feeling is running so high on the subject of the Railway Repair-shops Contract (mentioned elsewhere) that if a vote of confidence be taken on this question the Government may perhaps come to grief over it.

There is some talk of an attempted *rapprochement* between the Government and the Federation, which includes the Transylvanian parties; but so far little progress can be noticed in this direction. On the other hand, it is asserted that the Federation is organising a systematic plan of campaign against the Government. There are shortly to be some by-elections in Moldavia, and several of the Federation leaders go to Jassy to attend a preliminary meeting there on February 13. After that they go on to Kishineff to a meeting which will be held to discuss the present administration of Bessarabia. Later, they will carry their campaign into the district of Oltenia. It is a great pity that General Averescu has not been able to come to some kind of working arrangement even with any one of the parties composing the Federation, whose leaders include some of the most respected and able politicians and patriots in the Parliament.

The Royal Marriages.

The marriage of the Princess Elizabeth to Prince George of Greece has been definitely fixed for February 27. The ceremony will take place in Bucharest, and Prince Nicolas, the younger brother of King Con-

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stantine, and his wife will visit Bucharest for the occasion. It will be remembered that Prince Nicolas' wife was a Russian Grand Duchess, and is therefore a relative of the Queen of Roumania. The marriage of Prince Carol with Princess Helen of Greece will take place in Athens a fortnight later. M. Mishu, the Minister of the Royal Household, who went to Athens a short time ago to make the preliminary arrangements, has just returned to Bucharest. The National Bank has given Princess Elizabeth a marriage gift of one million lei.

The Late Sir George Barclay.

Many of the Roumanian newspapers contain articles expressing deep regret at the news of the death of Sir George Barclay, who was universally regarded as a warm friend of this country—the *Progres* calls him "one of our oldest and best proven friends"—and of appreciation of his services while Minister in Bucharest.

The Weather.

The winter began very early this year with an exceedingly cold spell in November, when there was a good deal of snow and a temperature that touched 12 and 14 degrees below zero (centigrade). During the latter half of December and the beginning of January it was much milder, the grass began to show green, and the iris leaves to put up green points, and people began to wonder if the winter could really be over. That was a vain hope, however, for towards the beginning of February there was another heavy fall of snow lasting for more than two days, and the temperature has remained very low ever since. Some of the main streets in the city have been kept fairly clear by means of snow ploughs and an army of workmen: but even they are still covered with some inches of hard snow, and in many places there are drifts several feet deep. The tramways have not been stopped, though reduced to one wagon each, and only one train (Bucharest-Galatz) has been reported as held up completely, though

several have been very much delayed. The four or five weeks of mild weather in December and January gave the agriculturists an opportunity of continuing their sowings, which were interrupted by the early frost in November, and very favourable reports were received at the Ministry of Agriculture of the amount of work done in this respect. The present fall of snow is therefore just what they would have wished for, to protect their seeds from a later frost. Thus, one may hope that the harvest will be less unfavourable than was at one time feared.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 7.

The Rupture between Angora and the Porte.

Throughout the course of the negotiations between the Sublime Porte and Angora with regard to the Allied invitation to Turkey to send delegates to the London Conference, the attitude of the Nationalists has been characterised by uncompromising arrogance. Tewfik Pasha went as far as possible on the path of concessions, but the Nationalists became more and more uncompromising. Their final demands, which led to a complete rupture, are worthy of close examination, for they clearly reveal the nature of the influence which is dominant in Angora to-day. Those demands were briefly as follows:—

- (1) The Sultan to recognise the Nationalist Assembly and its Executive Council as the sole legal Government of Turkey, and to issue an Imperial Irade to this effect.
- (2) The exclusive right of the Nationalist Assembly to negotiate with Foreign Powers in the name of Turkey to be likewise recognised.
- (3) The acceptance by the Sultan of a Nationalist delegate at the Imperial Court for purposes of *liaison* with the Nationalist administration.

The message embodying these extraordinary demands concluded with an assurance that in the event of their

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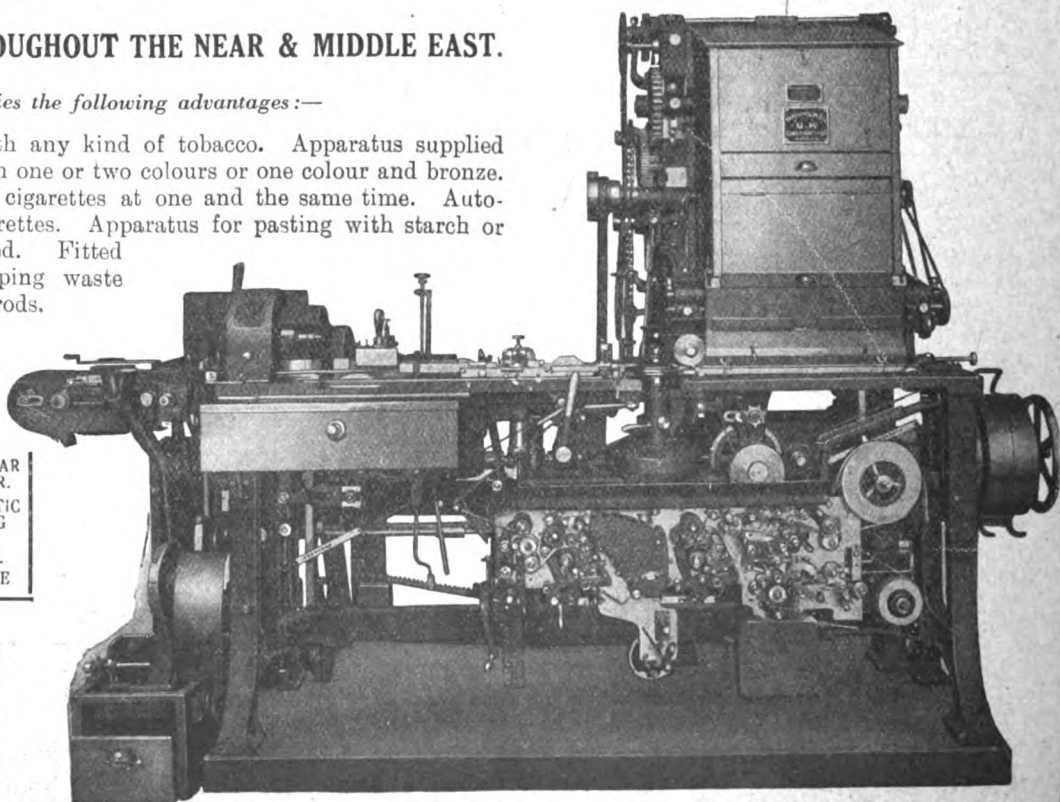
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being accepted the Imperial Civil List would be paid by the Nationalist administration.

Janissaries and Bolsheviks.

Very little reflection is needed to enable one to realise the true purport of these demands. If the Sultan were to recognise the Great National Assembly as the sole legal government of Turkey in the sense required, it would be tantamount to resigning the last vestige of the once absolute authority of the Sultanate. The Sultan would become a mere figurehead, obedient to the slightest touch of the strings held by the Nationalist leaders and passing through the fingers of their representative. The offer to pay the Imperial salary was, under the circumstances, to add insult to injury. Henceforth there can be no more pretence. The struggle which commenced with the accession of the present Sultan must continue until one or the other side is completely vanquished. It is really a repetition of the struggle between the Sultan's grandfather, Mahmud II., and the Janissaries. Unfortunately the modern Janissaries have a sinister and ferocious ally with them—the Bolsheviks. The policy of the Nationalist administration is clearly dictated from Moscow, and it is to be feared that the grip of the "Moskoff" is now firmly established in Anatolia. Precisely how this has come about is a long story, but reference to former letters will reveal something of the process, of which one of the most important factors has undoubtedly been the activity of Talaat and the other Unionist leaders who fled after the Armistice from Turkey and found an asylum in Germany. These individuals have made various attempts to return to Turkey, and have more than once offered their services to Mustapha Kemal, but the latter has always rebuffed them in no uncertain manner. The reason for this attitude on the part of the Nationalist leader is chiefly of a personal nature; for there is practically no difference between the Nationalist scheme of Islamic union and the Unionist dream of Turkish hegemony over the Islamic world. The preachers are different, but the theme is the same. It was obvious from the beginning that the continuation of the Nationalist movement was only possible with outside help, and Mustapha Kemal made every effort to obtain what was necessary from the rest of Islam. The result was not a success, however, and he was obliged to turn elsewhere. It was then that the Bolsheviks entered upon the scene, and by the same token, the Unionists also. Direct methods having failed, the latter adopted a policy of gradual infiltration, and it was not long before the Great National Assembly was constituted with a membership composed almost exclusively of adherents of the committee. The significance of this circumstance lies in the fact that the strength of the committee has always been the obedience of its followers to a *mot d'ordre*, and the fact that during the armistice negotiations in 1918 the Unionists were openly saying that they would now become Bolsheviks. It is unnecessary to examine the quality of Unionist Bolshevism—even in Moscow it is improbable that any illusions are nourished in that direction—but the fact remains that while the army is faithful to Mustapha Kemal and Kiazim Karabekir, the political machinery of the Anatolian administration has been captured by the Unionists.

Why the latter have embarked upon the perilous sea of Bolshevism is a question involving interesting considerations, not the least interesting of which is the part undoubtedly played by Germany behind the scenes. It is true that hitherto the presence of Germans in Anatolia has not been detected; but there can be very little doubt that Talaat's activities have been guided by the quondam allies of Turkey. It is also most improbable that Germany has completely abandoned the hope of one day resuming the important part she once played in the East, and the simplest way of preparing the way for this revival of the "Drang nach Osten" would be to delay the establishment of peace in the East as long as possible.

The final result of the negotiations has been that two missions are being sent to London, one on the part of the Nationalists, and one on the part of the Sublime Porte. It is greatly to be feared that the Nationalist

mission will be little better than a wrecking mission, and unless the Allies make up their minds to support Tewfik Pasha by giving him both moral and material support, the conference will not advance matters in any way.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, February 1.

The Legislative Council.

The election of nine Members of Council, which the ill-considered resignation of all the Greek representatives rendered necessary, has been carried out; the result being that all these persons have been re-elected unopposed, except M. E. Zeno, whose name had by mistake been omitted from the list of qualified voters, and who was therefore ineligible. In his place M. M. I. Michailides, one of the most prominent and esteemed citizens of Limassol, has been elected. While the absence of M. Zeno, an able advocate, will be regretted, the Council will gain the services of a valuable member in M. Michailides, who was in the Chamber some years ago, and who is likely to express an unbiased opinion on all local matters. He had no intention of offering himself as a candidate, at any rate, before the next general election. Before the nomination day a circular had been sent to all parts of the island, signed by the late members, repeating once more the aims of the *enosis* party, and asking for support. The papers argue that the election entirely disposes of Colonel Amery's doubt as to the feelings of the Cypriot Greeks. Of course, it does nothing of the kind, since (as so often explained) the influence of the union faction, backed as it is by the Church, the Press, and the Greek legal body, remains practically unchallenged. It would seem that the proposed campaign in villages is abandoned. It remains to be seen what will be the next move of the re-elected members, and to what it will lead, should obstructive tactics be renewed. Such a state of things could hardly be allowed to repeat itself. It is improbable that the Council will be summoned to meet until the High Commissioner returns.

Trouble Over Church Elections.

The election of Church Committees in all towns and villages, which counts for so much in Cyprus, has been recently held. Every village has its committee, with jealously-guarded functions. A recent order of the ecclesiastical authority decreed that no persons should be allowed to vote unless they had paid by a fixed date a fee of 2s. in towns and 1s. 6d. in villages. The Archbishop, in face of protests, had, at the eleventh hour or rather later, given directions that all voters should be accepted, but this was too late. The result has been that the votes of a large number of persons were refused, that the elections do not represent the wishes of the people, and that a state of dissension and ill-feeling has been aroused. The Church is blamed for a situation which the Press describes as a scandal and a "labyrinthine situation." It would seem that the best way out of it would be to hold, under the Prelate's directions, a fresh election in all places where friction and discontent have been brought about.

General News.

There is but little general news. Crime shows no reduction: another double murder has been committed in a Greek village.—A novel enterprise has been started in the shape of a brewery at Nicosia, from which beer of good quality is promised and advertised. This indicates an increasing state in the towns for a drink which has begun to compete with the juice of the grape.—The supplies of grain issued to bakers for breadmaking being exhausted, the Government is about to furnish wheat at 12s. per bushel, and barley at 3s. 4d. "Government bread" will then be sold at 4½ piastres (6d.) the oke.—There has been some rain, which is welcome in all parts.



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THE STATUS OF ALBANIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Exactly two months ago, on December 17, 1920, Albania was admitted to the League of Nations unanimously by the thirty-five present States' representatives.

Now the Powers are hesitating to recognise Albania officially. I think this is due to their believing that Albania has, like the new States of Poland, Georgia, Armenia, Lithuania, etc., been born during the great war. In reality, Albania has been officially recognised since 1914 by the great and little Powers. These Powers then appointed Ministers in Albania, entering into diplomatic relations with her. Now the matter is not to recognise Albania, which has already been recognised as a State, but to resume the interrupted diplomatic relations.—I am, etc.,

Hotel Cecil, London, Feb. 21, 1921. LUMO SKENDO.

A "BLACK" EGYPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Whatever we do with Egypt in the Imperial sense for the protection of the trade route, let us bear in mind that any legislation which may discourage Europeans from settling in the country (to which Khedive Ismail persistently invited them) and interrupt the Arabian and Syrian immigration into it, would play havoc with its prosperity, and turn the country, in a generation or two, into a black one. The Copts have long ago been reduced to intermarrying between themselves, and we notice already a sad falling off in the Arabian type among the Mohammedans.

Europeans may not notice or mind this state of affairs, but the Eastern peoples do, and would, in fact, like to see the immemorial intimacy between Egypt and all the Arabic speaking countries re-established and strengthened as much as possible.—I am, etc.,

February 19, 1921

A. SEFI.

THE TREATY OF SEVRES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The protest against the peace terms which they are attempting to force upon Turkey, reported in your issue of January 2, is good to read, and will have caused immense satisfaction to all who, like the writer, have lived long in Turkey, and have an intimate knowledge of the country and its people. That those responsible for these peace terms have been grossly misled by some one, and that the treaty is unjust and quite impossible of acceptance, is obvious. Were our political experts blinded by the obscurity caused by almost mondial war-clouds? Whatever was the reason, surely, in the present temper of the world, it was a fatal error to attempt to coerce a people who were fighting in the last ditch, as it were.

It is now more than two years since this experiment commenced with Turkey, and what are the results? Can we honestly say that there has been even a small measure of success?

Let us look at the cost. Hundreds of thousands of valuable lives lost and millions of money have been squandered, but this is not all, for the greater part of this rich country has been devastated, towns, villages and homesteads burnt to the ground and hundreds of thousands of homeless destitute and starving people ever on the move from one refuge to another. Surely when the war was finished two years ago, and we find this sort of thing going on, there must be something radically wrong somewhere; and those of us who have made their homes in Turkey and know the country thoroughly, cannot help feeling deep resentment, that neither we nor our interests were ever consulted. The gross ignorance of this country, displayed in certain letters and articles in the Press, is perfectly astounding; neither the ethnology nor the geography seems to be known. By the change of Government in Greece a door has now been opened which leaves a fair and honourable road for retreat from an untenable position in that part of Turkey occupied by Greek troops; and it should now be possible to do that which should have been done in the beginning—i.e., make a fair and just peace with the Turkish nation; for surely it would be to the advantage of Greece both politically and economically to have the Turks, who are their neighbours, as friends and allies, rather than to turn the old festering wound into one of gangrene. So far history shows no instance of one nation being able to govern another whose people are bitterly hostile, to mutual advantage; it always has and always will lead to trouble.

If the present opportunity is allowed to go by, it will be absolutely unpardonable.

It must be remembered that Turkey was forced into war against us by circumstances beyond the control of her people; that she fought fairly, as every British officer and man who fought against her will acknowledge; and that having lost, she

has had to pay the natural penalty of being shorn of two-thirds of her Empire. Surely after this she should have been helped to reorganise the small portion left, instead of having been goaded into open revolt and forced to seek the aid of Soviet Russia, her ancient enemy. A Turk can never be a Bolshevik; but we can turn him into a brigand and an outlaw if we continue the present policy, although he is by nature the most law-abiding and obedient citizen in the world.

It is a fact well known that the Turks at the Armistice and even before, hoped, and had every confidence, that once the war was over, England, with her proverbial sporting instincts, would offer them a hand, and assist them in building a new and reformed Turkey out of the remains of their old and unwieldy Empire. Had something a little like this been done, the Turkish nation would have been our grateful friend and ally; and a vast field for commerce and enterprise would be ready to the hands of all comers.

A very great deal has been spoken and written about that excellent policy, self-determination; yet we see no signs of this principle being applied to Turkey. On the contrary, we see those who have risen in revolt against a bitter injustice, and to fight for their hearths and homes, their rights and honour, described as insurgents and rebels, although they represent probably 99 per cent. of the entire nation.

Let us hope that the protest you published, signed by so many influential men, will have the desired effect, and that the many thousands of other Britishers who hold the same opinions will also use their every influence to bring about a state of peace in the Near East.—I am, etc., PERCY CHRISTIAN.

LIVING PRIME MINISTERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I always read with great interest in the pages devoted to "The Week at Home," but isn't there a mistake made (in your issue of January 20), in the announcement re the Prime Minister's salary, that Mr. Balfour is the only ex-Premier now living? I thought that Lord Rosebery, who has always been ploughing his lonely furrow, was still in the land of the living. Perhaps I am mistaken.—I am, etc.,

Abbasieh School, Alexandria.

January 29, 1921.

NEW PERSIAN CABINET.

The new Persian Cabinet has been constituted as follows:—

Prime Minister and Minister of Interior	SIPAH DAR AZAM
Minister for Foreign Affairs	MUHTASHAM-ES-SALTANEH
Minister of Public Works	NASR EL-MULK
Minister of Public Education	AMIN EL-MULK
Minister of War	AMIR NIZAM
Minister of Posts and Telegraphs	SARDAR-MOTAMED
Minister of Justice	SALAR-LASHKAR
Acting Minister of Finance	MIRZA EISSA KHAN

As the result of excavations at Pagasæ, in Thessaly, a palace of the Mycænean period has been discovered in very good preservation.

Distinctive postage stamps are reported to have been issued by Kemal Pasha's Government at Angora, but no examples have as yet come under the notice of philatelists in this country.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Egypt.

Writing, under the title "The Trouble in Egypt," in the *Liverpool Daily Courier* of January 26, the Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., commences by stating that without doubt "the Nationalist movement is a national movement." He continues:—

Sensible Egyptians realise that their country cannot afford to do without British assistance, and the agitators who pretend that they will substitute something better for British efficiency are not representative. Yet the Liberal politicians do represent the educated Egyptians, and although there is a large illiterate mass which does not think any further than the necessity for picking the winning side, all reasonable Englishmen must admit that the new movement for Egyptian nationhood does represent, in one form or another, a very real, if undeveloped, conception, of national consciousness.

He concludes by doubting whether the Foreign Office even now recognises that "the Near East is a New East."

The "unchanging East" has changed rapidly in the past few years. The idea of self-government has caught on. And this is where we must be cautious lest we do grave injustice to the great commercial community of French, Italian, and Greek traders. They were more than satisfied with their status under the Capitulations. Indeed, our difficulty is not going to be to get Egypt to work with Great Britain, but to persuade this foreign commercial community to accept the jurisdiction of Egyptian courts. Firmness in Egypt will not be unwelcome even in these days of emancipation. The fellahin have always throughout history spent enormous patience and energy in backing the top-dog, and they are still Oriental enough in their preference for a benevolent autocracy over democratic forms of government, especially one that is clean and just. But you cannot justify a Government merely because it is just. Independence in Egypt must come, and soon. But it will not come because of any weakness on our part, but rather out of our strength. If the agitator does not realise this, he will have to learn it. He speaks for nobody but himself. Because Egypt as a whole desires independence, it does not follow that everybody in Egypt wants us to go. On the contrary, most of the country has very good reasons for wishing us to remain. The British connection has been the foundation of Egypt's prosperity, and its severance might well be her ruin. We believe that, without being tyrannous, we can still be Egypt's guide, philosopher, and friend.

A Lesson from Smyrna?

The *Manchester Guardian* of February 17 contains some impressions from its Smyrna correspondent on "The Western Community and the Greeks." He begins by speaking of the physical discomforts of the town:—

Appropos of this, I had a conversation with a British resident in Smyrna who does not belong to the native English population, and who talked with detachment as well as knowledge. In this part of the world, he argued, the people were really moving on sounder lines than we were in Western Europe. Here they cut their coats according to their cloth. The Smyrniots spent no money on their town; it was badly paved, badly drained, badly lighted, badly served in every way, and yet business was done here and profits were made. The Near Eastern peoples were like proletarians rising in the world. Western Europe, on the other hand, was like a bankrupt aristocracy. We had been ruined by the war, but we could not change our style of living. We insisted on retaining certain decencies or luxuries, whether we could pay for them or not, and we were living extravagantly beyond our income.

After lucidly explaining the difference between the Franks of Smyrna and the Turks of the hinterland, on the one hand, and the Greeks, on the other, he says:—

Who is to be the Turk's political successor? After the Armistice the Western community in Smyrna, accustomed to manage the economic life of the country by tact and long experience, looked forward to the maintenance of Turkish sovereignty over an undivided Anatolia, but under Western advice and effective control. They were confident that a form of Western control could be devised which would be both effective and at the same time acceptable to the Turkish community, and they contemplated the renewal of the old partnership between Frank and Turk, this time with the Turk as subordinate partner in the political as well as the economic sphere. But they had not reckoned with the Greek and with the force of the Hellenic idea.

He concludes by describing the English and French resentment against the Greek "intruders."

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MUSICAL NOTES.

The Langham Choral Society.

It has been said that the musical recreation of England will date from the time when the oratorios of Mendelssohn cease to be performed; and it is indeed probable that their unending performance rather stunts than stimulates the musical sense. Therefore, it was a pity to see the excellent Langham Choral Society descend from Berlioz' "Faust," which they performed last year, to "Elijah," which they did at Queen's Hall on February 18. This dull work, very dull except for a few choruses, was, of course, well within the scope of the choir, which was, but for the basses in concerted work, finely balanced; and it was sung with extremely good tone. There seemed to be a tendency rather to accent the rhythm at the expense of smooth phrasing, but this was possibly necessary to check the turgidity of Mendelssohn's melodies. The orchestral parts were as usual very well managed; and of the soloists Madame Elsa Stralia (whose pure voice unfortunately will not blend with others) and Mr. Joseph Farrington as Elijah were easily the best. Many hopes are being built on the Langham Choir, and there is no apparent reason that by it, under the very keen and vivid conductorship of Mr. Hugh Marleyn, we should not have performances of some of the lesser known choral works.

Miss Murray Lambert.

By playing two concerti in one evening, the Mendelssohn and Hamilton Harty's in D minor, Miss Murray Lambert was asking at her concert at the Queen's Hall on February 14 for the severest tests of criticism. There is much in the playing of this ambitious violinist that is good; she has spirit, sincerity and a certain elasticity of rhythm (which was delightfully shown in the last movement of the Mendelssohn). But her tone, though pure, is neither rich nor big, and did not stand out sufficiently from the orchestral accompaniment; her intonation, moreover, is rather painfully erratic. At this concert she had the benefit of Mr. Hamilton Harty's conducting; and both in his own concerto and in Strauss' "Death and Transfiguration" this most vivid composer drew some very fine playing from the London Symphony Orchestra. Two small pieces by Michelangelo Rossi and Benedetto Marcello, which were given their first performance in London, were quite charmingly insignificant; and "Two Pieces founded on Irish folk-tunes for Solo Violin, Organ and Strings," by G. O'Connor-Morris, were equally unimportant, the beauty of the original tunes being overlaid.

Miss Lilius Mackinnon.

Of Miss Mackinnon's genius for Scriabin I have said much in these columns, and it was disappointing to find that she indulged it only once at her recital at the Wigmore Hall on February 15—and that in the concerto (Op. 20), in which the orchestral part was played on a second piano by Mr. Ivan Philippovsky. In this the recitalist's interpretation was extremely lucid and beautiful, but as a whole the result was not very attractive, owing, of course, to the lack of contrast in tone. Further, there is something utterly different in the respective spiritualities of Franck and of Miss Mackinnon, and it was probably the substitution of intellectual for spiritual qualities that made her reading of the "Prelude, Choral and Fugue" seem unconvincing. The mildly commonplace nature of studies by Szymanovsky and Glazounov showed them unworthy of this fine pianist, whose subtlety was better exposed in the "Two Sarcastms" of Prokofieff.

Mr. Leonard Borwick.

One of Mr. Borwick's cardinal virtues is that he plays, whether we care to listen to him or not, exactly what he likes. At his second recital at the Æolian Hall on February 16 he played Brahms, Schubert, Medtner, Scriabin and Debussy; and although we did not care in the least for the Schubert (most of whose pianoforte works might be lost without much harm to the world), the other composers were very finely done. The fast movement from Scriabin's second sonata was exquisitely played, and a transcription for the pianoforte of Debussy's "Fêtes" was marvellous. There is something irresistible in the lucid grace of Mr. Borwick's interpretation of the moderns.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- 1.—"THE JEWS OF AFRICA." By Sidney Mendelssohn. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, and Co. 10s. 6d.)
- 41.—"DOSTOEVSKY AND HIS CREATION: A Psycho-Critical Study." By Yanko Lavrin. (London: Collins. 7s. 6d. net.)

I.—JEWS IN AFRICA.

This account of the Jews of Africa—especially in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries—is admittedly a compendium (the author calls it a "mosaic") of information gathered from many sources, especially from the works of English travellers. The material so collected is here made accessible to many who have not time to pick it out of many volumes. Commencing with Abyssinia the reader is carried successively to the Jewries of Egypt, Tripoli, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, and in each land the author tells a tale of difficulties surmounted and of persecutions, exactions and robberies bravely borne.

With regard to Abyssinia, the author has gathered together the various, and contradictory, traditions which refer to a Jewish kingdom there which, according to some, flourished about 1,000 years ago. The interesting Jewish community of the falashas are supposed to be survivals from that State.

There are many strange local rites. "The Jews in Djebel (in Tripoli) used to celebrate a third day of Pentecost, quite unknown to Judaism elsewhere. . . . Curiously enough the Mahomedans associated themselves with the celebration of this feast." "Another very quaint Jewish custom . . . relates to the destruction of Jerusalem. It is to have one corner of the wall of their dwelling-place coloured black as a sign of mourning. At Djerba and Ifren the Jewish *fiancé* who visits for the first time the newly whitewashed house of her husband, throws an egg at the angle of the wall situated in front of the gate, so as to disfigure its whiteness."

The legend "implicitly believed in by Jews of education in Algeria" of the exodus of Spanish Jews to that land, is an interesting piece of folk lore. When the persecution of the Jews in Spain commenced in 1390, the chief rabbi of Seville was by the King's order arrested and thrown into prison, together with sixty heads of Jewish families. This arbitrary act was followed by an order for the execution of those in the prison. The night preceding the day fixed for the execution, Rabbi Simon, who had been engaged in silent prayer, started up, took a piece of charcoal and sketched on the wall the figure of a boat; then, turning to those who wept he said, "Let all who fear God and wish to leave this place, put a finger, as I do, on this boat." They did so, and the figure immediately became a real boat, on which they all sailed to Algiers!

There are curious stories about the Jews in the Atlas Mountains, who, about a century ago, seem to have been a prosperous community under the special protection of local Sheikhs, and perhaps, it is suggested, descended from a once influential and powerful community of which there are ancient traditions.

The reader will find this volume a veritable store of curious facts and fables, which all those interested in the scattered race would be well repaid by consulting.

E. W. G. M.

II.—A YUGOSLAV UPON A SLAV.

Few subjects have produced more bad books or more bad writing than Psycho-Analysis. Its students have so warped its doctrines and applied them to all sorts of impossible situations that one is now a little tired and suspicious of the method. But obviously there is no person to whom this method can be more fitly applied than the profoundest and intensest genius of the last century, Dostoevsky; and it is equally obvious after reading this book that there can be few persons better qualified so to apply it than the author of this book.

M. Yanko Lavrin, a Serbian, is already well known in this country as a contributor to the *New Age*. After living for some years in Russia, he has come to this country, and is now a lecturer in Slavonic languages at the University of Nottingham. It is thus from an inside position that he can view the Slav genius who is the subject of his book, with the result that his work is admirably lucid and in a sense authoritative. Wherever it is possible he makes Dostoevsky explain himself in his own words, but in all places he keeps very close to his original, and does not, as many commentators do, indulge in wide and high interpretations.

The relation between Dostoevsky and Nietzsche is fairly well known, but this book (which incidentally and significantly is dedicated to Mr. A. R. Orage, than whom few Englishmen know more about Nietzsche) makes beautifully

clear the difference between them. Both thinkers believed passionately in the transvaluation of values, but whereas Nietzsche achieved a supposed finality in his thought that this could be established by the Superman, the Russian goes farther still and finds that here is no end, that the basis of self-will is in fact psychologically bankrupt. Dostoevsky's intense sincerity and blazing honesty carried him farther than Nietzsche, for though he found an Absolute Value he could not find an Absolute Truth. It was his lifelong struggle and passion to synthesize these two; and he failed. His was perhaps the most wonderful example of dualism in modern times, for though both his intellect and his intuition took him on separate paths beyond the normal range of man, he could never make them permanently coincide.

This book has a very valuable literary value, which cannot be demonstrated in this journal. More fittingly can we comment upon the relation of Dostoevsky to the Russian of the future. His connection with Bolshevism is not easy to establish, though it may be assumed that he would have welcomed the first Revolution and have hated those who have since been exploiting it. His ideal Russia was not the outcome of political thought, but of religious and philosophical brooding; it was to be based on religion—on the Russian conception of Christ. He loathed all forms of European Christianity, which he found to be but "a dead and rationalistic formula of His Doctrine"; especially he opposed his mystical Christ to Roman Catholicism, "in which he saw a prolongation of the Roman Empire." From the vast spirituality of the Slav race alone he believed a new method of life could arise, and it was in no way as an advocate of Slav supremacy but as a passionate lover of the world that he suggested that Constantinople should become Russian. The plain, practical Western mind has little to do with such mystic reasoning; but it is suspicion of it and refusal to attempt to understand it that make of our relations with Russia so tragic a story.

There are in this book some extremely interesting ideas which we should like, did space permit, to discuss. M. Lavrin has, for instance, a most intriguing way of pocketing and docketing certain conceptions—e.g., the difference between Reality and Actuality (the actual being included in the real), or between the mystical path of consciousness (the path of the God-Man) and the magical path (the path of the Map-God), or between culture (the complex of all the inner or spiritual values of mankind) and civilisation (the sum of all the external values). He sees both clearly and cleanly. This is, in fact, a very stimulating and attractive study, and should be obtained even by those who wrongly believe that psycho-analysis can do no good. If M. Lavrin illumines in a similar way other Slav geniuses we shall indeed be grateful to him.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"From Another Angle." By Margaret Lockyer. (London: Duckworth and Co. 6s. net.)

"Towards the Solution of the Armenian Question." By N. Adoniz. (London: Armenian Information Bureau.)

"A Lady Doctor in Bakhtiariland." By Elizabeth N. MacBean Ross. (London: Leonard Parsons, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Roumanian Stories." Translated from the original Roumanian. By Lucy Byng. (London: The Bodley Head. 6s. net.)

"Bulgaria." Handbook prepared under the direction of the Historical Section of the Foreign Office. No. 22. (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 3s. net.)

"The Lebanon in Turmoil: Syria and the Powers in 1860. Book of the marvels of the time concerning the massacres in the Arab country." By Iskander Ibn Yaq'ub Abkarius. Translated and annotated and provided with an introduction and conclusion by J. F. Scheltema, M.A., Ph.D. (London: Humphrey Milford. £1 7s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

February 24 (New Style).

February 11 (Old Style).

Jumada II., 16, 1339 of the Moslem Calendar.

Adar, 16, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord Allenby has returned to Cairo from the Sudan.

Viscount Furness is cruising in the Mediterranean in his yacht *Sapphire*.

Countess Curzon of Kedleston arrived in London on February 19 from Paris.

M. George Radkoff, Secretary to the Bulgarian Legation, left London last week for Sofia.

The rumour that General Congreve was to relinquish the Egyptian command is now denied.

Sir Michael Francis O'Dwyer, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., was last week elected a member of the Athenæum.

Mary Duchess of Hamilton and Brandon and the Marquess of Graham have arrived at the Hôtel St. George, Algiers.

Sir William and Lady Brunyate sailed in the P. and O. s.s. *Soudan*, which left London last week for the Far East.

Prince Nicholas of Greece left Athens last week for Bucharest to attend the wedding of his nephew the Diadoch to Princess Elisabeth of Roumania on February 27. Prince Nicolas of Roumania left London on February 19 for Bucharest to attend the marriage of his sister.

At Burlington House yesterday Professor C. G. Seligman lectured before the Egypt Exploration Society on "Ancient Egyptian Survivals in Modern Egypt."

The King has been graciously pleased to approve that the Right Hon. the Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., be appointed Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

The *Gazette* announces that the Military Cross has been awarded to Temporary Lieutenant P. E. Bartlett, Special List, employed with the South Persia Rifles, for gallantry at Tul Ashki on July 22.

Lord Reading will be entertained at a farewell dinner by the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute, on Friday, March 4, at the Hotel Victoria. Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, will preside.

Admiral Sir John de Robeck, commanding the Mediterranean Fleet, arrived at Constantinople on February 17, on board His Majesty's ship *Ajax*, on which Prince George is serving as a midshipman, for a few days' visit.

The London Show of the Arab Horse Society will be held to-morrow and on Saturday at the Royal Agricultural Hall. On the first day the judgings will take place from 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and on the following day from 9 a.m. onwards.

Lady Moore and Mr. E. Phillips Oppenheim were among the passengers by the P. and O. Company's s.s. *Kalyan*, which left London last week for Bombay. Hon. Mary Beaumont, Viscountess Ebrington, and Admiral Sir E. Slade will join the vessel at Marseilles on Saturday.

M. Kalogeropoulos, the Greek Prime Minister, was entertained at luncheon on February 20 by M. and Mme. Psimenos at 3, Palace Court. Among those present to meet his Excellency were M. Rangabe, Greek Chargé d'Affaires, and Mme. Rangabe. Subsequently a small reception was held.

The engagement is announced between Major P. J. Gout, M.C., I.A., eldest son of the late J. A. Gout and Mrs. Gout, of Smyrna, Asia Minor, and Mabyn Katherine, youngest daughter of the Rev. H. G. Sprigg, Kingsey House, Emsworth. It is hoped that the marriage will take place the end of June.

From Oxford University it is announced that the trustees of Dean Ireland's Scholarships were authorised to make a grant from the Ireland University Fund of £50 to the British School at Athens towards the expense of its excavations at Mycenæ. These were begun last year, and have already led to interesting discoveries.

M. Boeresco, Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, entertained at luncheon on February 18 Prince Nicolas of Roumania, Prince Nicolas Ghyka, a former member of the Roumanian Cabinet, Sir Albert Stern, Commander and Mme. Costiesco-Ghyka, Captain Hansell, Mr. Philip Gardiner (of the Foreign Office), and M. Vladesco.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place at Nowshera, N.W.F.P., India, between Walter Warrington Haddock, R.F.A., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Thorpe Haddock, of Mosboro' Hall, Derbyshire, and Wyck House, Sidmouth, and Julia Rudyerd, youngest daughter of Major-General Simpson, C.B., and Mrs. Simpson, of Strathcar, Tavistock, Devon.

The engagement is announced, and the wedding will take place on March 2, at Calcutta Cathedral, between Mr. Gerald S. Blake, M.C., Chevalier Crown of Roumania, only surviving son of the late Dr. Blake, of Upton, and Mrs. Blake, of Sible Hedingham, and Miss Enid Benskin, daughter of the late Thomas Benskin, of 78, Mount Street, W., and Mrs. Benskin, 17, Harrington Court, South Kensington.

The Persia Society has forwarded to us the first issue of its new journal, the *Persia Magazine*. This number contains a "Foreword," by the Right Hon. Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.; a paper by C. A. Walpole, O.B.E., on "War and Post-War Developments in the Persian Gulf"; and one by Capt. J. H. Grovewhite, I.M.S., on "Some Opinions on Persia and the Persians." Its price is 2s. 6d. per issue, and it is published quarterly.

The Baghdad correspondent of *The Times* writes (February 11):—To mark his fifty-ninth birthday, Professor E. G. Browne's admirers in Persia have sent him a very fine Keshan silk rug, and, what he is likely to appreciate still more, a wonderful illumined manuscript address signed by the greatest names in contemporary Persian politics and literature. By his interest in Persian literature Professor Browne has produced a renaissance in literary and historical effort, and, as all Persian students freely admit, his profound study, which is still unequalled by any living Persian, has opened out a new horizon to them.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes, under date January 28:—

His Excellency the High Commissioner is expected to arrive in Khartoum on Tuesday, the 1st proximo, and it is stated that he will visit the new dam constructions at Makwar and Gebel Aulia.

It is reported that Major W. E. Marshall, M.C., M.B., Government Bacteriologist, has been offered and has accepted the post of British Agent and Consul-General at Jeddah.

El Kaimakam E. D. Bally Bey, Senior Inspector of the Bahr El Ghazal Province, is shortly expected in Khartoum on his way home on leave, on the expiration of which he rejoins his regiment—the Somerset Light Infantry.

Amongst recent arrivals in the country we notice the Marquis and Marchioness of Titchfield, Lady Helen Brocklehurst, Major H. Twyford, Mrs. Goodbody, and Mrs. Alec Tweedie.

Lady Helen Brocklehurst, Mrs. Goodbody, and Mrs. Alec Tweedie proceeded up the White Nile by the S.G.S. Kaibar, the former to Refaj, and the latter two to Malakal.

Another distinguished visitor who proceeded north by to-day's train was Sir Arthur Lewis Webb, K.C.M.G., M.I.C.E., London representative of the Egyptian State Railways.

Mr. S. S. de Bilinski, chairman of the National Bank of Turkey, arrived recently and is expected to leave for the north on the 31st inst.

Colonel Wyndham-Quin has also been in Khartoum for some little time in connection with the Grand Hotel.

MEMORIAL TO DR. R. M. BURROWS.

It has been resolved by the Council, the Delegacy, and the Professorial Boards of King's College, London, to found a memorial to Dr. R. M. Burrows, for seven years Principal of the college, who died on May 14. They have decided that the memorial shall take the form of a tablet to be erected in the college chapel, together with a Ronald Burrows prize, exhibition, or scholarship, to be awarded annually to a student of the college who has distinguished himself in the field of Greek studies. It is hoped that the funds raised will be sufficient to make possible the foundation of a scholarship of such value as to afford effective assistance to promising students. The Hon. Eleanor M. Plumer has undertaken the office of hon. secretary. Professor H. G. Atkins has consented to act as hon. treasurer, and subscriptions may be sent to him at King's College, Strand, W.C.2.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

It is announced that the French Generals Lyautey and Franchet d'Esperey have been promoted to be Marshals.

Liverpool University Council have appointed Mr. J. R. Droop to the Charles W. Jones Chair of Classical Archaeology. Mr. Droop, who is thirty-nine, has since 1911 been prominently associated with many important excavation enterprises in many parts of the world, including Sparta, Thessaly, Melos, Crete, and Upper Egypt.

Sir Hamilton Grant, Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province, is proceeding on leave, and Mr. J. L. Maffey, who is now serving as private secretary on the staff of the Duke of Connaught in India, has been selected to act for him. Sir William Marris has left to take over the Governorship of Assam from Sir N. Beatson Bell, who was Chief Commissioner before the reformed Administration came into effect.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Sir Warren Hastings D'Oyly. In early life Sir Warren served in the Bengal Civil Service, and was successively Inspector of Gaols, Magistrate and Collector, Opium Agent at Behar, and Commissioner at Bhagalpur. He retired in November, 1891. He was a man of much energy and versatility. He was a good cricketer, and when in England on furlough played for Dorset. He also attained repute as a hunter and pig-sticker, and inherited the family talent as a painter in water-colours. He contributed to the *Antiquary* in 1902 an important article on "The Heart of Queen Anne Boleyn," and more recently told "Tales Retailed of Celebrities," which was reviewed on its publication in THE NEAR EAST.

The death is announced from New York of the actor Mr. Henry B. Stanford. Mr. Stanford, who was born in 1872 at Ramleh, near Alexandria, was the son of Mr. J. Stanford, Advocate for the Crown, Egypt.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is reported from Belgrade that the Yugoslav Government has decided to open a legation at Fiume.

The steamer Baku has arrived at Bizerta from Constantinople with a large number of Russian refugees on board.

The Maharaja Sindia of Gwalior has waived the recovery of 28 lakhs of rupees due to State on account of war expenditure.

A wireless message from Moscow says that the Bokhara Communist Congress (the first) will assemble in Bokhara on February 20.

A Moscow message announces the forthcoming arrival in that city of delegations from the Turkish, Angora, and Azerbaijan Governments.

Delhi Motor Show was destroyed by fire on February 17. Many fine motor-cars were burned, and the financial loss is estimated at about £130,000.

Armenian troops have attacked the Georgian detachments occupying the disputed regions round Voronzovka, the latter not having retired within the period fixed by Armenia.

In a lecture delivered in Paris, General Gouraud said there were 200,000 natives of the Lebanon who spoke French. He announced that it was proposed to hold an exhibition of French wares at Beyrout in April.

The sloop Dianthus, Lieut.-Commander T. C. A.H. Ouchterlony, is to be withdrawn from the Mediterranean Station. This will leave, says *The Times*, only one sloop on the Mediterranean Station for general duties (apart from the two in the Red Sea), the Bryony, which was until recently flagship of the Commodore at Smyrna. Her return may also be expected before long, as she does not figure in the official list of the Post-War Fleet.

A set of postage stamps, says *The Times*, recently issued by the remnants of General Wrangel's ill-fated army comprises the denominations 1,000, 5,000, and 10,000 roubles, surcharged on various Russian issues. They are inscribed "Postage Russian Army," and, according to the Director of the Post Office, are not sold to civilians. It is not clear at the moment where these stamps are actually in use, but it may be presumed that the issue took place in Constantinople.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

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

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DELEGATES AT THE CONFERENCE.

The Greek delegates to the London Conference are staying at Claridge's Hotel. They are headed by M. N. Kalogeropoulos, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. The other members of the delegation are: M.M. L. Caftanzoglu, M.V.O., Minister Plenipotentiary, Secretary-General to the Delegation; D. Siciliano, Director of Political Affairs at the Greek Foreign Office; — Gounarakis, Secretary to the Governor of Smyrna; — Maximos, Governor-General of the National Bank of Athens, who is financial delegate; Military Experts: Cois. Exadactylos, Lacon, Sarianni; Naval Experts: Captains Kriesis, Argvropoulo, Bouboulis.

The Turkish delegates are lodged at the Savoy Hotel. The head of the Constantinople Delegation is the Grand Vizier, Ahmed Tewfik Pasha, who was formerly the representative in London of the Sultan of Turkey, and has been Grand Vizier three or four times before. He has with him Osman Nizami Pasha, the Ottoman Minister in Rome, and Reshid Pasha, who was already in London as Turkey's representative, Naby Bey, Turkish Minister in Paris, and a large staff of expert advisers and secretaries.

The Angora Nationalists have sent seven representatives, headed by Bekir Sami Bey, who acts as their "Foreign Minister."

According to a telegram from Beyrout, Turkish detachments attacked the town of Deir-az-Zor [on the Euphrates], in Syria, which was defended by native contingents reinforced by friendly Kurds. These contingents, aided by the French Mission, succeeded in repulsing the attack.

Of the 10,000 Jews who entered the ports of Palestine during the year ended December 31 last, 3,000 had been exiled by the Turks and were permitted to return by the British authorities soon after the Armistice. Of the 7,000 new immigrants, 3,000 from the Ukraine, Crimea, Caucasus, Armenia, and Persia came through Constantinople, while 3,500 came, via Vienna and Trieste, from Lithuania, Poland, Galicia, and Germany. The remaining 500 came from other European and American countries.

Michael Lotfallah Bey, President of the Central Committee of the Syrian Union, states that a meeting of Arabs, Syrians, and others, held in view of the London Conference on the Near East, decided to protest against the dismemberment of the country and the establishment of "colonising governments" under the mask of a mandate, as being contrary to the engagements of the Allies to the peoples liberated from Turkish oppression. The meeting also decided to ask for representation at the London Conference.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1921.

THE LONDON CONFERENCE.

Unless all indications are at fault, the Inter-Allied Conference opened in London this week will not find the Near Eastern question easier to settle than it was a year or more ago. Yet the Allies are not without valuable experience in regard to the subject; and to-day, whatever decision may be arrived at, they can hardly plead ignorance as to the probable effect of any action that they may propose to take. The reason for the Conference, in so far as it concerns the Near East, is that the Treaty of Sèvres, which embodied the terms of peace to be imposed on Turkey, has proved up to the present moment unworkable. In holding the Conference, the Allies admit some measure of failure, and propose to re-examine the question, at least in part, with a view to finding, if possible, a more satisfactory solution. An interesting feature of the gathering is that whereas in the preparation of the original treaty the Greeks alone, in the person of M. Venizelos were listened to, and, in fact, inspired the Allies' terms, this time representatives of Turkey are to be afforded a hearing. It is known that the Greek delegates will press for the retention of the Treaty of Sèvres as it stands; the Turks, on the other hand, will at least begin by urging that the conditions of peace must be discussed *de novo*. No oratorical efforts in either of these directions will be of much practical use to the Conference, unless indeed the Greeks can persuade the Allied Governments that they have the military position in Asia Minor already in hand, that they only require *carte blanche* and funds to enable them to crush the Turkish Nationalist movement, and that thereafter the Near Eastern problem is for ever solved. If in the face of such a possibility the Turkish representatives assume an unaccommodating attitude and refuse to discuss any solution which does not start by restoring to Turkey its pre-war possessions, the Conference can be terminated at once, as the Greek contention alone can lay claim to any measure of feasibility. If, however, the Turks, including the Nationalist delegates, realise what strong support they can rally to their side in favour of a modification of the Treaty of Sèvres which will establish peace in the Near and Middle East and reopen the normal channels of trade, they will adopt very different tactics. A reasoned statement of their case, and an undertaking to bow to the will of the Allies in the event of reasonable objections being considered, and met in whole or in part, should lead to a settlement which will offer Asia Minor its first experience of peace with good government.

The course of the Conference would thus seem to hinge on the attitude to be adopted by the Turks. There may be no flaw in the Greek diagnosis of the position; the Greek army may be able within three months to dispose once and for all of Mustapha Kemal's movement; the Turkish population of Anatolia may be cowed into submission to any terms that the Allies and the Greeks impose, and the provisions of the Treaty of Sèvres may then be applied to Turkey. But most people with any

knowledge of the East will mistrust this rosy picture. If by any chance the Greek three months resolved itself into one or two years, after the manner of the Boer War, which the campaign against the Nationalists would strongly resemble, the whole fabric built upon Greek aspirations would come tumbling about the Allies' ears. Unrest throughout the Eastern world would become intensified, there could be no trade with Turkey, and the Allies would have to bear the cost of the protracted struggle. Greece herself could hardly be indifferent to a commitment which dislocated indefinitely a great portion of her economic life, and crisis would follow crisis in her political world. This view does not take into consideration the very strong feelings which France and Italy already have on the subject of the Treaty of Sèvres, and it makes no allowance for a possible refusal on the part of the British public to sanction further war expenditure even for the three months of the Greek estimate. We may admit, and even sympathise, with Greece's disappointment; but the Allies have learned something of the foolishness of ignoring realities. They must do everything in their power to effect a real settlement at the Conference, and for this reason they must explore every avenue of peace suggested.

In the first place Greece is entitled to just as much consideration as if M. Venizelos were her chief representative at the Conference. Two things can be made clear to her delegates—that the revision of the Treaty of Sèvres has been brought about not by the default of the Greeks, but by circumstances and conditions, removed altogether from their control, which neither their good will nor their sacrifices can affect; and secondly, that the Allies have no intention of handing back any Greek population to the oppression or worse that was their fate under Turkish jurisdiction before and during the war. Much is being made by Greek speakers—by M. Kalogeropoulos, the Prime Minister, no less than by M. Venizelos—of the horrors awaiting the Greeks if the Treaty of Sèvres be modified. These alarms should be shown to be entirely groundless. Not only will Smyrna have nothing to fear from the Turks as an autonomous State, but it should also be possible for the Allies to lay the foundations of a new Turkey in which neither massacre nor the oppression of non-Moslem races is to be feared. If in the drafting of the Turkish conditions of peace more thought had been given to the establishment of good government in Turkey than to the negative policy of restricting Turkish opportunities for bad government, a happier state of affairs might have existed to-day. It has to be admitted, however, that the action of our French and Italian allies in the Near East suggests that, even with Germany and Austria-Hungary eliminated, there may yet be as much intriguing in Constantinople and Asia Minor as there was before the war, and with it the constant encouragement of misgovernment. It should prove a strong inducement to the Turkish Nationalists to abandon a position which must sooner or later become untenable, if it is not so already, if they gain their point that no large Turkish community is to be subjected at this time to Greek jurisdiction. An autonomous Smyrna will unite both races in an international administration, and by the time that this experiment has been made successful a better feeling, it is to be hoped, will exist between the two peoples. As far as Greece is concerned, the change in the status of Smyrna entailed by autonomy will loom larger on paper than in reality. She will be more than compensated by having as her neighbour a Turkey with whom friendly relations are possible, and her delegates will leave the Conference knowing that the present régime in Greece has been recognised by the Allied Powers.

THE QUESTION OF THRACE.

[The British Government hopes to restrict the discussions of the London Conference to the question of Asia Minor, and if it carries its point there will be no reference to the Treaty of Neuilly. Messages from Bulgaria, however, report that at many large meetings throughout the country last week resolutions were passed asking for the admission of Bulgaria to the Conference in order that her point of view may receive consideration. In the following article the writer puts some of the principal considerations that Bulgaria might be expected to urge.—Ed.]

(FROM A BULGARIAN CORRESPONDENT.)

The recent events that have taken place in the Middle East and the new political situation they have created seem to afford a favourable opportunity for raising the question of the future of Thrace.

At this very moment, the revision of the Treaty of Sèvres is being considered by the Allied Powers, and, whether it will be effective or not, the bare fact of its having taken place leaves no doubt as to the atmosphere of uncertainty surrounding the Treaty. This is due to the reason that the Treaty of Sèvres has kept no account of the vital interests that it was meant to settle once for all. The defeat of the Venizelists at the last Greek elections was sufficient to establish its weaknesses.

As the Treaty of Sèvres in regard to the question of Thrace is but the corollary of the Treaty of Neuilly, one must recall that this last gave the Allied Powers Western Thrace; they, therefore, took from Bulgaria the territory situated between the Mesta and the Maritza, which represented Bulgaria's sole profit from the Balkan wars and had been kept ever since with the consent of Turkey. Even before the Treaty of Neuilly had been signed, Bulgaria was compelled to evacuate this region, which remained in the hands of the French military authorities, who, however, were able to preserve order throughout Thrace. They also maintained liberty of religion to the satisfaction of all the inhabitants. But, during that time, the Greek Government was actively working for the possession of Thrace, and finally at San Remo obtained the coveted region, in spite of the advice of the French military mission and against the will of the population.

It is interesting to note that the statistics drawn up by the Allied military authorities just before the San Remo Conference took place had established that the Greek element in Thrace was not numerically superior to the Bulgarian, in spite of the fact that a great many Bulgarian inhabitants had left Thrace with the Bulgarian authorities. Therefore, no ethnical majority justifies the annexation of Bulgarian Thrace to Greece, and this has been acknowledged by the Greeks themselves. In his statement to the Greek Chamber of Deputies on March 15, 1913, M. Venizelos declared that the Greek element in Thrace inhabited only the coast, and, therefore, at that period, the eminent Greek statesman deliberately renounced all claims to Thrace. But, a few years later, M. Venizelos, acting, as so often happens, against his own theories, created a Greece so great that it extends as far as the Black Sea, the suburbs of Constantinople, and the deserts of Asia Minor.

In 1919 and 1920, had M. Venizelos forgotten the statement he had had the courage to make some seven years before? The words he addressed to the Greek Parliament last May show that he had not. Alluding to his speech of 1913, the author of Great Greece added: "I then said that the Greece of the Ægean shore would not have any backbone, but that was because the grapes were not ripe. In 1913, Bulgaria was a force at our side and Turkey still existed in Europe. To-day, Turkey has ceased to live, and Bulgaria is powerless. Greece is strong, and a strong state may extend its boundaries on every side without any danger."

Last year M. Venizelos himself was the greatest force in the Near East, but since his own people have refused to follow him along the dangerous path he had chosen, to-day his word means nothing to those who still consider that Athens and not Smyrna is the capital of the kingdom of Greece. He undoubtedly remains one of the cleverest politicians of Europe, but his strength is now platonic; to use his own words, it is a case of not possessing any "backbone."

If, owing to the last developments of the situation in the Middle East and the attitude adopted by the Allied Powers towards the new elements that have been brought forward, the Treaty of Sèvres is to be altered, the question of Thrace should be one of the first to be considered. For it is not only the interests of that province and those of Bulgaria that have suffered through the surrender of Thrace to Greece, but also international concerns. As matters stand at present, Bulgaria has no free outlet to the open sea; the conditions of peace no doubt provide for Bulgaria an economic access to the Ægean, but past experiences show that for a State there is no real access to the sea except that which is guaranteed by its own sovereignty. Besides, this access is

illusory if it remains exposed to the risk of being directly or indirectly blocked by an ill-disposed or merely a rival State.

Bereft of her territorial access of the Ægean Sea, Bulgaria is deprived of the vital conditions on which the economic life of the country depends; the fact also inflicts great injury on the trade of the Mediterranean Powers, which requires the most rapid and direct maritime communications with the commercial centres of Bulgaria. It also closes the natural entrance through which the Allied Powers could in future effect their moral penetration in the midst of the Bulgarian people.

Article 48 of the Treaty of Neuilly states that the Allied Powers "undertake to ensure the economic outlets of Bulgaria to the Ægean Sea," adding that "the conditions of this guarantee will be fixed at a later date." It seems that the moment has come to give Bulgaria outlets to the Ægean under conditions which would guarantee their efficacy. Bulgaria's request is inspired by economic more than by political reasons. Being chiefly an agricultural country, Bulgaria needs to exchange her crops, her attar of roses, and her tobacco for the productions of European industry. This trade can only be effected through a Bulgarian port in the Ægean Sea, and at the present moment family considerations should not be invoked in the Balkans against the conferring of Dedeagatch or Kavalla upon Bulgaria.

The best solution of the question of the future of Thrace would be to consult the population as to its fate, and to accept the results of a plebiscite as a final settlement. If, however, this should not prove opportune, why not return to the decisions of the Treaty of Neuilly, Article 48. "Bulgaria renounces in favour of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers all rights and title over the territories in Thrace which belonged to the Bulgarian Monarchy, and which, being situated outside the new frontiers of Bulgaria, as described in Article 27 (3), Part II., have not been at present assigned to any state"? Why not constitute in its entirety the territory thus surrendered by Bulgaria into an autonomous State, independent of any Balkan State, and placed under the protection of one of the Allied Powers or one of the Neutral States of Western Europe chosen for this purpose by the Conference?

VILLAGE WATER SUPPLY IN PALESTINE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

At a meeting of the Palestine Advisory Council, held last month and reported in a recent issue of the *Palestine Weekly*, an interesting statement was made with regard to the new scheme for village water supply loans:—"Applications for loans have been received from villages requiring financial assistance in order to lay down water systems. Many villages have springs in their vicinity, but do not possess any means by which water can be brought from the spring to the village, thus compelling the villagers to go considerable distances daily for their water supply. Arrangements have been made whereby loans up to £400 can be granted by the Government, on the collective guarantee of the Mukhtars and leading members of the village community, who will be severally and jointly responsible for the repayment. The loans will be repayable in a short term of years—three to five—with interest." This scheme will meet with general approval from all those who know what an incalculable benefit the pure water supply has proved to Jerusalem, and a reliable local water supply is a necessity if the land is to yield its best and its utmost. There is no doubt, also, that the introduction into the scattered villages of Palestine of a continuous supply of clear water will be a boon indeed to the ever-toiling *fellaha* (peasant woman).

There is, however, another side to the question, for water is one of the gravest dangers in the East. Hitherto cholera has not been a scourge of Palestine: the severe visitations there have been from time to time, and were isolated events with intervals of many years in between. Cholera is principally a water-borne disease, as we know it in China and India, where it cuts down whole districts as with a scythe: it flourishes in a warm, moist soil (round about the deltas of the Ganges and the Yang-tse-kiang, and sometimes of the Nile), and it will disappear during a season of drought, only to revive with the next heavy rains. During the last outbreak of cholera in Palestine, early in the present century, the sickness raged in Jaffa, Tiberias, and Damascus, which are all well-watered places; Tiberias was simply decimated. In Jaffa the cholera spread like wildfire after the death therefrom of a little child, whose mother flung the body into the cistern which was common to all the several families inhabiting the house, and then raised a wild lamentation for the drowning child. Friends and neighbours rushed to the rescue, but too late; they buried the child, and continued to use the cistern. In Tiberias the Jewish women washed the clothes and food utensils which had been used by the sick, at the same time and

place as they were wont to draw their water, and the plague raged on until it seemed to die out from sheer satiety.

No one who remembers that terrible time can help a feeling of anxiety at the thought of an unlimited water supply being installed in the villages and in Jewish colonies; for in neither are the people careful or sanitary in their manner of living. Water will breed mosquitoes, if nothing worse, and the mosquitoes in places like Ramleh, Jaffa, and Zamarin, or in Hezekiah's Pool, and a small Jewish quarter not far from the city, are not easily forgotten by their victims. If the new village water supply is carried out to any extent it will be found necessary to restrict its use to certain hours, and also to appoint an English travelling inspector for each district, under whose vigilant supervision it will be impossible for any village or colony to abuse a great benefit.

THE REPORTS ON MONTENEGRO.

Two reports on "The Political Condition in Montenegro" have recently been published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, the first being written by Major Harold Temperley, Assistant Military Attaché, and the second by Mr. Roland L'E. Bryce. They are numbered Miscellaneous No. 1 (1921) and Miscellaneous No. 2 (1921), and are priced at 1d. and 2d. respectively.

Major Temperley's report, which is dated October 12, 1920, deals solely with events in Montenegro since December, 1919. After briefly recounting the evacuation of the country by foreign troops, he states that there is no "real foundation for the assertion that the Serb troops have intimidated the whole population," and he proceeds to show how difficult, since one-sixth of the population of Montenegro lives in towns, such intimidation would in practice be. Since the Armistice, he says, the bodies of opinion have been constituted as follows:—(1) The followers of King Nicholas, who are fewest; (2) the Pro-Serbs, a strong party predominant in the towns such as Cetigne, Podgoritza, and Rieka; and (3) the Autochthonists, who, though differing on many points, are at one in believing in the necessity for some connection with the Yugoslav State. The report concludes with an opinion that the great majority of Montenegrins were in favour of inclusion within the Triune Kingdom.

Mr. Bryce's report is dated Cetigne, December 16, 1920. He takes up the tale where Major Temperley left it, that is, he describes the elections for the Constituent Assembly of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes which took place on November 28, 1920. He was able, with Major Otley, to visit, and inspect personally, the voting in a large number of booths extending over a wide range, and he states definitely that the manner in which the ballot was supervised and carried out was proof against the most exacting criticism. Police and military were everywhere withdrawn, and no pressure was brought to bear by any Government authority. The political attitude of the people is described, and the number of abstentions is said to have been surprisingly small in consideration of the illiteracy of the folk. Incidentally, the effect of the elections being held on a Sunday was to increase rather than diminish the number of abstainers. The conclusions of the report are:—(1) That the elections in Montenegro were carried out with absolute fairness and respect for freedom and secrecy; (2) the results represented the views of the Montenegrin people in so far as their political education rendered the tenure or expression of such views feasible; (3) the proportion of electors who exercised their rights was highly satisfactory; and (4) no trace could be found of a body of opinion in Montenegro which was against the abstract idea of union with Serbia in Yugoslavia.

There are five appendices to this report, containing the tabulated results of the Montenegrin elections for the Constituent Assembly, translations of précis of programmes published, a list of the commodities imported into Montenegro during the period January, 1919, to October, 1920, and disposed of by the Food Controller, some notes on political trials, and, finally, "Notes on the General Situation in Montenegro at the Present Time."

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

The council meeting of the Society was held at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, on February 2, Mr. S. G. Hough (Vice-President) being in the chair. The following new members were elected:—Branch, A. E., O.B.E., Ministry of Interior, Cairo; Bromwich, Frank, Kenfield Hall, Petham, near Canterbury; Bryan, Rev. Wilmot A., Runninton Rectory, Wellington, Somerset; Jones, Mrs. D. Preston, Rusbury, Winchcombe, Glos.; Lovelace, Mary, Countess of, Ockham Park, Ripley, Surrey; Salisbury, the Marchioness of, Hatfield House, Hatfield, Herts; Templer, Brig-General C., Croft House, Tunbridge Wells; Yeoman, W. Gordon, Springhouse Park, Theydon Bois, Essex.

The secretary reported that fifty-nine entries had been received for the Arab and Arab-bred classes for the show at the Royal Agricultural Hall on February 25 and 26 next.

The Council accepted for the Stud Book, Vol. II., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's stallion, which had been presented to H.M. the King by the Sheikh of Koweit, and given to the Prince of Wales; and also the Marchioness of Salisbury's Arab stallion, presented to her by H.H. Emir Faisal of Arabia. A committee was appointed to carry out the arrangements for the next endurance test. The Council then adjourned until their next meeting on Tuesday, April 5, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London.

THE ARMENIAN REFUGEES (LORD MAYOR'S) FUND.

Earl Curzon of Kedleston writes asking for the co-ordinated efforts of the four London Committees working for Armenian relief to meet the desperate need of Armenian refugees in Transcaucasia. According to information received from the British Chief Commissioner at Tiflis, there are thirty thousand refugees in concentration camps at Alexandropol and twenty thousand at Karaklis, besides many thousands in surrounding country. The whole country is impoverished, and one hundred thousand people at Alexandropol will soon be starving unless immediate help be provided. Relief work has continued in Erivan and Karaklis, funds having been granted by the Armenian Government for this purpose. Food cannot be obtained in Georgia. The British Chief Commissioner at Tiflis has formed a relief committee to deal with supplies received. Funds may be sent to the representatives of the Committees as below:—Aneurin Williams, M.P., Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, 96, Victoria Street, S.W.1; Miss E. J. Robinson, Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, 35a, Elsham Road, London, W.14; E. Wright Brooks, Friends of Armenia, 47, Victoria Street, S.W.1; Mrs. Madeleine Cole, Women's Armenian Relief Fund, Danehurst, Putney, S.W.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

The office of the High Commissioner for India was opened at 42, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1, on February 21, 1921. From that date the High Commissioner (Sir William Meyer), his personal staff, the Indian Students' Department, and the High Commissioner's Accounts and General Departments will be located there. The High Commissioner's Treasury, however, will continue at the India Office. The Stores Department, also, will remain at the India Office for the present, while the India Store Depot will continue, as before, in Belvedere Road, Lambeth. 21, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, will continue as the Indian Students' Hostel.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—MESOPOTAMIA (MANDATE). (February 16.)

PEACE TREATIES: Turkey (Rahmi Bey). EGYPT (MILNER REPORT). MESOPOTAMIA (MANDATE). PERSIA: Cordon Expedition.—British Forces. MESOPOTAMIA: British Forces (Withdrawals)—Railway Workers (Wages). INDIA: Civil Pensions—Army Reserve Officers (War Decoration). February 17.

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Turkey and the Conference.

It would not be one whit too strong to say that the economic salvation of Turkey literally hinges on the prospect of a satisfactory issue of the London Conference. The position in Turkey at the present time could scarcely be worse, and it is obvious that if present conditions continue, a point may soon be reached when reconstruction may be all but impossible. In the best circumstances, it will be a difficult and arduous task, and one which Turkey would be quite unable to accomplish unaided. Turkey's strongest card to play at the Conference, if only she knew it, would be to insist upon the necessity of Smyrna, for trade purposes, belonging to the same fiscal jurisdiction as the vast hinterland on which the port is entirely dependent. Unless there is to be peace in Asia Minor and freedom of movement between the interior and the coast, an important portion of British trade will be interfered with. There are abundant signs that business circles are becoming alive to the fact that the territorial provisions of the Treaty of Sèvres entail a severe blow to the British exporter.

Export Credits—

One may perhaps be pardoned for wondering as the weeks slip away whether the authorities responsible really recognise that the introduction of a workable export credit scheme is a matter of urgent necessity; that it is required now and not at some future date. We have had a plethora of schemes of which at least three stand out as constituting practical methods of dealing with the problem, but beyond discussion apparently nothing has taken place. Naturally, there are very real difficulties in bringing any of the schemes into effect, but unless and until such a scheme is in operation it needs no emphasis that in present conditions there can be no resumption of trade with South-Eastern Europe on any extensive scale, and the longer that is postponed the further off must be the prospect of the economic recovery of the States in that region, and of the trade boom which will eventually lift from our shoulders the last vestige of trade depression. These considerations, one would think, would be sufficient to ensure that there should be no undue delay in arranging a scheme.

—And the Banks.

The Prime Minister referred to the question in his speech on unemployment last week, and attributed the delay in introducing a scheme to the reluctance of the banks to take a share in the risks that would be involved. That the risks that would be assumed would be very considerable must be admitted, and the attitude of the banks is quite understandable in the prevailing conditions in the country; but if they feel that the responsibility of their position will not justify their participation to the extent required there is a ready alternative, and that is for the State to step in and fill the breach. It may be urged that the State will not be well advised in risking the money of taxpayers in a scheme which appears too hazardous for the banks; but to that the reply is that the thing simply has to be done and immediately; and in default of any other means the State will have to accept the risk.

Bulgarian Bonds.

By the time this issue appears the meeting of holders of Bulgarian bonds convened by the Council of Foreign Bondholders to consider an offer made by the Bulgarian Government in regard to the debt service which has been suspended since Bulgaria entered the war, will have been held. The nature of the offer has not been announced, but if it should not amount to more than fifty per cent., it would not be surprising if the bondholders felt tempted to reject it

and made an alternative suggestion. In this connection, it may be mentioned that the Inter-Allied Reparations Mission left Paris yesterday for Sofia, and at first sight it would seem a natural course to adopt to bring the Council of Foreign Bondholders into touch with the Mission with a view to regulating the position.

Germany and the Near East.

My view, often expressed in these columns, that Germany would seize the first opportunity to attempt to regain her former position of predominance in the trade of the Near East finds confirmation in a recent article in the *Vossische Zeitung* to the effect that Germany must again endeavour to win Greek trade. The theme of the article is that Greece is ready for the old trade relationship with Germany, and that the view taken by the leading business men in Athens is that the severance of commerce with Germany was as serious for Greece as for that country. A typically German way of arguing, is it not? Needless to say, there is no evidence of any such desire on the part of Greece to receive the Teuton with open arms. Greece is far too well aware of the inevitable consequences of German economic penetration. There, as elsewhere in the Near East, the war threw a vivid light on the effect of Teutonic activities in the past. Unfortunately, the mere fact of not desiring to comply with Germany's desire is not sufficient. There is only one way to keep the door shut against the Teuton, and that is by the maintenance of close economic relations between the Allies and the Near East; and in accomplishing this task British traders have at once a great opportunity and a great responsibility.

The Farmers' Complex Weights.

I have read with great interest a little illustrated pamphlet by Major David Davies, M.P., expounding the reasons for the Bill that has been introduced in the House of Commons to standardise agricultural weights and measures. As he justly points out, one of the eternal mysteries of farming is the meaning of the quarter. It may have any one of five values for wheat, of six values for rye, and of ten values for oats. The variation of other measures is equally absurd, and affords perpetual difficulty to all engaged in the selling side of the industry. "To this day," says Major Davies, "nothing has been done to protect the farmer and dealer in agricultural produce. An unscrupulous person may, by exploiting the variations in weight, secure an unfair profit, which would be impossible if standardisation were attained. It is not the farmer and the dealer alone who are concerned. The price of bread depends on the price of corn, so it is in the interest of everyone to ensure that nothing is allowed to interfere with fair and free traffic in wheat." The Bill proposes to make it illegal to deal except in terms of cwt. of 112 imperial standard lb. unless the quantity dealt with is less than 112 imperial standard lb.—a simple reform which will at a stroke reduce the present chaotic weights to order.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, January 28.

Markets Depressed.

Trade in general has been at a standstill owing to the total lack of inquiries from abroad and the financial depression in Egypt. It was hoped that the Sudan would be allowed to export cereals to India to relieve the famine, but so far nothing has materialised. Manchester piece goods are very greatly reduced, and may be purchased in the local markets for considerably less than in the United Kingdom. Abyssinian coffee has dropped heavily, although the visible supplies in the country are not estimated to last beyond the arrival of the second steamer from Gambella—i.e., about July next. Tentative inquiries have been received for sesame seed, and a slight increase in price for the cleaned article delivery Moghren Quays has been noticeable during the last few days. The action of the Government in allowing free export to foreign countries has had a good effect, and prices are as follows: Red Sesame, machine cleaned, £E13 to £E13½ per ton Moghren; White, £E18 to £E19 per ton. A certain amount of Dhurrah Feterita has been exported to Malta.

As a result of various experiments and analyses in London, it has been found that Dhurrah Feterita compares well with Plate Maize for distilling purposes, giving a non-distinctive spirit suitable for the making of commercial alcohol, etc. Unfortunately, owing to high railway and steamship freights, it is impossible for the Sudan exporter to land his dura in the United Kingdom at less than £16 to £17 per ton c.i.f., which makes competition with Plate maize at present prices prohibitive. Hides and skins are a drug on the market. Italy is unwilling to buy owing to the unfavourable rate of exchange. Fresh hides are being offered here at 25 milliemes an oke, with very few buyers.

ROUMANIA.

Exploitation of Natural Gas.

It has long been known that in Transylvania there are districts producing large quantities of natural gas, most of which has hitherto remained unexploited. The Government have now granted a contract to the "Société des Usines de fer et domaines de Reshitza" (U.F.D.R.) for the exploitation of the gas in certain of these districts for the purpose of enabling the company to construct and work a boring-tube factory for the supply of the necessary materials to the petroleum industry. The company undertakes to complete the construction of its boring-tube factory within five years from the date of the contract and to complete the gas conduit to the factory within the three following years. The contract further provides for the formation of a subsidiary company which will supply the urban and rural communes and the industries in the valley of the Danube between the gas fields exploited by the tube factory and the valley of the Muresh as far as Arad.

Purchase of Locomotives.

According to the *Moniteur Officiel*, a credit of 150,000,000 lei has been granted to the Ministry of Communications for the purpose of buying locomotives, etc. Orders have been placed in Germany and Austria.

The B.I.F.

It is gratifying to note that in several of the local papers long articles have appeared on the coming British Industries Fair, pointing out its advantages and the facilities afforded to visitors and buyers there. There is no lack of interest in it in this part of the world, but the very low rate of the Roumanian leu and the high cost of living in England may possibly prevent many interested merchants from taking advantage of the opportunities it offers.

Sulphate of Copper for the Vineyards.

The Ministry of Agriculture has purchased in England about 350 wagons of sulphate of copper crystals at 98-99

per cent. It is expected to arrive at Braila in the course of this month, and will be sold there at 11.50 lei per kilo, or 12.50 maximum, at the depôts of the agricultural syndicates and societies.

Railway Repair Shops' Concession.

The proposed concession of the railway repair shops to an English group for a period of seven years is still the subject of severe criticism in the local, more especially the *Liberal Press*. The Bill embodying this proposal has already been presented to Parliament, but the vote on it has not yet been taken. The chief objections raised are against foreign administration and labour, not against the introduction of foreign capital.

SYRIA.

BEYROUT, January 31.

The Beyrout Fair.

The fair that is to be inaugurated in Beyrout on April 1 is the first concrete manifestation of European organisation and enterprise of this kind in Syria. The undertaking is due to Commandant Fumey, director of the fair. An idea of the importance that is attached to this undertaking may be formed from the fact that the estimated expenditure is put down at thirty million Syrian piastres, equivalent to six million francs. The receipts from lease of space are reckoned at twenty million Syrian piastres, the resulting deficit being expected to be ten million Syrian piastres, or two million francs.

The authorities have been hard put to it to provide adequate space in the central part of the town, and it was a happy idea to utilize temporarily part of Allenby Street (one of the wide streets opened out through the old town by the Turks during the war), the old cemetery north of the old Seraglio, and a similar open space west of it, as well as the public garden in the square, known as the Place des Canons. The exhibition of native arts and industries is to be held in this garden, and the famous woven embroideries of Zouq, Mount Lebanon, will find a prominent place. The large space provided by the old cemetery is allotted to the agricultural section, where agricultural machinery and implements and agricultural products will be exhibited. The major part of this section has already been secured by the representative of American firms, and by the *Onnium Franco-Oriental*, a French company engaged in mechanical enterprise, and representing some French industrial concerns. A limited space is still available.

There are to be in all 488 stands, 360 of which have been taken over by French exhibitors, and the remaining stands have been left chiefly for the Beyrout merchants. The total number of exhibiting firms is expected to exceed 1,200. Wide-spread interest seems to have been aroused in the fair, and visitors have already been announced from Greece, Turkey, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and even Persia. An official invitation to the Egyptian Government is contemplated, but it is from France that the most numerous visitors are expected. Besides numbers of representatives of the exhibiting firms and other visitors, two ministers and forty senators and deputies, all guests of the authorities here, are to honour the fair by their presence. As the hotels in Beyrout are already full, and no vacant houses, or even rooms, are available—the town being already congested owing to the presence of the large number of military officers and civil officials with their families, and to the influx of large numbers from the interior since the Occupation—it is proposed to accommodate the foreign visitors in the leading hotels at the principal summer resorts in the hills around Beyrout, such as Aley, Sofar, and Brummana, and to run a special daily service of motor cars to and from Beyrout.

The Board of Trade are in receipt of information, through the Foreign Office, to the effect that the importation into Roumania of all animals and animal products transmitted through Belgium, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, or Bulgaria, is prohibited, on account of bovine plague.

All restrictions on the cultivation and on the sale of tobacco throughout Palestine have been abolished. New Customs regulations are in course of preparation, and a fixed tariff will replace the Customs duty and surtax on imported tobacco and cigarettes. The new tariff will probably come into force on March 1.

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THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

One day presumably the British Industries Fair will have a permanent habitat, but that time is evidently not yet. We have been to the docks, then out to suburbia as far as the Crystal Palace, and this year visitors have to make a voyage of discovery to the White City at Shepherd's Bush. From some points of view the present change is not for the better. The Crystal Palace was not an ideal centre for exhibitions owing to its inaccessibility, but it had the outstanding advantage that it enabled the exhibits to be more or less concentrated, while it offered unlimited scope for expansion. There is no lack of space at the White City, but the straggling character of the building makes it rather unsuitable for its present purpose. Still, it has the merit that it can be reached more easily than any other centre at which the fair has been held, and buyers who have to walk the many miles of exhibits, especially those in whose memory the unending ascent to the Crystal Palace still holds a painful place, will no doubt maintain that that merit is decisive.

As a general rule first nights are dangerous to judgment, and the same proposition applies to the opening of exhibitions. In the natural course one is bound to see more than a suspicion of the work behind the scene, but that matters little, as buyers almost invariably hold aloof from the inaugural session. They did so to some extent this time, and I was able to see the exhibits with comparative comfort. A welcome change, indeed, for my usual experience has been the difficulty of seeing the exhibits for the buyers. That is a pleasure which doubtless awaits me at my next visit later in the week. But while there was freedom for inspection, one collected other impressions of a less satisfactory nature. There are, to lapse into statistics, something like four and a-half miles of stands, and a casual tour is in itself no light ordeal, but when coupled with incessant waves of heat from stoves placed at every few yards throughout the long galleries, it becomes a very arduous process indeed.

Leipzig the Unwanted.

But it was also an extremely pleasant labour, for on every side one was confronted with fresh evidence of the increasing skill of British industry. No one looking at the fair in detail could fail to be astounded at the vast strides that have been made in every branch of manufactures during the past few years, and particularly in those lines which before the war were the preserve of our great Continental rival. It is only when, as in the present case, there is a concentration of the fruits of industrial endeavour that the full meaning of the advance can be realised. It has not been progress so much as a revolution, the results of which will be seen in the years to come. To the foreign buyer, who will see the fair in his thousands, it must be a wonderful revelation of the capacity and the industrial resources of this country, and it will bring home to him emphatically that in the future there will be no need for him to go to Leipzig to place his orders, for Leipzig, great though its reputation was before the war, is now well on the way to be eclipsed by a far more ambitious undertaking.

In one important respect, the present fair differs from that of last year. In the spring of 1920 we were in the flood tide of enjoyment of the first trade "boom" after the war. Manufacturers in every industry had more orders than they could deal with; it was difficult to place a con-

tract, but it was impossible to obtain any guarantee as to the date of delivery. The effect on the 1920 fair was to make it a buyers' exhibition. Goods of every kind were in strong request, and manufacturers were in a position to make their terms. To-day the pendulum has swung completely round, for the fair is held at a time of a world-wide and unprecedented "slump"; and this time it would be correctly described as a sellers' fair. Manufacturers are now in a position to promise immediate delivery of every class of goods. Their one anxiety is to find buyers, and if the estimate of those who propose to attend the fair turns out to be approximately correct, we may, I think, look forward confidently to good business resulting.

Buyers, it must be remembered, are not actuated by conditions at the moment. They are concerned with what will be the probable position in the course of a few months' time. And it is on that ground that I am an optimist regarding the fair. All the available evidence goes to show that the present trade depression will not be a thing of long standing, and that being the case buyers must make their preparations accordingly, or run the risk of being caught "short." The prospect of the introduction of an export credit scheme, thus enabling a rapid resumption of trade with South-Eastern Europe, is also going to make a tremendous difference. I only wish it had been possible to complete the arrangement of the scheme before the fair opened. It could have been done, and it was extremely advisable that it should have been done.

Interest in the Near East.

One thing which specially interested me in my talks with the representatives of the exhibiting firms was to find out the eagerness that existed to do trade with the Near East. Owing to the unfortunate conditions that have existed since the end of the war, some firms have had a sorry experience of commerce in the Levant, but in not a single case—and I spoke to a great number of representatives—was there the slightest suggestion of an inclination to avoid that field. That, to my mind, is an omen of great hope for the future, and it shows very plainly that the efforts made over a long period of years, and in which this journal has played a foremost part, are at last beginning to bear fruit. It is sincerely to be hoped that the new-born enthusiasm of so many firms to enter the Near Eastern markets will not be killed by adverse experiences. Provided they are careful to follow the advice of the authorities and of the local Chambers of Commerce, they will find in the Near East a rich opening for trade, but if they embark upon it without enlisting the experience of those familiar with the peculiar trade conditions of that region, then they will be almost certain to come to grief, and in so doing will render a great disservice to the cause of British trade interests there by helping to make that trade outlet once more an unpopular sphere for trade endeavour.

And now I will turn to the exhibits, and, in reading my review of these, I trust my readers will bear in mind the fact that I am not gifted with omniscience, and that in the space of a few short hours before Press Day, it is impossible to do otherwise than gain the most fragmentary impressions of so comprehensive an exhibition.

Musical Instruments.

I propose first to touch on the musical instruments section. Poor and unsatisfying last year, it now presents a very different picture; and, indeed, is not far now from meriting the description of a representative assemblage of this old-established English industry. Some famous names

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are still lacking, but no doubt it will not be long before they, too, recognising the priceless advantages for publicity offered by the fair, will join the ranks of exhibitors. Notable among the stands was that of the Chappell Piano Company, who have on view a most interesting selection of their productions. Their representative, discussing the outlook in the Near East, stated to me that Constantinople, Egypt, and Smyrna had proved to be good markets for musical instruments, while the firm had also been successful to some extent in the Balkans. The pianos and pianoforte players of Messrs. Chappell stand climatic changes well, and a forceful policy should greatly enlarge their market in the Near and Middle East as conditions become more favourable. Other firms I noted exhibiting admirable pianofortes and player pianos were Messrs. Allison Pianos, Ltd., Messrs. Broadwood, White, and Co., Messrs. Charles H. Challen and Son, Ltd., and Messrs. John Strohmenger and Sons, Ltd. A particularly interesting stand was that of the Bell Piano and Organ Co., Ltd., showing various examples of organs and harmoniums. For the products of all these firms there ought to be a good market in the Near East. Messrs. Besson and Co., Ltd., and Messrs. Thomas Dawkins and Co., Ltd., showed a good selection of band requisites; also Messrs. Samuel Barnett and Sons, Ltd., who, among other exhibits, were also showing their well-known "Decca" gramophone, which should prove very popular in the Near East. Other firms showing notable exhibits of gramophones were Messrs. Craies and Stavridi and the Sterno Manufacturing Co.

Cutlery, Silver and Electro-Plate, etc.

This is, I think, one of the most interesting sections of the fair. It is much more imposing and comprehensive than has been the case on previous occasions, and the choicely arranged stands make a rare show with their fine selection of the products of Birmingham and Sheffield. A stand which specially attracted me was that of the Sheffield Steel Products, Ltd., who have on view a most varied assortment of magnificent cases of cutlery, together with silver plate, and tools of all descriptions. Messrs. William Hutton and Sons, Ltd., show an attractive range of their products, including silver and electro-plated goods, stainless steel, and fancy metal articles, to say nothing of some exquisite vases. Another stand to which I was attracted was that of Messrs. John McGlory and Sons, Ltd., who display table and pocket cutlery. Messrs. James Dixon and Sons, Ltd., show silver

and electro-plate ware of all kinds; Messrs. Edward Barnard and Sons, Ltd., have on view some very fine examples of silver, gold, and electro-plate ware, while another interesting stand is that of Messrs. Warrillows, Ltd., who exhibit jewellery cases, jewellers' sundries, etc. It is impossible, unfortunately, to attempt to do justice to this particularly complete section. To do that I should have to devote all the space that is available for this present article, and that is unfortunately impossible, and in consequence numerous exhibits that I should like to have noticed must be passed by unmentioned.

Toys and Games.

Were the general public admitted to the fair, I suppose this would be by far the most popular section. It certainly contains everything that could be calculated to entertain the young mind. Games there are in plenty of all descriptions; some that I had never seen before and which I can well imagine are bound to enjoy a great vogue. Then there are battalions of soldiers, and regiments, if not divisions, of dolls for the girls, while the novelties would exhaust the limited resources of my pen were I to try to describe them. Among the many firms whose exhibits deserve special mention is Harper's Novelty Toy Company, Ltd., showing constructional and picture puzzles, etc. I was glad to learn from the representative of this firm that considerable business has been done with the various Near Eastern markets. But that, indeed, as I have already remarked, was the story universally told to me at the exhibition. The English Novelty Company show some remarkably good wooden toys, and they are catering specially for the export market. Another interesting stand was that of the British Metal and Toy Manufacturers, Ltd., who display an excellent variety of mechanical and non-mechanical metal toys, including clockwork trains, motor-cars, model vertical steam engines, etc. I shall have some more to say about this section in my concluding article on the fair, in which I shall deal with the remaining sections, as it is of special interest, seeing that it represents virtually a new item in our export trade. Before the war Germany and Austria held the trade in cheap toys and games. The quality of the work shown by the firms now exhibiting indicates very plainly that if only they are not handicapped by costs they should have little difficulty in taking the place of the Central Powers in the Eastern bazaars.

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ENGINEERING.

The Fuel Problem.

From all quarters one hears of the scarcity of fuel. In India exports of coal have been prohibited with the exception of a small supply for the Ceylon State Railways, a supply that is to come to an end in March. In Latin America extraordinary efforts are being made to increase the output of such coal as is to be found in Brazil and Chile; in Germany a Government Bureau has been appointed to work in conjunction with manufacturers to see what use can be made in industry of the peat brown coal and lignite which is obtainable in fairly large quantities in that country. Needless to say, engineers in all these countries are turning their attention to the possibilities of conserving supplies of high-grade fuels by using low-grade and waste coal in the pulverised form which is claimed to possess so many advantages.

A system in which the fuel is delivered to the burners by means of air pressure instead of by conveyors or other mechanical means is said to be giving every satisfaction, and as it has now been in use for nearly two years sufficient time has certainly been allowed in which to give a mature judgment. In one of the first installations the fuel was carried a distance of rather over 1,500 feet by air pressure, and in some later plants this distance has been exceeded. The powdered coal is blown through pipe-lines four inches in diameter, and such is the speed and ease at which it can be handled that it is possible to convey four tons of the fuel the distance mentioned in slightly less than five minutes. Of course, such speed of handling would not be possible were the coal not powdered to the very finest limits; indeed, so minute are the particles that it might almost be said that the coal was reduced to colloidal form.

The powdering is preceded by passing the coal through a crushing machine of the double-roll type, by which it is broken into pieces not exceeding one inch or one and a quarter inches in size in any direction. It is then passed through a magnetic separator, which removes any fragments of iron or iron ore, after which it passes through a second rough-crushing machine, which reduces it to fragments not exceeding half an inch in area or length.

These fragments are then carried by means of a screw conveyor to a drying machine where by heated air and other means, such as causing the fragments to be thrown on to hot plates, so much of the moisture is removed as to leave the coal containing not more than one per cent. of water. A pyrometer, with recording instruments at the discharge end of the drying machine, is used to enable the attendant to see when the coal is ready for removal.

After this treatment, which is carried through very quickly, the coal is elevated by means of an endless chain of buckets to a bin, from which it is discharged into a patent pulverising machine provided with an air-separation device. The quantity of coal admitted to the pulveriser is regulated by means of rack and pinion gates in the end of spouts, and each pulveriser is further equipped with a compartment feeder for further regulating the admission of coal.

From a description of the plant it appears that the pulverised coal is removed from each mill by an exhaustor or motor-driven fan, which, running at a constant speed, lifts by means of a partial vacuum all coal particles of a sufficient fineness, and so maintains a uniformity of product. The dust is carried up by pipe-lines to a further set of separators of the "cyclone" type, and all particles considered as too coarse are returned to the pulverisers. The dust is finally deposited in a steel bin into which air is admitted under pressure, the dust being driven in this way along the pipes to the point of use. In spite of the machinery involved, it is said that the results obtained show a considerable economy over other methods of pulverising and distribution.

A Heat Treating Furnace.

A description of a heat-treating furnace which contains some novel features is to hand from a correspondent who says that the furnace has been in operation for some time and has given uniformly good results. It was designed as a substitute for the three separate units usually required, one of which heats the steel to a temperature of about 1,500 degrees Fahr., a second heating it further up to 2,350 degrees, and the third consisting of a chamber in which the temper of the metal is dealt with in either a dry heat or an oil or lead bath. In the furnace mentioned all these three steps are carried out simultaneously with the use of a single burner employing either gas and air, gas and oxygen, or fuel oil combined with either oxygen or air.

I understand that the furnace is cylindrical in shape, this design having been chosen to ensure uniform temperatures and the elimination of cold corners, and operates with a single burner which is not built into the furnace. There are three chambers, the lowest one for hardening, the intermediate one for pre-heating, and the top compartment for

drawing the temper. The temperatures in both the intermediate and the lower compartments are determined by a pyrometer, and a thermometer is employed to determine the drawing temperature in the top division. This is controlled by an air inlet from the main air supply line and is operated by a valve and a mercury air gauge. It is pointed out that both the intermediate and the lower chambers have a reducing atmosphere, thus preventing pitting or scaling of the steel that is being heated.

My informant says that the furnace can be operated easily by one man, and that it will handle steel parts, such as milling cutters, up to four inches in diameter and ten inches in length. The time required to bring the lower compartment to the proper hardening temperature from a cold start is ten minutes when ordinary tool steel is being treated, 20 minutes being necessary when dealing with high-speed steel. The temperature can be raised from 1,500 to 2,250 degrees in a very short space of time, and throughout the operation the temperature is under perfect control.

A New Rim.

An entirely new departure has been made in connection with wheel rims for automobile use, the object being to facilitate the removal of the outer cover or the replacement of the inner tube, where it has been necessary to remove these for the purpose of repairing a burst or puncture. A certain amount of speculation has existed as to the actual form of the new rim, and the principles on which it depends, but this has now been set at rest by the statement that sets of wheels of the new type have now been made and subjected to severe tests by an engineering expert.

As a result of these, this gentleman writes:—"I have witnessed the removal and replacement of a number of covers and tubes. The average time taken for removing the complete tyre, taking the tube from the cover, replacing the tube within the cover, and fixing the complete tyre again on the wheel was only three minutes, two minutes of which represented the time occupied in removing the tube and replacing same, the unlocking and locking of the flange taking only one minute. I do not know of any device which can compare with this rim in regard to the facility with which covers and tubes can be removed and replaced." I am looking forward to seeing this new rim on the road, and trust it will answer as well in practice as it appears to have done on test.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East," 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

105. Engineering and general contractor in Mosul, Mesopotamia, wishes to get into touch with manufacturers in Great Britain.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

107. Old established Turkish firm handling general stores situated in Smyrna and having branches in the interior invites exporters to quote prices for groceries. The firm also acts as agents for articles of general consumption in Asia Minor.

108. Hemp manufacturer in Croatia wishes to get into touch with rope manufacturers who would purchase hemp.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get into touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

112. An Alexandria firm wish to enter into business relations with United Kingdom firms dealing in the following exports:—Beers and stout; salmon, sardines, tinned fruit and vegetables; coconut oil; gunny bags; pepper, rice, flour and soap.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—On the whole the market is very firm. Currants have been in steady request, though business remains somewhat restricted. There has been a brisk demand for sultanas, while figs at last seem to be coming into their own, judging by the gradually increasing business that is being done. More interest is also being shown in Persian dates.

Sugar.—There is no change to report. West Indian crystallised has been done at 63s. to 64s. 6d. American granulated has come to business at 72s., and white Mauritius at 71s. Home refined has continued in good demand at the scheduled rate.

Coffee.—A steady tone has characterised the market. The futures market has been firm. Quotations are:—March, 43s.; May, 45s. 6d.; July, 47s.; September, 48s. 3d.; December, 49s.

Oilseeds.—On the week rates are rather firmer. Indian linseed has come to business at 19s., a decline of 6d. La Plata, however, is 1s. 3d. up at 18s. 9d. Rapeseed has been firm, with Toria 6d. up at 19s., and bold Ferozepore quoted at 18s. Cottonseed has been steady, with Egyptian black 6d. up at 10s. 9d.

Seed Oils.—Oils have been variable. Linseed oil has advanced 1s. to 34s. Rape oil is 2s. down at 48s. Refined cotton oil is 2s. up at 40s., while the Egyptian variety has gained 1s. at 31s. Turpentine is 7s. down at 63s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 180s. cwt.; butter, 298s. cwt.; cheese, 160s. cwt.; chillies, 125s. cwt.; eggs, 30s. 6d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 10½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 81s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 120s. cwt.; East Indian bold, 112s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 111s. cwt.; ginger (washed cochim), 37s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 160s. cwt.; lard, 125s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 10½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 130s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 119s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 90s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 72s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 76s. cwt.; Mauritius, 70s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 23s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 16s. 6d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 13s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £6 12s. 6d. ton; tea (Indian), 7d. lb.; Ceylon, 6½d. lb.; Java, 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 87s. 6d. qr.; wheat (English white), 65s. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 80s. qr.

Metals.—Aluminium, £157 10s. ton; bismuth, 12s. 6d. lb.; antimony (English regulus), £39 12s. 6d. ton; copper (standard), £71 12s. 6d. ton; copper (electro), £79 10s. ton; gold bars, 106s. 3d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 195s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 220s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £71 12s. 6d. ton; Manganese Poti, 2s. 2½d. unit; molybdenite, 60s. unit; nickel, £210 ton; platinum, 310s. oz.; plumbago, £35 ton; quicksilver, £12 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 3s. 0½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 7s. 6d. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 31s. 6d. box; tin (standard), £164 17s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 15s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £39 ton.

Chemicals.—Acids: boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 0½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 4½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 11½d. lb.; ammoniac (sulphate), £25 12s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £51 ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 2½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 ton; borax crystals, 38s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 162s. 6d. cwt. Potassium: bi-chromate, 1s. 2½d. lb.; chlorate, 6½d. lb.; caustic, £60 ton; nitrate, £58 10s. ton; permanganate, 2s. 1½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 3d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £34 10s. ton. Sodium: crystals, 150s. ton; bi-carbonate, £10 ton; bi-chromate, 9½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 10s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 10s. ton; prussiate, 9½d. lb.; nitrate, £20 10s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £35 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 4s. 3d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 6½d. oz.; red lead, £41 ton; white dry lead, £45 ton; white ground lead, £54 15s. ton.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended February 17:—It must be months since business in this department has ruled as slow as during the past week. The inquiry has been negligible, and when a genuine buyer has put in an appearance he has had little difficulty in securing his cotton at a very much lower price than the figure shown in the official quotations. Cotton is pressed for sale in many quarters, but at the moment the consumer is not in a position to pick up cotton, even when the price appears to be pence under the market value. The small lots that have changed hands have been principally of Sakel growth, grading "good fair to fully good fair," and a small proportion of "upper cotton," the latter growth is quoted in Egypt at a favourable price compared with the American contract, and the basis is likely to steady somewhat from now onwards. The other growths still have margin for further decline on to-day's price of contracts. Sales 600 bales. Upper and brown show a decline of 50 points on the week, whilst Sakellaridis 100 points, with "fair" and "extra fine" 50 points down.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Outlook Somewhat Improved.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

Though there has not been any general improvement in the market during the week, there has certainly been a little more cloth demand, and in some quarters an increased business has been done. There are still many discouraging features about, and the day-to-day fluctuations in the price of raw cotton are naturally harassing trading developments. Stocks of dear goods are gradually being reduced, and, as there is certainly a shortage of Lancashire goods in the outlets abroad, it is only a matter of time when buyers will again commence to operate freely. But nobody can prophesy when a revival of demand will come about. The further fall in the price of silver is causing buyers to be wary before committing themselves to lots of weight. The yarn section has been full of irregular features, Egyptian counts in particular having been dull of sale. It is quite impossible for spinners to clear the output of the machinery, even when running reduced hours. Stocks are accumulating, and at the moment no particular relief is in sight. On the 11th inst, the Egyptian Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis spot rate was 17.50d., and it has since declined to 16.50d. Only scattered cloth transactions have been reported for Egypt, and the outlook in the Near Eastern outlets is generally uncertain. Isolated sales have taken place in special lines for Persia. Inquiry for India has been in evidence, but any sales that have occurred have been of slight importance. China is the most promising outlet, and some fair lines in white shirtings, sheetings, and fancies have been booked. The remaining outlets, both east and west, show some interest, but sales have been patchy. In home trade circles trade has not developed on free lines. American yarns have been in retail demand and irregular in price.

CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

An Anxious Period.

A brief review of the position in Bulgaria appears in the current issue of the market review of the National Bank of Turkey, from which we give the following extracts:—

The predominating factor in the market to-day is excessive nervousness. This state is general throughout the whole country without exception. Things are so bad that the retailer is to-day buying in such small quantities that he is ordering half pieces. Rumours of the crisis existing in Constantinople are going from mouth to mouth, and all are expecting a crash in this country. From all sides it is said to be inevitable, and it is hard to see how it can be avoided. The old-established firms will be glad when it comes, and business will certainly improve when this unpleasant uneasiness ceases to exist. There is also talk of the moratorium being raised. The cry of the Bulgarian merchant to-day is that he does not know what is the true level of prices, and whether basis has been reached. Until things are more steady he is like a man in the dark and is afraid to move right or left. Like others he would like to close up shop altogether until brighter prospects are in view. The experience of a British firm lately with several shipments to this country has been exceedingly unpleasant. The goods which were ordered on a falling market were all unaccepted on arrival in this country, and the manufacturers are in consequence faced with considerable losses. It hardly seems advisable under present circumstances to ship to Bulgarian merchants unless sufficient deposit or guarantee is put up beforehand to make it practically impossible for the buyer to get out if he should so desire. It is known that merchants in the country have sacrificed a 20 per cent. deposit, and refused to take delivery.

The Germans are preparing to sweep the field. In the iron and steel line they appear to wipe up all the competition. Their prices are extremely low, and they are quoting freight rates from Hambourg to Bulgarian ports at a price of about one-third of those existing from England to Bulgaria. In cloth they have also booked up many orders. They are giving credit terms, and appear to have the fullest trust in the local buyers. It is reported that a contract has been signed by a group of Belgian magnates and the Bulgarian Government for the supply of rails and rolling stock, to the value of a hundred million francs. The contract must be completed inside two years. The arrival of the Belgian representative at Sofia is expected.

The custom duties on goods imported into Bulgaria from Allied countries have now been raised. The 600 per cent. increase to bring up the duties to gold standard, as allowed by the Peace Treaty, has now been raised to 800 per cent., as from January 1 of this year.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

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

Gum.

The exports of gum were 5,013 kilos. of bleached of the value of ££292; 178,610 kilos. of hashab, of the value of ££8,652, via Port Sudan, and 14,893 kilos. of hashab, of the value of ££722, via Halfa.

Kordofan Province.—3,503 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during December, as against 7,313 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was ££1,006 per kantar of 100 rottles. Arrivals from Nahud were 1,686 kantars, as against 11,304 kantars last year. 1,266 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at 95 PT. per kantar, as against 2,210 last year. 3,750 kantars were sold at Rahad at ££1 per kantar, as against 5,250 last year.

Sennar Province.—12 tons of hashab and 29 tons of talh gum were exported by rail during the month.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province.—It is anticipated that the market will open towards the end of January and will probably continue until the end of June. Picking of cotton from early cultivated area close to Tokar town is expected to begin shortly.

Kassala Province.—The area under cotton this year is very large indeed, and, on the whole, the cotton is in a very healthy state; the crop is estimated at 11,000 to 12,800 kantars of 315 rottles, unguined.

Berber Province.—Gendettu, on November 27, was looking extremely well, except the cotton at the south and at El Hosh, which was poor in places. It was also disappointing on some very hard and heavy bits of soil which drain badly. Good work was being done with further clearing of the forest land, and a good many fellata had arrived to pick. 410 kantars had been picked and there was only a little local boll-worm. Cotton near the Kitiab pump site was only fair, and very uneven on worn-out sagia land. At Zeidab, the native cotton on the island was fair, especially where the land had been ploughed.

Dura.

Kassala Province.—The assessment of Ushur is complete in Gedaref, Mefaza, and Gallabat, and is still proceeding in Kassala and Rutana districts. In Kassala and Tamarein the assessment can hardly be finished till well into February, as a fortnight ago the natives were still sowing dura in Gashdai, the extreme northern point reached by the Gash Flood. The grain crop, on the whole, is a very large one, but the damage done by the "andat" bug has been very extensive, particularly in parts of Gedaref and Gallabat, and the earlier sown flood crops of Kassala; in places the damage is as much as 50 per cent. of the crop. According to native reports the appearance of the "andat" coincides with years of exceptionally heavy rainfall. Gedaref, where the rainfall measured 40 ins., Gallabat, with over 50 ins., and the exceptionally high Gash flood in Kassala, would seem to bear out this view. The average market prices were £1.068 m/ms at Kassala and 70 PT. at Gedaref per ardeb of 300 rottles (45 kilos.).

Sennar Province.—69 tons of dura were exported by rail during November.

Berber Province.—At Wad Hamid there is a lot of fair dura, with a little stem-borer. The price of dura fell from 270 PT. in November to 240 in December per ardeb of 380 rottles, and feterita from 167 to 150 PT.

Upper Nile Province.—The price of dura varied from PT. 70 to PT. 90 per ardeb of 300 rottles. The crop is a good average one, except at Renk, where the rains failed.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in January:—

Wheat and Barley.—The weather was, on the whole, favourable. Rains which fell since the closure of canals for clearance have had some beneficial effect on the crops except in places where fields had been watered just before the closure. In early-sown fields the crops are in a very good condition, while in localities where sowing took place as a result of the law-restricting cotton areas, the crops are not quite satisfactory owing to late promulgation of that law. Sowing has now been completed everywhere and manuring is being carried out. Ears have already appeared in a few early-sown wheat fields. With exception of some negligible attacks of rust and cut-worm, the crops are practically free from pests.

Beans.—The weather was favourable. In lower Egypt, early-sown fields are in flower, and pods have formed in middle and upper Egypt. Some cultivators have already started cutting the green pods for human consumption. Some slight attacks of broom-rape (Halook), rust and cut-worm have been noticed. The condition of the crop is satisfactory.

Lentils.—Flowering is general in early-sown fields. Cut-worm attacks are reported from Qena and Aswân. Areas under this crop seem to be larger this year.

Sugar-cane.—Cutting for sugar factories started early in the month under review. The yield is expected to be an average one. Attacks of the stem-borer are in some parts normal and in others insignificant. There were also very slight attacks of mealy bug in Qena and Aswân.

Bersim.—The second cutting is general, while the third is being taken in early-sown fields. The crop is very healthy and in a good state of growth.

IRREGULAR PRICES IN RAW FUR.

The report of the London Fur Trade Association on the January raw fur sales states: The great depression in the fur trade during the last few months is steadily abating, and a much more confident feeling exists. The change was brought about mainly by the extraordinarily large number of buyers attracted to these sales by a prospect of low prices. The Continent, particularly Germany, was strongly represented, also the home trade, and there was a fair amount of orders from America, but France took very little interest in the sales. The New Year opened under extremely unfavourable conditions. The large stocks of furs in the hands of brokers, both here and in America, the continually falling values, and the uncertainty as to when the lowest prices would be reached, had the effect of bringing trade to a complete standstill. Under these circumstances the present sales were anxiously awaited for the new basis of values.

The first week of these sales (Chinese, Japanese, and Australian goods) was very disappointing; commencing, however, with the Hudson's Bay Company's collection, nearly all articles sold well, with good competition, at figures which, on the average, are somewhat below those ruling in October, some articles being higher. It is considered that the liquidation of such large stocks of goods will have an excellent effect upon trade, and if a similar happy result is obtained at the forthcoming St. Louis sales the future may be looked forward to with some confidence.

The fresh crop of American goods is much shorter than usual, and very little has been shipped to Europe. The bulk of the collection at these sales, therefore, consisted of stale goods, and it is most satisfactory to note that a very substantial part of these has now been disposed of. The latest news from America is also decidedly reassuring. The sales in New York, and especially in Montreal, have passed off much better than was anticipated, and conditions on the other side appear to have improved considerably. The quotation given show the course of prices of the articles which are most interesting to the home trade, and the fluctuations are based upon the last October sale.

Chinese and Japanese furs, no demand, practically all withdrawn; Australian opossum, best blues, October prices, pale and red, declined 25 per cent. to 30 per cent.; Wallaby, an inferior collection, declined 40 per cent.; Australian fox, Red, an inferior collection, declined 35 per cent.; silver fox, good silvery skins, full October prices; others cheaper; cross fox, best grades, advanced 15 per cent.; others, full October prices; blue fox, best grades full October prices, poor colours declined 20 per cent.; red fox, declined 20 per cent.; white fox, declined 20 per cent.; beaver, advanced 10 per cent., advance principally in large skins; otter, declined 20 per cent.; lynx, advanced 15 per cent.; marten, advanced 20 per cent.; Russian sable, unaltered; ermine, a poor collection, better grades full October prices, others declined 20 per cent.; chinchilla, mostly withdrawn; stone marten, unaltered; baum marten, unaltered; skunk, fresh skins rather higher than October, stale skins declined 15 per cent.; civet cat, all stale goods, declined 20 per cent.; American opossum, large, good skins, declined 15 per cent., seconds and smalls declined 25 per cent.; brown musquash, declined 15 per cent. to 20 per cent.; southern musquash, unaltered; black musquash, unaltered; raccoon, advanced 10 per cent.; mink, best grades unaltered, other grades declined 15 per cent.; Persian lamb, declined 25 per cent.; squirrel, dark, unaltered, reds, declined 40 per cent.; kolinsky, a poor collection, mostly withdrawn; fitch, declined 20 per cent.; white hare, dressed unaltered, raw withdrawn; wolf, best grades unaltered, lower grades declined 25 per cent.; black bear, unchanged; brown bear, unchanged; grizzly bear, unchanged; S. American fox, poor collection, declined 10 per cent.; mole, mostly withdrawn; nutria, unaltered.

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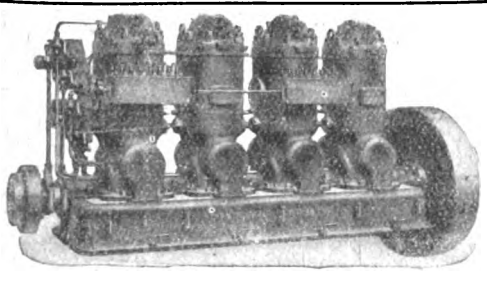
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COMPANY MEETINGS.

CREDIT FONCIER EGYPTIEN.

The following is a translation of the report of the Credit Foncier Egyptien, which was presented to the shareholders at the annual general meeting, held at Cairo, on January 19:—

It is of interest to record that in the course of the past year the realisations of loans, which had greatly decreased since 1914, rose to the point of approaching the pre-war average. Important transactions in land and real estate effected at high prices have, in fact, necessitated new demands for credit. If the total of redemptions surpasses, nevertheless, that of conversions—although the expropriations have come to an end—it is because the redemptions anticipated have attained in 1919-20 the record total of £E1,543,457. Numerous borrowers profited by the prosperity of the country to diminish their mortgage debt; the arrears were reduced at October 31, 1920, to £E1,125,932, the account of "Tiers-Adjudicataires" was reduced to £E199,167, and the redemption of the "Domain" carried out satisfactorily. Our mortgage position has thus improved at the same time that the course of business tends to become normal.

The financial improvement to which these various factors testify has been caused principally by the rise in the price of cotton, which, ranging from 15 to 20 talaris before the war, has followed a rising curve, the summit of which was reached in February, 1920, when it was quoted at the sensational rate of 196 talaris. The fall has not been long in showing itself, at first relatively slowly, and then extremely rapidly as the new crop was offered. Egypt has, in fact, suffered the shock of violent oscillations of price and the crises which have consequently affected the various classes constituting the body of buyers. In November, 1920, the price of 33 talaris was recorded. The exports to December 3 only amounted to 724,550 kantars, as compared with 1,933,161 kantars at the same date the previous year. If this sharp decline has produced an inevitable slackening in the receipts, but has not brought them to a standstill, it is precisely because of the strength of the position arising from the profits realised in previous years. The disposable funds which we have saved will permit us to continue all the temporary aid to Egyptian agriculture of which it has need in these difficult circumstances.

The balance of the account for annual and six-monthly payments and interest amounted, at October 31, 1919, to £E1,284,563. Adding the maturities of the year, £E2,062,142, we have a total of £E3,346,705. At October 31, 1920, our arrears were reduced to £E1,125,932, or a total collection of £E2,220,773. Provision for losses on arrears showed a balance at October 31, 1919, of £E469,298. It has been reduced to £E456,227.

The sales of the year have not only left intact the reserves of £E459,008, which figured in our last balance-sheet, but we have obtained at net cost a profit of £E15,695, which has been carried to the profit and loss account. The total of our collections amounted to £E5,751,153. The new mortgage loans have absorbed £E1,856,747, and the total of our disbursements has not been more than £E4,781,737, leaving an excess of receipts of £E969,416. That sum will be found in the balance-sheet in the difference between the total of the assets at October 31, 1920, of £E14,287,956, and the corresponding total at October 31, 1919, of £E13,318,540.

The balance of the account, Sundry Assets, stood at October 31, 1920, at £E13,920,332, including £E3,000,000 of Egyptian Privilegiée $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., which at the cost of £E1,728,119 represent an investment at 6.01 per cent., a rate of interest approximating to that of the average for our loans. It includes also at cost price 6.522 bonds in this company for the redemption of which we deemed it advisable to utilise a part of our disposable funds. The decrease in our arrears has not appeared to us to necessitate this year any addition to the special reserve for these arrears, and of which the balance at October 31, 1920, stood at £E456,227. The liquidation of the "Domain" leaves, on the other hand, unemployed the balance of the reserve constituted in view of the risks of that liquidation, or £E459,008. We have come to the conclusion that the balance of these two accounts ought to be continued in a new reserve, added to the balance of the account for contingencies against risks of loans standing at £E287,512, under the heading, "Provision and Reserve for Sundry Contingencies," which account ought eventually to cover mortgage risks, risks of exchange, and of the decreased value of sundry assets. We have allocated this year £E147,000, which brings the balance to £E1,349,747.

The provisions of the law of June 25, 1920, regarding French taxes on movable securities circulating in France has the effect of practically doubling these taxes. This increase has not played any great part in the past year. It will be felt much more

heavily in the current year. We have reduced the expense in deducting our payments of French taxes at the average rate of exchange and not at the parity of the pound, as was done before. The profits accruing from previous remittances have facilitated this transaction this year. The retention to be effected on the dividend on the shares will thus be limited to PT. 16 5-10 for coupon No. 47.

This prospect of the increase of taxes, together with the exceptional character of numerous and important collections made during the past year, compels us to maintain at PT. 130 the total of the dividend on our ordinary shares. The special account of the reserve for dividend will thus receive a new allocation of £E60,000, which will bring the balance to £E209,344. The gross profits of the year stand at £E2,146,952, and the corresponding expenses are £E1,275,878, giving a surplus of receipts of £E871,074. We have allocated to the account of contingencies for sundry risks £E147,000, leaving £E724,074, enabling the distribution of PT. 130 on the ordinary shares, and £E36.950 on the founders' shares, less French taxes, or PT. 16 5-10 for the shares which circulate in France, or of which the coupon No. 46 has been paid in France, and 12 per cent. for founders' shares liable to French taxes. If you agree to these proposals the position of the various reserve and provision accounts will stand as follows, as at October 31, 1920:—Statutory reserve, £E592,785.668, or 15,367,094.43 frs.; extraordinary reserve, £E970,773.067, or 25,165,860.45 frs.; provision for the reduction of the premium on obligations £E574,416.580, or 14,890,902.92 frs.; provision and reserve for sundry contingencies, £E1,349,747.370, or 34,990,210.50 frs.; provision for dividend on shares, £E209,344, or 5,426,934.54 frs.; total, £E3,697,066.685, or 95,841,002.84 frs.; loan account for shares of the 1911 issue, £E154,257.336, or 3,998,894 frs.; total, £E3,851,324.021, or 99,839,896.84 frs. For the account "Provision for the Amortisation of Debentures" £E920,172.226, or 23,854,108.26 frs. The assistance of our staff has given every satisfaction, and we take this opportunity of expressing to them our heartfelt thanks.

The general meeting (1) approved the accounts for the year ended October 31, 1920, (2) adopted the division of profits proposed by the board of directors, and decided in consequence on: (a) the distribution for the year on 400,000 ordinary shares of a dividend of PT. 130 per share, £E520,000, or 13,480,233.30 frs., on 2,000 founders' shares of PT. 3.695 per share, £E73,900, or 1,915,748.54 frs.; (b) the allocation to the statutory reserve of £E49,262.463, or 1,277,056.71; to the board of directors of £E24,631.231, or 638,528.34 frs.; to the reserve for the dividend on the ordinary shares, £E60,000, or 1,555,411.55 frs.; (c) to carry forward for the account of the ordinary shares £E6,021.727, or 156,104.40 frs.; for the account of the founders' shares, £E68,089, or 1,765.12 frs.; total, £E733,883.510, or 19,024,847.96, representing the amount of the profits for the year and the sums brought forward from the previous year; (3) decided that the dividend on the ordinary shares and on the founders' shares should be payable in Cairo in piastres, and in Paris and London at the rate of exchange fixed by the board of directors, less French taxes—PT. 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ for ordinary shares which circulate in France, or of which coupon No. 46 has been paid in France, and 12 per cent. for founders' shares liable to French taxes; (4) re-elected in accordance with articles 15 and 36 of the statutes as director for five years, M. L. Escoffier; (5) confirmed, in accordance with article 77 of the statutes, the appointment as directors, provisionally made by the board, of MM. G. Griollet, H. Naus Bey, and E. Suarès; (6) re-elected as auditors for one year, MM. R. Finzi and E. Berthy.

OTTOMAN UNIFIED CONVERTED 4 PER CENT. DEBT, 1903-1906.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders give notice that, in accordance with the announcement of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, which was published in the Press on the 4th instant (copies of which can be obtained on application to the undersigned), British holders of the above Bonds are invited to deposit with the Council (acting as depositary on behalf of the said Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt) the eleven arrear coupons due March, 1915, to March, 1920, inclusive (Nos. 23 to 33), for the purpose of (1) establishing within the prescribed time with the Allied Clearing Offices the claims of the holders to repayment at the pre-war rate of exchange of the funds deposited in Germany during the war, and (2) receiving a distribution on account of one shilling and threepence in respect of each of the said eleven coupons per unitary Bond of £20.

Receipts will be issued in exchange for the deposited coupons, reserving the rights of the holders.

The eleven coupons must be deposited en bloc, and all deposits must be made before 1st March, 1921.

A special Declaration of British nationality will be required, which, together with lists, can be obtained on application.

The above-mentioned payment is subject to the deduction of income-tax and twopenny per receipt for stamp duty.

The Inland Revenue has authorised deduction of income-tax at the rates in force at the time when payment of the coupons would, but for the war, have been made.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN BONDHOLDERS,

JAMES P. COOPER, Secretary.

17, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.2,
7th February, 1921.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, February 12.

The situation created by the fall in prices and the depression continues. The sales for Anatolia by devious routes continue on a small scale; the arrivals of merchandise have greatly decreased. As regards the export market, excluding a certain demand for mohair, which is quoted at Ps. 70-75 per oke, extra quality, all the products are neglected.

Advices from Manchester record a new fall in prices; merchants seek to dispose of their stocks by making large concessions in the price and by making sales on credit.

Produce.—The fall has continued with all products—sugar, coffee, tea, rice, etc.

Sugar.—The new offers from America, Amsterdam, and Antwerp have still further depressed prices from £50 to £44 per ton in transit. Sugar in Customs has fallen from £T41 to £T38 per 100 kilos. The crop being exceptionally abundant in all the producing countries and sales being difficult, a further fall in prices is to be anticipated.

Coffee.—This commodity is offered at more and more reduced prices. Rio No. 1 has fallen to Ps. 42 per oke in transit. The stock here is estimated at about 20,000 sacks.

Rice.—There has been a new fall in prices. American Blue-Rose has fallen to 9½ dollars per 100 kilos., as compared with 11 dollars last week. Saigon No. 1 is offered here at Ps. 15 per oke.

Flour.—Owing to large arrivals from America and Bulgaria—arrivals which are in excess of the needs of local consumption—prices have again fallen this week from £T½ to £T¾ per sack, according to quality.

ADANA.

The report for December states :—The exports of cotton from this region have been stopped as a result of the fall that has taken place, following the news from Europe and Egypt, and the effect of that fall in our market has been to create a serious crisis. The batman of cotton, quoted at the commencement of the month at Ps. 209 for 4 okes, dropped to Ps. 140 towards the middle of the month, and at the end of the month stood at Ps. 165—notwithstanding that the importing centres, such as Greece and Italy, were holding aloof. The exports of cotton during the month amounted to 582 bales.



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Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000

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Int.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs P. REDON
B. KERESTEDJIAN
J. UNGAR

} Directors.

DJEVAD BEY
HAMID BEY.
NOURY BEY.

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(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

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Alexandria. Cairo.
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Jerusalem.
Jaffa.
Caiffa.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.

Aleppo.
Alexandretta.

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

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

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ON 'CHANGE.

Downward Tendency Continued.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday night.

Almost during the whole week depression has hung over the markets, and in the majority of cases further declines are to be recorded. The general situation is responsible for this, but a contributory cause at the end of the week has been the uncertainty as to the result of the London Conference.

The gilt-edged market has not been immune from the prevailing influences, and most of the stocks have reacted. Foreign Bonds have been irregular, but there have been one or two strong features.

The Industrial group has been very dull, with, however, a few bright features. Business, however, has not been on a very great scale. Oils have been weak, while Rubbers on a further relapse in the price of the new commodity have again moved off downward.

Near Eastern Government securities have been fairly firm. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 62 $\frac{1}{2}$, as are Greek Guaranteed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent 1898 at 58 $\frac{1}{2}$. Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. are, on the other hand, $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 67.

The rise in Greek securities has continued. The 5 per cent. 1881 and the 5 per cent. 1884 Loan are both 1 up at 41, at which there were buyers. The 5 per cent. 1890 is unchanged at 40, and Fundings are also unchanged at 40. The 1910 Loan is the same at 30, but the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is 1 up at 39. The 1902 Loan is unaltered at 35.

Banks are unaltered. Agricultural 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Bonds are unchanged at 53, and the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are the same at 55. Imperial Ottoman Banks remain at 8, but National Bank of Egypt are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 17 $\frac{1}{2}$. Land Banks are unaltered at 4 23-32.

Land shares have been irregular. Beheras remain at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, at which there are buyers, while the preference shares are unaltered at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are unchanged at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and Delta Lands have shed 3d. at 9s. Gharbieh Lands are $\frac{1}{4}$ down at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. New Egyptians are unchanged at 22s., while Union Fonciere are the same at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Sudan Plantations have shed 1-16 at 3 7-16.

Oils are lower. Anglo-Egyptians have lost 3-16 at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Phoenix are 3d. lower at 10s. 3d. Roumanian Consolidated, however, are 6d. up at 10s. 6d. Steaua Romana are 2s. down at 15.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are 3s. Alexandria Waters are 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, at which there are buyers. Morums remain at 13s 3d., while Egyptian Salt and Soda are 29s.

ORANGE BOXES FOR PALESTINE.

Certain orange growers of Jaffa desire to get into touch with United Kingdom firms with the object of receiving offers for a supply for the season 1921-1922. Box shooks for about 500,000 cases will be required for delivery in Jaffa in August, September, and October. The specification for the boxes is as follows:—Three ends each 34 cm. by 27 cm. by 16 mm.; two sides each 68 cm. by 27 cm. by 8 mm.; two top and two bottom pieces, each 63 cm. by 16 cm. by 7 mm. (the top and bottom made of two of the above pieces, their width need not be exactly 16 cm. and 16 cm., but may be 14 cm. and 18 cm. or 15 cm. and 17 cm. or even 12 cm. and 20 cm.). The shooks must be solidly cross-bound with wire. Quality of wood, fir. Samples should be sent of the wood fibre for binding ends and centre. The conditions of payment should be stated. Particulars can be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

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

Wood.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of wood required during six months from April 1, 1921. March 15.

Steam Rollers.—The Mechanical Department of the Public Works Office, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two 10-ton steam rollers. March 10.

Roofing Tiles.—The Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Bulak, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 40,000 "Marseilles" roofing tiles. (specification, 50 millimetres). March 17.

Lubricating Oils.—The general manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo station, invites tenders for the supply of 1,630 metric tons of mineral lubricating oils. (specification, 200 millimetres). April 9.

Equipment, etc.—The Director of Stores, Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of stores required by that Department for the year 1921. The material required includes:—Arms, ammunition, accoutrements, ordnance stores, clothing and necessities for the police and "Ghaffir" services; harness and saddlery; fire-engine equipment; barrack and other furniture; tools; general stores. Tenders, which can only be submitted by firms established in Egypt or having a representative there, must be received in Cairo by April 18. Copies of the specifications, etc., may be inspected by United Kingdom firms interested on application to the inquiry office of the Department of Overseas Trade, at 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Paints, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of paints, oils, tar, soap, etc., required during the first six months of the financial year 1921-1922. March 17.

Linen, etc.—The Sub-Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Insha, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of bed linen, table linen, etc. (7,000 metres of cotton sheetings, 8,000 metres of tulle for mosquito nets, 1,200 blankets, Morocco wool, etc.), table requisites (12,500 china plates, 4,000 glass tumblers, 3,000 knives, 2,500 forks, 2,500 spoons, etc.) required for the school year 1921-22. March 19.

Benzine.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 1,700 tins of benzine and 3,155 tins of petroleum (1,155 naked tins and 2,000 tins in cases) for the first half-year of 1921-1922. March 16.

India.

Rails, Etc.—The Chief Engineer of the Baroda State Railways is desirous of obtaining quotations in sterling, prices to be either f.o.b. port in the United Kingdom or c.i.f. Bombay, for the following:—(1) 1,160 tons of rails, 34 lb. per yard, with 32 tons of fishplates, 10 tons o. fish bolts, and 39 tons of spikes. British standards. (2) 1,800 tons of rails, 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per yard, with 47 tons of fishplates, 12 tons of fish bolts, and 40 tons of spikes. British standards. (3) 450 tons of rails, 70 lb. per yard, 28 tons of fishplates, 5 tons of fish bolts, and 14 tons of spikes. Communications should be addressed to the Chief Engineer, Baroda State Railways, India, and sent under cover to H.M. Senior Trade Commissioner in India and Ceylon, P.O. Box 683, Allahabad Bank Buildings, 6, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta, with the request that he will hand them to the addressee.

Water Pipes, etc.—The Municipal Committee, Simla, invites tenders for supplying, laying, and constructing cast-iron (steel or hume) water pipes, sluice valves, washout valves, specials, etc. Tenders are also invited for supplying, erecting, and running for one month a new purification plant consisting of filters, coagulating and chlorinating gear pipes, and all fittings for water supply. (Specifications at Municipal Office, Simla, Rs.10.) March 28.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

GREEK SHIPPING CRISIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, February 9.

Statistics of the last three months show that Greece has together with other countries been affected by the shipping crisis. The arrivals of steamers at the Piræus—the principal port of the kingdom—have decreased considerably since last October. The crews of Greek steamers now anchored in that port are without work. Purchases of steamers, which were so numerous during recent years, have entirely stopped, while orders placed for new steamers have been cancelled. A well-known shipowner who had placed a £120,000 order with a British firm cancelled it, and forfeited his deposit of £10,000. Had he not done so he would have lost £40,000, seeing that the present value of the steamer he had ordered does not exceed £80,000. Another well-known shipowner at Chios lost £125,000 from cancellation of orders.

The Greek shipping crisis is not due solely to the heavy fall in freights and the increase of world tonnage, but should also be attributed to the exorbitant wages demanded by the Greek crews, formerly so moderate in their requirements. One of the largest steamship companies in this country has been obliged to engage the services of British crews instead of Greek because the former were satisfied with smaller wages than the latter. Numerous shipowners affected by the crisis have been compelled to lay up their steamers and dismiss the crews. The *Economist* says that the Greek Government is greatly perturbed by this abnormal state of affairs, and has requested the United States Government, which, it is hoped, will shortly supply Greece with wheat and foodstuffs, to permit the transport of these supplies by Greek steamers only.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Kingsmere, for Bombay (also taking cargo for Karachi and coast ports) (Glasgow, March 2, and Liverpool, March 7).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahsud, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, March 5); s.s. Manipur, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 9); s.s. Maidar, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 21); s.s. Shadwell, for Port Said, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, March 21); s.s. Mahrona, for Port Said, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 5).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 2); s.s. Oxfordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 16); s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 30).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Lindsay, for Calcutta (Manchester, February 26).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, February 26, and at Swansea, March 1).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Trentino, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, March 12).

Ellerman City Line.—S.s. Melford Hall, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, February 26); s.s. City of Lahore, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 14).

Ellerman's Hall Line.—S.s. City of Karachi, for Bombay, Karachi, the Punjab, and Malabar coast ports (Liverpool, February 26).

French-Levant Line.—S.s. Flore, for Bordeaux, Algiers, Mersina, Beyrout, Jaffa, Port Said, Alexandria, and Cyprus (Hull, March 8); s.s. Junon, for Algiers, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, and Constantza (Hull, March 12).

Glen Line.—S.s. Glengyle, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 10); s.s. Glenogyle for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 24).

Glynn Line.—S.s. Alaveno, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, February 28).

Golden Star Line.—S.s. Mediterranean Star, for Genoa, Naples, Alexandria, and Piræus (leaves Marseilles, March 1).

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Transport, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, early in March).

Moss Line.—S.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Oran, Malta, and Alexandria (taking cargo through to Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports) (Liverpool, February 26).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Benefactor, for Calcutta (Liverpool, February 28); s.s. Defender, for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 16).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Amarapoor, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 9).

Holt Line.—S.s. Agapenor, for Port Said, Penang, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, March 3).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Cranmore for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 5); s.s. Portinglis, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, March 15); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 26).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Somali, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 25); s.s. Kaiser-I-Hind, for Bombay (London, March 11); s.s. Devanha, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 11).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Morvada, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 25); s.s. Mashobra, for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 4); s.s. Hatarana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 12); s.s. Australia, for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 19); s.s. Nardana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 26).

Power Line.—S.s. Petworth, for Gibraltar and Moroccan ports (London, early March).

Prince Line.—S.s. Cyprian Prince for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria (March 10); s.s. Black Prince for Malta and Alexandria (London, March 15).

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 15:—During the week ending February 5 beneficial rain has fallen in parts of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province. General crop prospects unchanged. Bombay cotton market easy. Fine M.G. Oomra, March, Rs. 238, May, Rs. 250. Piecegoods market quiet with some retail inquiry but no wholesale demand. Sharp break in local rates of Japanese goods has created some demand, particularly in sheetings. Calcutta jute market inactive but steady. Hessians dull. At the last Calcutta Tea Auction of February 4, 20,000 packages were sold at an average price of six annas six pies per lb. Total sales to that date 537,526 packages at an average price of five annas five pies per lb. Freight rates on jute and gunnies still further reduced. No change in Bank rates.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 512.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The London Conference.

As no very high hopes were entertained of the success of the Inter-Allied Conference on the Near Eastern question, expectations have not been belied. The Greeks gave a clear and emphatic statement of the grounds on which they held that the Treaty of Sèvres ought not to be altered in any particular: the Turks, after a characteristic device for delaying the proceedings of the Conference, made an equally sweeping demand for the radical revision of the Treaty. As a side issue to these claims, the Turkish representatives challenged the accuracy of Greek statistics dealing with Thrace and the Smyrna district. The Allied Governments at once rode off on this issue, and put before the Greeks and Turks the proposal that an International Commission should be appointed to investigate the question of the population of these two areas, on the clear understanding that Turkey and Greece would accept the results of such an arbitration, and that the remaining clauses of the Treaty of Sèvres should be loyally accepted by both countries. To the first of these conditions the Turks agreed with an alacrity that was meant to obviate any direct reference to the second, and when required to give their answer to the second condition, felt obliged to refer the matter to Angora. The Greeks were candid enough to show their dislike of the turn that events had taken by refusing to answer until they had received instructions from Athens.

Further Delay.

In view of the fact that the one desideratum in the Near and Middle East is the inauguration of peace based on a definite settlement, the course taken by the London Conference is not a matter for congratulation. If the Turks and the Greeks agree to the Allies' proposals, there can still be no finality for another three months; if they reject them, the Conference has accomplished nothing in the week allotted to the consideration of the Near Eastern question, and that problem remains where it was a month or a year ago. There would have been a certain astuteness in a scheme which bespoke acceptance of the Treaty of Sèvres, whether modified or not, by Greeks and Turks, provided that both parties gave unequivocal assent to the proposal. That they will do this seems rather doubtful. The Greeks are manifestly reluctant to bind themselves; the Turks, with complete confidence in the issue as far as Smyrna is concerned, and perhaps also Eastern Thrace, will probably try hard to leave themselves loopholes for attack-

ing other points in the Treaty at a later date. Thus, even when the International Commission of Investigation has reported in regard to Thrace and Smyrna, it will call for just the same antecedent conditions to give effect to its rulings as are required to enforce the Treaty of Sèvres in its present form—namely, complete agreement between France and Great Britain as to their policy in the Near East and a joint resolve to enforce it at all costs. The failure to establish these conditions has been in the past, and, if persisted in, will continue to be responsible for the existing *impasse* in the Near East.

Back to First Principles.

There could be no more lurid commentary on the territorial provisions of the Treaty of Sèvres than the readiness of the Allied Conference to reopen the consideration of their statistical basis. That any room for doubt on the subject should exist in the minds of its members indicates how little weight attached to the principle of nationality in the formation of their decisions, and how one-sided was the evidence on which they tried to arrive at a settlement. In the circumstances any approach to a juster peace must be welcomed, however tardy and halting it may be. For more than two years the Allied Governments have boggled over the Near Eastern settlement, and it would be of interest if we could have an apportionment of the blame for the delay and with it a statement of the financial consequences to Great Britain and other Powers. All that is clearly known is that the allocation of Smyrna and Thrace to Greece is the work of M. Venizelos, and to this end he was absent for some twenty months from his own country. It will indeed add to the irony of his fate if the Allies undo all his work on the strength of a two months' investigation which ought to have been undertaken two years ago.

King Boris of Bulgaria.

The announcement is made that King Boris of Bulgaria is to visit the United States this year. As geographical exigencies will almost certainly compel him to pass through England, it is to be hoped that his Majesty will receive an invitation to pay an official visit to this country as well. There is no more attractive figure on a Continental throne. When a Prime Minister of the calibre of M. Stambolisky, who played such a direct part in ridding his country of an unconstitutional monarch, can boast that they have now in Bulgaria a republic of which the President is King Boris, it is evident that the young king has already won golden opinions at home in a situation which must have proved too severe a test for anyone less endowed with high character, ability, and personal attractiveness. His tour abroad can hardly

fail to promote the interests of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole, the more so if he is able to make himself personally known to the neighbouring sovereigns and peoples. The proposal that King Boris should be accompanied by his Prime Minister is open to one objection—that it must either shorten the tour or keep M. Stamboliisky too long away from Bulgaria. The danger of the prolonged absence of a Balkan Prime Minister needs no emphasis to-day.

Another Cabinet at Teheran.

Teheran is surely having its fill of political excitement these days. Hardly had we been told that the Sipahdar Azam had succeeded in forming a Cabinet which had been approved by the Shah, when fresh news came to hand that a *coup d'état* had taken place and that the Cabinet had fallen, the Sipahdar being replaced by Seyyid Zia ed-Din. The latter has not held office before, but he has for some time exerted considerable influence in an unostentatious way, and he has qualities that may make him a very valuable servant of the Shah at this critical time. The change was brought about by Persians opposed to Bolshevism, and to the feeble policy followed by the Shah's Ministers of late. On the night of February 21 a force of Persian Cossacks coming from Kasvin, numbering about 2,500, and provided with a few field guns and machine guns, entered Teheran, where they were joined by local Cossacks to the number of 500; and after a little street fighting took possession of the capital. Their leader, Colonel Riza Khan, stated that the Cossacks, having had some experience of Bolshevism, were determined to save their country from it; and that as they saw no signs of the Government making preparations to oppose the Russian advance that must be expected on the withdrawal of the British troops, they had determined to take matters into their own hands, and to free the Shah from the influence of those who had advised him so badly. The colonel has declared himself to be pro-British, but opposed to the Anglo-Persian Agreement in its present form, and to foreign interference generally.

The "New Broom."

The Shah has accepted the situation thus brought about. He is reported to have received Colonel Riza Khan, the Seyyid Zia ed-Din, and Masoud Khan, an ex-officer of the Cossacks, who are regarded as the leaders of the movement; and has charged the second-named to form a new Government. Happily, the change has been effected with very little bloodshed, but several former Ministers have been arrested, and there is talk of their deportation. But first, it seems, they will be called upon to provide some of the funds which the new Government, determined to avoid having recourse to foreign loans, will shortly need. At present, it is reported, it has funds in hand: a statement which is as gratifying as it is surprising. Martial law has been proclaimed in Teheran, and the wineshops and gambling establishments have been closed. These drastic measures will probably make the new Government highly unpopular, but, according to the latest reports, they have produced very satisfactory results so far; and it is noteworthy that the Cossacks have secured the support of the Bakhtiariis. It is, of course, too early to judge accurately of the movement, but it is not impossible that it will turn out no bad thing for Persia. Vacillation and intrigue had brought her to a sorry state, and it certainly looked as if she wanted a strong man to save her.

The Bolshevik Attack on Georgia.

In very few centres will any surprise have been caused by the Bolshevik attack on Georgia. The refusal of the Georgian Government to accede to a demand for the evacuation of the Bortchalo district appears to have provided the pretext for an attack by the Armenian Bolsheviks, who were promptly joined by Soviet troops from Azerbaijan and, apparently, by Russian regular troops also. To add to the Georgian Government's difficulties, the Kemalists are reported to have assumed an aggressive attitude, and to have presented an ultimatum demanding the instant evacuation of Artvin and Ardahan districts; and, worst of all, some of the Bolshevik peasants went over to the enemy. It

was not surprising that Constantinople—always inclined of late to expect the worst in such cases—began to send out alarming reports about the fall of Tiflis and the flight of the Georgian Government or that Moscow should have announced once more the establishment of a Soviet Republic in Georgia. Like their predecessors from the same centres, these reports were promptly contradicted, and though the Georgians admitted that they had had to retire, they were able to announce in a message dated February 27 that Tiflis had not fallen. Unfortunately, the latest reports available at the time of writing indicate that the respite was a very brief one, and there seems to be good reason to fear that Tiflis has fallen at last.

India in Parliament.

Both Lords and Commons had a foretaste last week of one of the greatest difficulties inherent in the new constitution. Parliament remains responsible in the last resort for the Government of India, but Indian Ministers are responsible to the provincial legislatures, and if Parliament insists on interfering with their activities, there is obviously a deadlock ahead. Fortunately for all concerned, it is just the kind of deadlock which, though it looks hopeless on paper, usually yields to English common sense; and the road to its solution was indicated by the Speaker, the living representative of that quality, when he said that each case must be dealt with on its merits, but that at the start of a new era the wisest course was one of self-restraint. "Dyarchy would indeed be dyarchy" if Parliament should insist on the regular exercise of its inherent powers; they may have to be used, but everybody hopes the emergency will not occur, and in the meantime the best course for both Houses is certainly to acquire the habit of non-interference, and give Indian Ministers every chance in the performance of the difficult task which lies before them.

Indian Politics.

Last week's news from India points on the whole to further progress in the direction of political sanity. The movement is, of course, gradual, and cannot be measured accurately in a short period, but, if we look back a couple of years, we shall have no difficulty in recognising the change. To put it shortly, the leaders of the unconstitutional faction have alienated the bulk of educated opinion, which was at one time nearly solid behind them, but is now more and more disposed to join with the official element in constructive work. Many causes have contributed to this result, the most potent of which is perhaps the interference with the course of education, which has compelled parents to think seriously, but the main point is that the thinking has been done. The situation is not yet stabilised, and in India there is always the risk that some accident may result in a stampede; but the new institutions will help to ballast the ship, and at the moment there are good grounds for hoping that the weight of intellect and reason is definitely on the side of the constitution.

The Danger of the Masses.

There remains the danger that the passions of the masses may be excited to the point of unreasoning rebellion. The reality of this danger is so manifest that Mr. Gandhi has departed from the programme laid down a few months ago, and has warned his followers to let the labouring classes alone, an act which must be set to the credit side of his political account. Whether his orders will be obeyed is a different question, for it is much easier to kindle a fire than to quench it, while it must not be forgotten that times are still hard over a large part of the country, and the agitators' work is all the easier in consequence; but the mere disavowal will strengthen the hands of the authorities in dealing with any dangerous agitation that may arise, and on the whole it looks as if the crest of the wave has passed. In saying this, we do not mean to suggest that there is no cause for anxiety: broken water is sometimes dangerous, and a second wave may follow the first, but there is at least a reasonable chance that when Lord Reading reaches India he may find the situation easier than it was at the time of his appointment.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

A Narrow Shave.

The Government was unfortunate last week. While the Prime Minister was engaged in European politics in Downing Street, which will again occupy him this week, the lesser lights of the Administration got into difficulties in Parliament. On Friday, always a dangerous day for Governments since the week-end habit became general, the Coalition majority actually fell to ten over the Supplementary Estimates—those small additional demands which always annoy members. If in the present instance the Whips had not sent out prompt messages all over Whitehall, and cabled every Parliamentary Under-Secretary and Secretary—and even the Prime Minister himself—to aid in the division, the Supplementary Estimates would have been lost, the Cabinet would have been defeated on finance, and there would have been nothing for it but to resign—a pretty prelude for Dr. Simons and the protesting Germans.

The Government feel a little dizzy and shaken after this episode, but the Opposition are even more giddy—not only because they unexpectedly came so near success, but because nobody would be more embarrassed than themselves if success actually came. Without an election they could not continue a day in the present House, where they are in so large a minority; with an election, they would certainly win a good many seats, but they would hardly get a majority.

Further, even the enlarged Opposition would consist of Liberal and Labour which, in spite of Mr. A. G. Gardiner's steady pleading for a Liberal-Labour Coalition in the *Daily News*, never has come off, and does not seem likely to come off. There is not the makings of a Government here, and for that reason neither Liberal nor Labour really want to put the Government out this year.

Moreover, it is very doubtful if they want to take up foreign affairs in their present position. They would sooner take advantage of the Government's inevitable mistakes, and criticise from without—they are looking to Mr. Winston Churchill to provide them with quite a lot of ammunition—whereas once they were in office they would have to maintain a certain decent continuity in foreign affairs, and they themselves become the target of criticism. In politics, unlike war, attack is always easier than defence.

Ireland.

The Irish problem has also been a source of trouble. In the House of Lords the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke out strongly about reprisals, emphasising that this was not a political but an ethical matter; the Lord Chancellor was less convincing than usual in his reply. It is curious to recollect that a few months ago he had quite the best of the argument with the Primate on the matter of divorce, which is the Church's own particular political interest, but on Ireland, which lies rather outside the normal range of the Bishops, Lord Birkenhead failed to make runs for the Government.

This, however, was less damaging than the blow to the Irish Secretary's reputation in the Commons. In answering questions over the resignation of a general in Ireland, Sir Hamar Greenwood contrived to give an altogether wrong impression of the events that had taken place. The House, which had no other information on that phase of the subject beyond the bare fact, naturally took him at his word, and was surprised to find the next day by his own admission that events had not occurred precisely as he had stated. His credit in consequence has fallen very considerably in every quarter, and he is certainly no longer an asset to the Government. It is being rumoured that his resignation may be announced as soon as the conclusion of the present foreign negotiations gives the Prime Minister time to enter seriously into home affairs again. His critics are not found only among the Irish and the Opposition, but among his own colleagues on the Treasury Bench and in the Cabinet itself.

The By-elections.

A good deal will depend on the results of the by-elections which fall this week. In East Woolwich, where

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald is opposing a soldier, there have been some very rowdy scenes; the other constituencies are more engrossed in politics than personalities, but the prophets hint that the Government may lose one, at least, of the seats. The prophets, however, are not such safe guides as they were, for the women's vote is always an unknown quantity in these days, and it is quite sufficient to turn the tide in every case. But all the signs indicate that the Government is in for a patch of dirty weather; the chances are that one or two of the crew will be swept overboard, but the boat itself is not likely to get wrecked.

The Nottingham Conference.

The Independent Liberals have been holding a conference at Nottingham to decide their future policy as a party, but the proceedings do not appear to have been very promising. The older type of Liberal thinks that the policy of 1906 is good enough, and needs no change; the newer school, of which Professor Ramsay Muir and other Manchester men are the shining lights, while holding to Free Trade and the other planks of the party, want a new internal industrial policy—a change in the relations of capital and labour, and an examination of the policy of nationalisation of what may be called natural monopolies, railways, coal, and water services. Their mental attitude seems to be that it is desirable to found a middle school between Labour, which wants to nationalise all industry, and the Coalition, which refuses to nationalise everything. It is their hope that such a central body of doctrine would attract the whole of the moderate and quiet opinion of England, and leave both the existing Coalition and Labour in a minority. It may be so, but it is certain that it will be denounced by both sides as opportunist and unprincipled—from the mere fact that it is prepared to examine every industry on its merits—and that it is consequently likely to be kicked both back and front. That there is room for such a political school, and that it will do good work in the country and in Parliament, can hardly be doubted; what is doubtful is whether it will succeed in getting a majority.

On the major question of capital, labour, and taxation the conference failed entirely to make up its mind, and its enemies are taunting it with having decided merely to leave that problem open for another day. That is not the stuff out of which victories are fashioned at the polls.

The Bankrupt Railways.

The railway shareholders' meetings held this week have thrown some light on the evil financial position of those corporations. The North-Western line, for instance—the premier railway of the country—states that its wages bill has gone up from six millions a year before the war to twenty millions a year now—an increase very considerably greater than the rise in the



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cost of living. This is due in large part, not so much to increases of wages to individual adults as to reduction of hours, which implies the employment of a much larger staff, and standardisation of wages, which means that a boy of eighteen who is a porter receives an adult porter's wage. Very nice for the porter, no doubt, but these halcyon times are not likely to last, since the industry is paying more out in wages than the public puts in in the shape of fares, and any further increase of fares will only decrease the number of passengers. (This has, in fact, already been recognised by the railway companies, since they are now converted to the return of the excursion train.) And meanwhile station and other railway staffs are being reduced as a first step to economy.

This opens up a large question of policy which Labour will have to consider carefully. Higher wages have come to stay, and that is a good thing, because it permits a higher standard of living, which will become more noticeable as food prices fall. But since it is a law of economic nature that nobody can get more out of a quart pot than they put in, higher wages mean smaller staffs and larger individual production. Is it better to employ four men at six pounds a week than six men at four pounds a week? One would say that it is, because the four men at six pounds a week will have a higher standard of living, while the other two will find other work; whereas if all six were employed at four pounds a week, the standard would fall for all. That is the social side of the equation; its economic equivalent is that the four men should do the work of the six—which in the case of many quiet railway stations would not be very exhausting.

A Mild Winter.

The prophets who predicted a hard winter are now hiding their diminished heads in shame. After a heavy snowfall in December the weather has been consistently mild and warm; and February has equalled, if it has not beaten, last year's records. Nothing daunted, the pessi-

mists are now predicting a summer as wet and inclement as that of 1920.

As a matter of fact, the doctors tell us that these abnormal seasons are by far the healthiest. A really severe winter kills the old people by the thousand; a really hot summer sends up the infantile mortality rate by leaps and bounds. The absence of both the one and the other made a distinct difference to the vital statistics a year ago, and with the extraordinary number of young babies in the kingdom at the present moment I suppose we should pray for a moderate summer.

The Week's Books.

Admiral Sir Berkeley Milne does not add a vast amount to our knowledge in "The Flight of the Goeben and Breslau: An Episode in Naval History" (Eveleigh Nash). But the book is useful as a personal account of that very controversial episode.

Criticism can have little to say to "Later Essays" (Milford), by Austin Dobson, for Mr. Dobson's work is now beyond contemporary criticism, and if posterity does not like his writing, so much the worse for posterity.

"One Hundred Years of Singapore" (John Murray) is a handsome book in two volumes, which is issued as a memorial of the founding of Singapore a century ago by Sir Stamford Raffles. It was established, like so many of the outposts of Empire, contrary to the desire of the British Government and of the East India Company, but the foresight of Raffles (who was also a benefactor of London in that he helped to establish the Zoological Gardens) has been more than justified by events.

"Insect Life" (A. and C. Black), by Mr. C. A. Ealand, is not a complete or a highly technical study of the vast insect world—indeed, it would be impossible to compress our still inadequate knowledge of insects into one volume—but it is something more than the ordinary popular book. It deserves especial mention for the magnificent coloured illustrations, which are triumphantly executed.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, February 7.

The "Delegation" Rumours.

Beyond a somewhat active discussion in the verbiage Press and some unrest in the schools, there is little to report this week. The controversy in the Press centres round the declaration made by the five delegates which was reported last week, and the dispute is as to whether what they said therein correctly represents their position, whether there has notwithstanding been a split, and whether certain statements attributed to some of them, and conflicting somewhat with their subsequent official declaration, are true or not. It would serve no useful purpose for me to set out the details of this controversy, which has come as a boon to the papers and enabled them to fill their columns at a time when interest was beginning to wane, and I shall therefore not devote any space to it. While the dispute is obviously splitting the country up, all parties agree, however, in looking to the statement of policy expected from the British Government as the next important development, and all, even the Extremists, are anxiously awaiting this declaration, which will undoubtedly clear the air and should afford the Moderates that opportunity to come out into the open for which they state they have been waiting.

The Students Again.

As regards the schools, the trouble started in Alexandria, where on the 25th of last month two-thirds of the pupils of one of the Secondary Schools paraded the streets, attacked the offices of a newspaper which favours the opposition to the Delegation, and issued circulars calling upon the pupils of other schools to join them. On the following day practically the whole school was absent, most of the pupils having gone to welcome the returning delegates. In consequence of this lack of discipline certain of the ringleaders were punished with dismissal or rustication for eight days; this was resented by their comrades, who later on assembled in the court of the school and for several hours on two consecutive days shouted the worst insults at the headmaster and his staff, and pelted them with stones. The Ministry of Education thereupon ordered the school to be closed; immediately the pupils of other Secondary Schools struck work in sympathy, and the movement has spread to all the other Secondary Schools. The Ministry has now issued a notice to the effect that unless the pupils return at once their schools will be closed until further notice, and that no school will be opened unless a sufficient number of pupils ask to be allowed to continue their studies, and their good conduct and regular attendance are guaranteed by their parents or guardians.

Some drastic action in this connection is certainly justified. The country has suffered long enough at the hands of the students, who only as recently as last week were responsible for the creation of the hostile movement made against the returning delegates. Egypt is approaching one of the most critical and vital stages in her modern history, a juncture where she has need to be guided by the most experienced, cool-headed and far-seeing of her sons, and where any false move or any ill-considered action might cost her dear. The dangerous element are undoubtedly the students, who, taught in the early days of 1919 to intervene at their will in the public affairs of the country, and meeting, owing to the peculiar circumstances then holding, with a certain amount of success, have come to regard themselves as entitled to participate in the direction of the affairs of the country.

The Government can really do little in the matter beyond closing schools, for it is on the parents that the main responsibility rests. The latter have been guilty of almost criminal negligence owing to the slack manner in which they have brought up their children and have allowed them to flout their authority. Unless the older generation now asserts itself it is to be feared that the situation may be rendered in the near future very diffi-

cult for those who are trying to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of the political problem, which owes its present complexity solely to the ill-timed, mischievous, and purposeless activities of the students.

CAIRO, February 14.

Return of High Commissioner.

Lord and Lady Allenby arrived in Cairo this evening on their return from their visit to the Sudan. Their Excellencies have been away just under three weeks, during which they visited the irrigation sites on the White and Blue Niles south of Khartoum and most of the historical monuments between Aswan and Assiut. Meanwhile the Sultan has concluded his stay at Aswan, and is slowly coming down the river, being due back on the 17th at Helwan, where he will make a prolonged stay.

Education in Egypt.

An interesting educational development has just been made public. It is what is called the "Fahmia Wakf and Mission," instituted by a rich young Egyptian, Aly Fahmy Kamel Bey, who has offered to set aside from his private Wakf the annual sum of £E3,000 to be devoted to the post-graduate education of Egyptian students who have graduated at a Higher College or University, the post-graduate course to be taken in Europe or America or in such educational centre in any country as may offer the most suitable facilities for obtaining the kind of education, whether in arts or science, which will be most calculated to meet the particular needs of Egypt at the time. The Ministry of Education has accepted this offer, and a committee is to be formed, composed of four directors of Higher Colleges, provided that such directors are Egyptians, or of senior Egyptian professors or teachers to be nominated by the Ministry of Education, the President being the Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Education. The period of study granted to any one student is not to exceed three years except in very exceptional circumstances. In the first year after the foundation of the Wakf the number of students will be three, in the second year it will be six, and in the third year nine, at which figure the Mission will be maintained. Students to be eligible must be of Egyptian nationality, and their families must have been Egyptian for at least two generations; they must hold Government certificates to prove that they have completed the primary and secondary courses of study and the course of a Higher College or a University Faculty; they must not be more than twenty-three years of age at the date of selection; they must be of good conduct and character; the committee must be satisfied of their ability and fitness to be selected; and they must be in straitened circumstances.

The committee will have the power to extend the period of study beyond three years if such extension is necessary for a student to obtain a particular qualification, and it will also have the power to increase the allowances if necessary, or to reduce it or cancel the selection should the conduct of any student make such action necessary. On the completion of their courses of study the students will be free to choose their own future

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careers. Neither the founder of the Wakf nor the Ministry of Education will have the right to ask them to undertake any duties or service, but they must present to the Ministry a thesis in Arabic on the particular branch of study which they have followed.

This is, as far as is known, the first occasion where a private individual not a foreigner has come forward in Egypt to assist in this manner in the development of education. Considering how wealthy the Egyptians are it is indeed surprising that nothing has in the past been done by private enterprise to encourage the extension of even agricultural education, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the spirit of emulation which in other phases has manifested itself amongst the Egyptians, will prompt other wealthy landowners to come forward and follow the excellent example which Aly Fahmy Kamel Bey has set.

‘Warrior’s Day’ in Egypt.

It has been decided to celebrate “Warrior’s Day” in Egypt on March 31, when, amongst other things, a ball will be held under the patronage of Lady Allenby. Arrangements are being made for simultaneous entertainments all over the country, particularly in those centres where British troops were stationed during the war. It is pointed out that whatever money is subscribed in Egypt will be used for the relief of ex-Service men in this country, and it is expected that a considerable sum will result from the arrangements that are now in progress.

The Students’ Strike.

The firm action taken by the Ministry of Education in regard to the students of the Secondary Schools has had a good effect. Far from the strike spreading, it has collapsed altogether, and most of the students have now resumed their studies, their parents having guaranteed their good behaviour, and the students having been told that if they break these guarantees they will be excluded from the forthcoming examinations.

The Irrigation Libel Action.

The irrigation libel action had again to be adjourned last week, this time owing to the illness of Sir William Willcocks. By special arrangement with the Crown, Sir William Willcocks was permitted to cross-examine in the absence of his counsel, Mr. Silley, and it was thus possible to conclude Sir Murdoch MacDonald’s cross-examination on Wednesday. On Thursday the cross-examination of Mr. Hurst, the next important witness, had to be interrupted, as mentioned, and the trial will now not be resumed until Wednesday next.

SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, February 6.

The Political Situation.

Propaganda from Egypt still pours into this country. The recent fracas at Gebel Aulia, when some thousand Saidi labourers from Egypt attacked some 600 Yemeni labourers from Aden, was undoubtedly due to Nationalist propaganda. The Yemeni labourers consider themselves British subjects, and their status is consequently resented by the Saidi, who are told by their compatriots that they are traitors to their country inasmuch as they are assisting British subjects to build dams which will eventually throttle Egypt. Inflammatory printed circulars are distributed wholesale, calling on “Our Brothers in the Sudan” to rise and drive the British from the country. An Arabic circular recently came into the writer’s possession, in which the British were accused of snatching one Mohammedan country after another, of vilifying the faith of the Prophet, and of driving the various inhabitants from hearth and home and reducing them to slavery. No specific charges were made, the whole document being in the nature of a fanatical shriek, unlikely to influence any native of intelligence but calculated to appeal to the uneducated masses. This unpleasant effusion was signed “The Council of the Ulama, Cairo.” There is very

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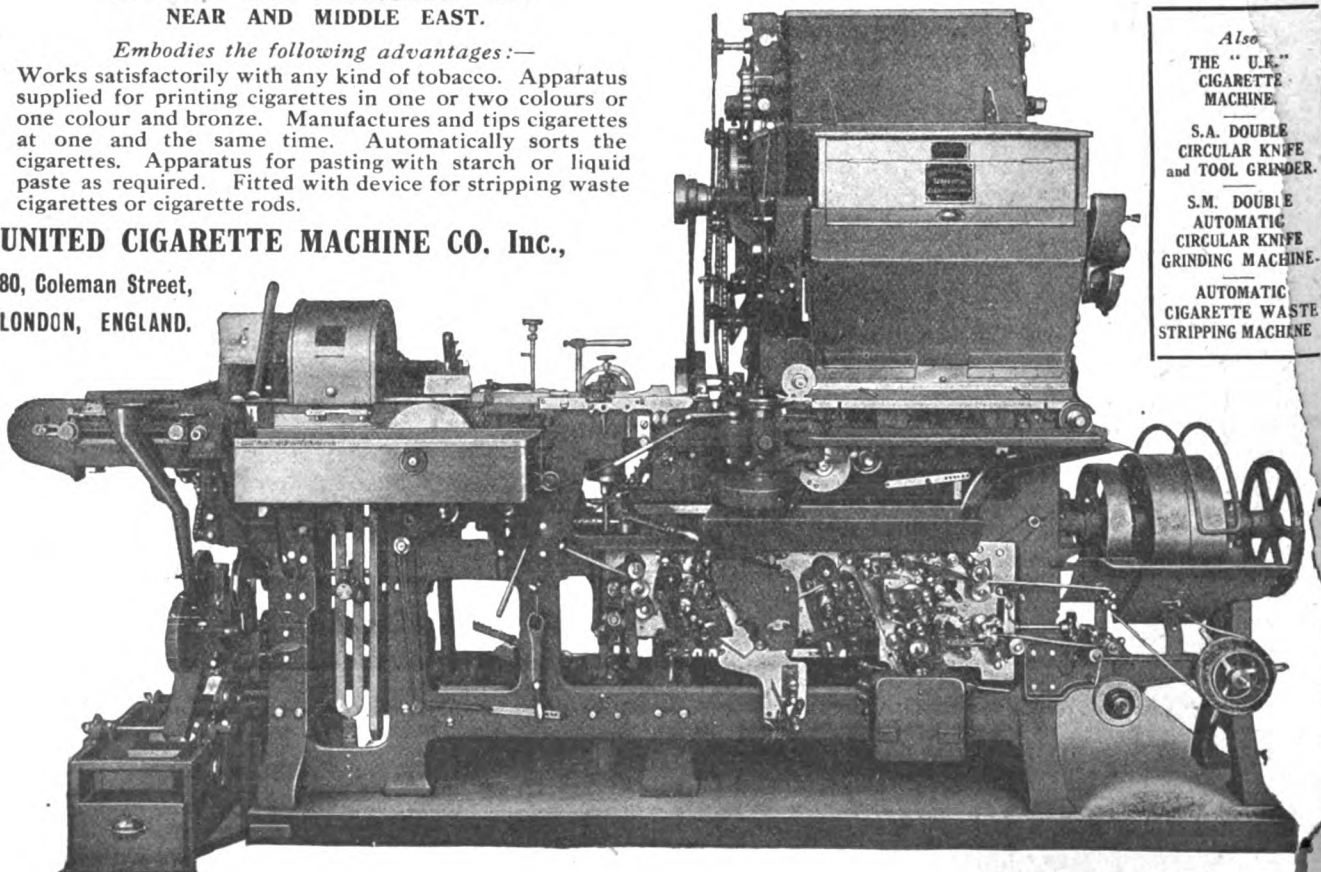
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little doubt that a great deal of this literature is distributed through certain channels in the Egyptian Army; but the authorities do not appear to consider that the time is ripe to take strong action. The bazaar gossip is at times very clever, the recent Sultania tour in Egypt being construed as evidence of the Sultan having joined the Nationalist party and having visited the various Mudirieh with a view to consolidating the party and perfecting the future anti-British policy of the country.

The Sudan Government Football League.

The recently instituted Football League has been one of the best efforts at anti-Nationalist propaganda that can be imagined. The native of the Sudan is by nature far more of a sportsman than the Egyptian, and has exhibited the greatest enthusiasm for the game. The various inter-Departmental matches are watched by numerous crowds, and partisanship and interest in the game run very high. A recent match between a team composed almost entirely of Sudani *versus* a team exclusively made up of Egyptian Effendia nearly led to bloodshed. Racial feeling towards the latter part of the game tended to make the players forget the ball and concentrate on the man. The sympathies of the native spectators were with the black team, and any score by the Egyptian eleven was received with deep gloom, whilst the Sudani team were vociferously encouraged at every opportunity. The P.W.D. eleven, composed almost entirely of black artisans, are hot favourites, the Steamers and Railways, of similar composition, running them close. Enthusiasm has spread to the small boys, who may be seen daily on the various grounds energetically chasing the leather. Football boots are naturally at a premium, though several of the more hardy players dispense with these, and, to the astonishment of the European, prefer to play barefooted!

The High Commissioner.

The postponed visit of His Excellency was made this week, the party from the Residency arriving by special train on February 1, accompanied by the Sirdar, who met them at Halfa. The various Government officials of a sufficiently senior grade, together with the officers of the British troops and Egyptian army and representatives of the various communities, were duly lined up at the station at 4.30 p.m. and presented in due course to Lord Allenby. On the 2nd inst. a visit of inspection was made to Gebel Aulia, with an official dinner at the Palace that evening. On the 3rd there was an official garden party at the Palace, on the 4th His Excellency proceeded to Makwar, returning to Khartoum, and visiting Omdurman on the morning of the 5th, leaving for Egypt again the same night. These visits are much appreciated by the populace, and it is hoped that His Excellency will make a practice of visiting this country at least two or three times every year.

The Khartoum Military School.

Anybody who has had the pleasure of watching the annual sports of the Khartoum Military School must have been struck with wonder at the fact that a team has never been sent home to take part in the Naval and Military Tournament. The physical drill, keenness, and general turnout of the cadets are most marked, and would be thoroughly appreciated at Olympia. In view of the general lack of knowledge obtaining at home as to the Sudan and the inhabitants thereof, the visit of a team of cadets should prove a good object lesson. The competition for entry to the school is very severe, and only the pick of the younger generation are accepted. The annual display generally concludes with a realistic attack on a village or mud fort carried out by the cadets, with the assistance of a section or two of the mule batteries, and is invariably a great draw to the populace.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, February 18.

Changes in Belgrade.

It is very pleasant, after a considerable absence, to return to Belgrade, for, although one may bless the atrocious pavements and roads, and absence of water in the afternoon, and various other inconveniences, still almost everybody grows rather fond of the place,

more so than many will admit. There are a few changes since the autumn. The British colony has increased, and a Russian Red Cross Commission has arrived from Mudros. Owing to the remarkable mildness of the winter frost has interfered little with building operations, and marked progress has been made with a number of new erections. The overcrowding is so bad that the completion of every single place of abode is a blessing. Belgrade as the capital of the Triune Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes is very different from the pre-war Belgrade, the capital of a small peasant State of about three millions. Natives consider the change is hardly for the better, as the city is no longer so essentially national as it was. The influx of innumerable Croats and Slovenes and Serbs from the liberated provinces, the great increase in Government departments with huge staffs, the ever-growing foreign colony, all tend to overcrowding, to scarcity of accommodation, and the development of that cosmopolitan character which distinguishes all capitals from the essentially national provincial towns.

Other changes are rather irritating, such as the alterations in the naming of the streets. In contradistinction to Zagreb, where most of the streets and public places are dedicated to men of letters—since it is in literature that the Croat national feeling has found its outlet—in Belgrade the streets are mostly named after men of action and outstanding figures in the national history, characteristically, chiefly after soldiers. The public had become accustomed to the alteration of the Mekdonska Street to Poencareeva, as a compliment to the French, but now it is disconcerting to find that part of the Njegusheva has become Mazarikova, in deference to the great Czech protagonist, and that the old Resavska is divided into Zrinskova and Frankopanska, in honour of the Croat martyrs of two centuries ago. A change that no one will regret is from Batal Djami to the Place of Voivode Mishitch.

The Political Situation.

The political situation has cleared up, and is consolidating itself. Everybody seems full of optimism, and the outlook is certainly more healthy than it has been for a long time. The Radicals and Democrats, the two strongest parties, which might be described as the Bourgeois parties, are working well together in harness: their coalition forms the Government, under the presidency of that experienced veteran, M. Pashitch.

A committee of 42 members, representing all parties proportionately, being actually one-tenth of the house, after a prolonged discussion, has passed the Government's draft Constitution. This is a big step forward. Of the forty-two members, twenty-three voted "for." The detailed discussion in the House now begins, and it is anticipated that the Constitution will be passed without difficulty. The support of 210 members is necessary to carry the draft constitution, while a quorum of 140 can pass isolated resolutions. Now there are 98 Radicals and 94 Democrats in the House, and 5 Independents support the Government, so it requires the support of very few more votes to secure the necessary absolute majority.

M. Pashitch, who is just recovering from a prolonged indisposition, has renewed negotiations with the Agriculturalists or Peasants' Party, in the hope that they will support the Government, and perhaps accept a portfolio. It appears that the Government will undertake to pass certain of their demands, and that they will vote for the Government, but decline to join the Cabinet. With the Mohammedans the situation is

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rather interesting. They insist on their own draft Constitution, but now appear to be quarrelling among themselves. There is, in fact, a split in their numbers, as it looks as though they are separating into what one might call a "Serb" section, led by Dr. Karamehmedovitch, and a "Croat" section, led by Dr. Mehmed Spaho and Dr. Hrasnitsa. The only group of any importance whose attitude really matters is Raditch's Peasant Party in Croatia. Raditch is still sitting in Zagreb, and has recently sent an extremely lengthy memorandum to the Prince; which the *Pravda* published, and had its edition promptly suppressed by the police. The paper succeeded in getting this suppression quashed a few days later, which is a triumph for the freedom of the Press out here; but it was too late to effect a good sale of the issue, although the advertisement was a good one. It is now rumoured that Raditch will come to Belgrade, but what he will do when he gets here remains to be seen. The Serbian public seem to regard him with rather amused tolerance.

New Constitutions.

We are now treated to a glut of drafts of constitutions of the most varied kinds, which would have delighted the constitution-mongers of the French Revolution. The Mohammedan Club proposes a draft providing for the unity of the kingdom under its present title, divided into the eight existing historical provinces, the abolition of feudal tenure, and the sanctity of Church property in the recognised religions, thus providing for the security of the *vakufs* in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Macedonia.

The Narodny Club, sadly reduced in numbers and importance, proposes to call the country Yugoslavia, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and its division into six provinces. The central Parliament would have exclusive control over foreign affairs, nationality, Army and Navy, war damages, Customs, financial monopolies, State property and State finance, coinage, patents, weights and measures, posts, telegraphs, and telephones, State railways (main lines only), coast and fisheries, commercial law, exchange law and communications, census, frontier guards and police supervision of foreigners. The provincial diets would have the legislative powers for all other matters. These diets to be elected for four years, with one deputy for every 30,000 inhabitants. The Constituent Assembly would be able to pass valid resolutions only with a quorum of two-thirds of its total number, and a two-thirds majority to be required to pass the Constitution. Its resolutions to take effect after one month's delay, during which time either the King or 180,000 electors might demand a ballot, by which apparently a referendum is meant, on any or all of the resolutions of the Assembly. Any changes in the Constitution affecting the provincial diets to have their consent.

The Yugoslav Club, which is another name for Dr. Koroshets' Slovene Clericals, have an original idea. They suggest that there shall be two Houses, one of which shall confine itself to legislation of a social or economic character, such as finance, communications, posts, citizenship, and social politics. Such matters as foreign affairs, the budget, dynastic matters, etc., shall be dealt with by plenary session of the two Houses. The Party maintains that centralisation is impracticable, and that the majority of Croats and Slovenes are opposed to it. No one may be a member of both Houses at the same time. There shall be six provinces, each with its own diet and government, which shall be competent to deal with purely provincial matters, commerce, public buildings, mines and forests, agriculture, food supplies, religions, public health, social politics, justice and finance. The president of the provincial government to be named by the Sovereign on the proposal of the Ministerial Council—chosen from three candidates put forward by the diet.

It seems that the Narodny Club and Slovene Clericals, conscious of their own weakness, are drawing together and trying to protect their policies by the two-thirds majority, which they hope the Government will not succeed in securing; and that in the failure of this assembly, there would be new elections, at which they

hope they will recover some of their lost position. But this seems hardly likely. It is fairly certain that if there were new elections, the party that would suffer most would be the Communists, and the Radicals and Democrats would gain. Twenty more votes to the Coalition would give them a clear working majority.

Political Progress.

The harmonious collaboration of the Radicals and Democrats is an immense relief to everybody, and is a good step towards the eventual goal of fusion of these two parties. Unfortunately, the personal equation plays a far greater part in politics out here than it does in England—greater, indeed, than political principles, which are, as yet, hardly defined. Until the old generation of politicians has passed away or retired from the arena there is little hope of fusion. Personal animosities are still too keen.

The suppression of the Communists is another cause of the undoubted feeling of optimism. The Bolshevik plot of the New Year came as a shock to the public, and there seems to be no doubt that the Government was actually in possession of proof that the threads were pulled from Moscow. The Communist organ was daily receiving news by wireless from Moscow, and seems to have been receiving orders at the same time, and the discovery of this drove a number of so-called Communists from the fold.

The Montenegro Report.

Very natural satisfaction is felt at the publication of the Temperley-Bryce report on Montenegro and the prominence given to it in the London Press. The Serbs may be forgiven for saying: "I told you so," but the propaganda conducted by ex-King Nikola and his supporters was so keen, especially when it had the interest and support of Italy, that West Europeans may be pardoned for overrating the proportions of the *zelenashi*, or supporters of the ex-King.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 14.

The Nationalist Mission.

The Nationalists have maintained their uncompromising attitude towards the Central Government up to the last moment. There is no official news even with regard to the Nationalist delegation, which is believed to have left Adalia for London, via Rome and Paris, in the course of the past week. The delegation is believed to be under the presidency of Bekir Sami Bey, Nationalist Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, and one time Nationalist Minister in Moscow. Although Bekir Sami Bey was one of the founders of the Unionist party, he has never been an extremist, and there is good reason to believe that he was opposed to the policy of the Unionist Government towards the Armenians during the war. This is said to have been the reason for his resignation of the post of Governor of Aleppo, which he held until 1915. He was selected by the Nationalist administration for the post of Minister at Moscow possibly on account of his Caucasian origin, but his stay in the Bolshevik capital seems to have given him a very unfavourable impression of both the Bolshevik leaders and the political principles which they advocate. The other members of the delegation, however, are of a different calibre, and the records of their connection with the Committee of Union and Progress make less pleasant reading. Yonus Nadi Bey, for instance, was one of the most fervent supporters of the pernicious Pan-Turanianism and extreme nationalism which led the Unionists to adopt that policy of centralisation which has finally brought the Ottoman Empire to ruin. Yonus Nadi Bey represents Smyrna in the Great National Assembly; whilst Jami Bey, who is expected to join the delegation in Paris or Rome, represents Aidin in the same capacity. The other members of the delegation, according to reports of an unofficial nature, represent Ismidt, Erzeroum, Trebizond, Saruhan, Karassi, and Adana, and the Nationalist Mission may therefore be regarded as representing the Turkish population of the occupied and contested territories. It is also reported

that the Mission is accompanied by Turkey's leading feminist, Halide Edib Khanum, but in what capacity is not known.

The Government Mission.

Tewfik Pasha, who is to preside over the Mission nominated by the Sublime Porte, left Constantinople on the evening of the 12th, with a number of legal and technical advisers from various Government Departments. It is understood that Tewfik Pasha will meet the Nationalist delegation in Paris, and will make a final and desperate endeavour to come to an understanding in order that Turkey may be represented by a single Mission, as required by the Allied Governments. The other members of the Sublime Porte's Mission will be Osman Nizami Pasha, Turkish representative in Rome, and Mustapha Reshid Pasha, Turkish representative in London.

The Nationalists have not even deigned to inform the Sublime Porte of the composition of their Mission, but have intimated that if the Government Mission consents to pursue the same lines as the Nationalist Mission, the two delegations will be able to co-operate. This, of course, simply means that the Government Mission will be required to take a back seat and leave everything to the Nationalists, a proceeding which will certainly not have the approval of the Sultan.

Accomplished Facts.

The "accomplished fact" has always played an important part in Near Eastern affairs, and the web of more than one fine scheme has been badly damaged by such a circumstance. The capture of Aintab by the French may be regarded as a circumstance of this nature, and came as a great surprise to political circles in Constantinople, where the trend of events in Cilicia and Syria has lately been obscured by more dramatic occurrences. The lesson to the Nationalists was badly needed, and should have a salutary effect upon Angora, where the impression prevails that the Allies cannot raise a rifle or a shell to emphasise their demands. It is to be feared, however, that if the Nationalists are really to be impressed there will have to be action of a much more comprehensive nature. A series of "accomplished facts" will be necessary, if only as an offset to the accomplished fact of the Turkish occupation of Armenian territory. It is reported on good authority that the Hellenic army is about to commence another offensive in the direction of Eski Shehir. There can be no harm in mentioning the matter, for if report speaks true, the Hellenic action will have commenced before this appears in print. It is to be hoped that the result will be more satisfactory than the reconnaissance in force which took place during the early part of January, and which merely had the effect of strengthening Turkish belief in the demoralisation of the Hellenic army. If the Hellenes are to be allowed to take action, that action should be successful beyond argument, otherwise the already complicated situation will only become more impossible of solution.

It seems a pity that "accomplished facts" in the past should have been allowed to bear such fruit as to

encourage the belief that such circumstances can have a radical effect upon European policy. So long as that belief prevails it will always be difficult for Europe to enforce permanent acceptance of any settlement in the numerous problems that have to be settled before the general Near Eastern problem is settled.

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.

MESOPOTAMIA AND THE LONDON CONFERENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—There is reason to believe that the Government have been warned for some time that a dangerous military situation is developing in Mesopotamia, and have been asked either to produce the necessary troops and money to safeguard our commitments or to reduce the commitments to what the allotted garrison can safeguard. A withdrawal was, I understand, actually decided upon at one time; but while Mr. Churchill was ordering it to be carried out within a month, Mr. Lloyd George forgot about the decision and announced in the House of Commons that there was no intention of withdrawing. It did not matter much, as it was discovered that a retirement could not be effected in less than twelve months. This is a point which those who are pressing for a withdrawal should bear in mind.

Now, in a year much may happen, and the first thing will be, if the Bolsheviks can possibly bring it about, an attack by them and the Turkish Nationalists on Great Britain's position in Persia and Mesopotamia. It is known that plans to this end have been made, the attack to start in the spring. In Northern Persia the Bolsheviks, if they advance in earnest, will encounter no effective opposition. As far as Mosul is concerned, we shall not fare much better in Mesopotamia, as there are no proper communications with that town, and a sufficient force cannot be maintained there with inadequate roads and transport.

A withdrawal from Mosul under pressure might have embarrassing results south of Baghdad, and would react on British prestige throughout the East.

The most effective way of upsetting the Bolshevik plans would be to bring the Turkish Nationalists over to our side, and this can only be done in time if it is done at the Conference now being held in London. The chief difficulty in the way would seem to be some curious affinity between Mr. Lloyd George and M. Venizelos, owing to which, apparently, we have to risk: (1) a set-back to British prestige in the East, (2) giving offence to the French, and (3) the still further postponement of peace while the Greeks try conclusions with the Kemalists, to say nothing of having to finance the Greek campaign, and possibly come to the rescue at a later period.

An agreement with the Kemalists would go a long way towards solving the Mesopotamian problem, for it would give us time to start a native government before we withdraw altogether, and in the meantime reduce our army to the smallest proportions.—I am, etc.,

February 1.

MIDSTREAM.

THE SHEREEF ALI HAIDER AND MESOPOTAMIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your correspondent "Champion" puts forth the claim of Ali Haider to the throne of Mesopotamia as against the claims of the family of King Hussein. Perhaps you will allow an advocate of the latter's claims to reply.

The question your correspondent raises about the claims of Shereef Ali Haider to British confidence is answered by the Shereef's attitude during the war. The fact that he did nothing to oppose us in the war is as nothing compared with the fact that Shereef Hussein did something actively in our cause. The fact that Ali Haider was willing to accept the Emirate of Mecca—if he could get it—when the Turks offered him the position upon the Arab revolt under Hussein, is sufficient indication of his aims. On the other hand, Hussein, who knew he had all to lose did his policy fail, threw in his lot with the Allies; and at the time that he raised his standard and endeavoured to form an Arab Regular Army, it seems Ali Haider came to Medina "with the residue due to his position" to try and claim the Emirate. Was this proof of his claim to British confidence? He ought to have offered Hussein his services, but he seems

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to have been more concerned with capturing the Emirate, if he could get it. The fact that he did not stir up the Bedu tribesmen against Hussein is of little account; he ought never to have attempted to obtain the Emirate, but should have helped Hussein—if he was pro-British. His hatred of Hussein would not conduce to a harmonious working of his followers with the supporters of Hussein, were he head of affairs in Mesopotamia.

On the other hand, Hussein has given sufficient evidence of his claims to our confidence. He raised a successful revolt, faced the danger of Ali Haider stealing his heritage, and provided an army which Lord Allenby used in his final attack against the Turks. His distinguished son, the Emir Faisal, was the most loyal of all Arabs, and gallantly led this army across the Jordan; he has shown conspicuous ability in administering for nearly two years a difficult zone in Syria—I served in it and know of his success; despite the many disappointments to which he has been subjected as a result of French action in Syria, he has still remained loyal to us; and we should be doing both the Arabs and ourselves an injustice if we did not use his services in Mesopotamia. The debt we owe him would only then be partially paid. The next point concerns the claims Ali Haider has on the people of Irak. Since Shiah and Sunnis will have to live under either a Shiah or a Sunni king, it is a question of which should be chosen. If Ali Haider is a descendant of the last orthodox Khalif, Ali, so also is Hussein, who, further, is the oldest living descendant of the Prophet himself. They are both of the same family though removed in degree. There are Shiah sects in Syria (notably the Metwallis), but the Arabs are mostly Sunnis and therefore followers of Hussein. It is the same in Mesopotamia, and though the devotion of the Shiah sects may be very deep to Ali Haider, yet they do not constitute the majority of the Mesopotamians. But the Sunni Shereef has shown his loyalty in an active manner. The Shiah Shereef has merely shown his neutrality in a passive and not altogether benevolent manner. Between the two which, therefore, has the greater claim on our confidence? Besides the positive evidence of Hussein's activities, the negative efforts of Ali Haider are dwarfed into insignificance. His attitude towards the Emirate of Mecca is sufficient evidence of his claim to our confidence. If Ali Haider has secluded himself from his people by living in favour at Constantinople, Faisal has moved among his own and worked for that "Unity and Independence" which has been the aim of all true Arabs. What part did Ali Haider play in this effort to achieve an Arab nationality?

The evidence of the war activities of the two families speaks for itself, and on such a question as the claim to British confidence, I have no fear that justice will speak through the deeds of the respective claimants. Faisal would at least be no less tolerant of the followers of Ali Haider were he given the throne of Irak. Those of us whose privilege it has been to serve under him, have perfect confidence in his abilities. In him East and West have met and mated, and no surer guarantee of peace in Mesopotamia could be obtained than by his appointment.—I am, etc.,

W. URINOWSKI.

15, Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.
February 22, 1921.

BRITAIN IN PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I would consider it a favour if you could spare me a little space in your paper to express a few opinions concerning a topic, dear to me and to all Palestinians.

I have just spent a month in my native land after fifteen years' exile, and in this short time have, from various sources, learned the prevailing opinions of the inhabitants as to the policy in our land. May I say at the outset that what is stated here is simply presented to your readers, not in the spirit of criticism of the Administration, but in the hopes that the Administration may know the true sentiment of the Palestinians, and, in knowing it, may have the graciousness to heed the complaints. I, with others, boldly affirm that Britain is the one of all nations that has done more for humanity in the annals of history.

The glorious entry into the Holy City was accomplished not for self aggrandisement or annexation, but solely to deliver these peoples from the Turkish yoke, which had oppressed them all these centuries. The thousands of little white crosses scattered over the country, confirm the tale of suffering and sacrifice of the British nation. Surely it is a base people who do not understand the full meaning of this victory. Gratitude was unbounded in every heart of the Palestinian, and he appreciates and reverences the Union Jack, symbol of freedom and justice.

Much was expected from these glorious conquerors and deliveries. But, alas! has this expectation been in vain? Surely not—only a misunderstanding.

From many sides I hear the remark: "Why is the country at a standstill and progress deterred, though the British have been here for three years?"

British readers, do not attribute this saying to ingratitude; the Arab is not ungrateful. It is merely the outcry of a people staggering to their feet, and in their eagerness to stand failing

in the attempt. The matter has not been brought home to them that though England occupied the land it was only temporarily. She could not expend from her home Treasury more than she had already done, on a country which she was likely to surrender. Now that the Mandate is given to her, my fellow countrymen must wait patiently for results. There is also the dread apprehension of the land being given over to the Jews. If this apprehension be founded on facts, as I am told it is, Britain should take note of this and see that justice is administered to all alike. Sentiment has never played a part in English government. Is it to play that part now? It would be worth while to inquire whence the cause of discontent has arisen. The country, we know, is passing through the critical stage of transition; and her people, though in many ways child-like, yet have the making of good and loyal citizens. But why has Britain failed to secure their support? I hope the question will be answered by a wise and clear thinker; the fact remains that the Palestinian is not giving the Briton adequate support. Recently I heard that several Government employees resigned their posts, the reason given being the incivility of the chief of their department. To one who has lived long in the West this may seem trivial, but to those officials it is a serious matter, and it must be viewed seriously by those in authority. The course to have taken should have been that of "fighting it out"; but the Oriental temperament needs training. England, we need the best of your manhood, men of high intellect and high principles, to help to build up this nation and train its peoples for future self-government. Anything of a lower standard will lead to fatal results, and surely you will grant this request ungrudgingly and avoid friction and failure. Another illustration of the cause for annoyance is the title used in official documents in addressing the Palestinian. The word "Effendi" is Turkish and not Arabic, and why differentiate between British and Arab? A small grievance, yet keenly resented. I was, indeed, grievously disappointed in the attitude taken by my compatriots towards the British Government and British officials. This attitude has some justification, as must be acknowledged by all liberal Britons who have studied the situation.

Just before I came away I heard the rumour that the Administration had decided to change the present names of places to Biblical ones. What will the Biblical names convey to the Arab who has known his villages by their familiar and long-used names? If, for the benefit of tourists and Bible students, Biblical names could be added in parentheses, it would be sufficiently explanatory. I trust, however, that this is only a rumour. Britain's task is an arduous one, and she needs, and deserves, the full support and co-operation of all the inhabitants. She assuredly will get both if these misunderstandings are cleared up. Then may we hope that the era has truly begun, which will once more make Palestine a land flowing with milk and honey.—I am, etc.,

NASRA ODEH.

The War Office announces that two infantry battalions and one cavalry regiment of the reinforcements sent to Mesopotamia last summer from India embarked from Busreh between February 15 and 17.

In the Indian Council of State last week a resolution ratifying the draft provisions of the Washington Labour Convention, including the fixing of the age of children working in factories at twelve, was carried.

Lord Allenby, states a Cairo telegram, has proclaimed as applicable to all inhabitants of Egypt the new law limiting the increase of office and shop rents to 50 per cent. of the sum obtained in August, 1914.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons, it was announced that 24,000 Assyrian refugees have been transferred from Bakuba to a camp in the Mosul vilayet and 14,000 Armenians to a camp near Busreh.

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THE NEAR EAST CONFERENCE.

The London Conference began on Monday, February 21, when the Greeks presented, through M. Kalogeropoulos, the views of the Athens Government against any modification of the Treaty of Sèvres. Later in the day General Gouraud advised the Conference upon the military situation in Cilicia and Asia Minor.

The Turkish delegates were invited for Tuesday, February 22, but owing to the illness of Tewfik Pasha and to the fact that the Ottoman delegates were not ready to state their case, all that took place at the Conference was an exchange of views between the British, French, Italian, and Japanese Governments on several matters connected with the Treaty of Sèvres.

On Wednesday, February 23, the Conference heard statements from the heads of the delegations from Constantinople and Angora. Ahmed Tewfik Pasha and Bekir Sami Bey each spoke on the general principles on which peace could be restored in the East. They made very comprehensive claims, laying down the following three broad principles:—

(1) That all countries inhabited by Turks, excluding those in which Arabs are in the majority, should remain part of Turkey, and that within those areas the Turkish nation should exercise full sovereign rights.

(2) That the Turks are willing to concede to minorities the same rights as are provided for in the Minority Clauses of other Treaties, subject to themselves receiving similar rights in countries in which they are in a minority.

(3) That the Turks are prepared to concede freedom of navigation to all nations through the Straits provided that Turkish sovereignty is unaffected.

After some comments upon those proposals the Conference requested the Turkish delegates to formulate in a concrete form their views as to the points of the Treaty of Sèvres which they asked to be modified.

It was announced on Thursday, February 24, that the Allies had decided to appoint a Commission with British, French, and Italian members, to report on the conditions in Thrace and Smyrna, subject to the acceptance by the Greeks and Turks of the remaining provisions of the Treaty of Sèvres. In the morning the Conference heard the detailed statement of the modifications in the Treaty asked for by the Turks. Bekir Sami Bey, who stated that the two Turkish delegations were in agreement, read his case, listing his claims under two headings: (1) territorial and political, and (2) financial and economic.

From a territorial and political point of view the Turkish Delegation asked for the following: (1) In Europe the frontiers of 1913. (2) In Asia Minor the frontier to be fixed by a line traced in agreement with the interested parties separating the territories inhabited by an Arab majority. On the East the frontier to be the line between Turkey and Persia before the war and the frontier between Turkey and Armenia as fixed by the latest treaty between the authorities of Angora and the Government of Erivan. (3) The evacuation by the Greeks of the Smyrna territory, which should return under the full and complete sovereignty of Turkey. (4) Freedom of navigation of the Straits without compromising the security of Constantinople and respecting the full sovereignty of Turkey as well as the de-militarisation of the Straits. (5) An International Commission for the Straits on which Turkey should be represented. (6) The protection of minorities. (7) Respect for the sovereignty of Turkey in judicial matters, and the constitution of a Commission composed of foreign and Turkish jurists to draw up a scheme of judicial reform on modern principles. (8) Military and Naval forces sufficient to ensure internal order and to defend the coast and frontiers. (9) Re-organisation of the gendarmerie for the whole of Turkey with the assistance of foreign officers. (10) Turkey counts on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Constantinople and from her territory after the ratification of the Treaty.

On the financial and economic side the Turkish proposals included complete financial and economic independence for Turkey and valuation of damages and mutual reparation.

After a short adjournment, during which the Allies conferred among themselves, the Conference reassembled, and listened to a statement in regard to the statistics of the Smyrna district and Thrace, by Dr. Nihad Rechad Bey, on behalf of the Turkish Delegation, with a view to establishing by figures the Turkish majority in the population, and the economic necessity of leaving Smyrna and Eastern Thrace to Turkey in the interests of Turkey, no less than of the Allies themselves and of the Greeks. He claimed that the Greek merchants of the coast could not exist economically, independently of the Turkish agriculturists who possessed the land.

Later in the day the Conference heard a statement by the Greek Delegation in regard to the ethnological statistics of the Smyrna district and Eastern Thrace.

M. Kalogeropoulos opened by recalling that these matters had already been exhaustively investigated by the Peace Conference,

at which M. Venizelos had presented the Greek case, and that the decisions reached had been embodied in the Treaty of Sèvres. He presumed that there was no intention of reopening the whole question, but in any event the Greek Delegation was prepared to give full information. M. Gounarakis then made a detailed statement, in the course of which he quoted various statistics compiled in 1912, 1917, and more recently, and drawn from Turkish as well as from Greek sources, to show the preponderance of the Greek over the Turkish element in the populations of the Smyrna district and Thrace. Subsequently he answered questions on these and other matters affecting the Greek claims. M. Kalogeropoulos then made an appeal to the Conference for an early and final settlement, which would bring peace to the East.

On Friday, February 25, the Conference invited the opinion of the Turkish Delegation on the following proposals:—

"Viewing the difference of opinion that has arisen concerning the populations of Eastern Thrace and Smyrna in the areas assigned to the Greeks by the Treaty of Sèvres, the Powers are willing to refer the question of the populations of those two areas to an International Commission to be appointed by themselves, with instructions to examine into the figures both before and since the war, and to proceed with its investigations on the spot without delay on the clear understanding, which will be accepted by both parties, namely, by Turkey and by Greece, (a) that they will accept the results of such an arbitration; (b) that the remaining clauses of the Treaty of Sèvres shall remain unaltered, and shall be loyally accepted both by Turkey and Greece. The following supplementary conditions are attached to this proposal:—(1) That there shall be an immediate cessation of hostilities between the parties concerned. (2) That there shall be an exchange of prisoners between them on conditions to be examined and laid down. (3) That guarantees shall be given for the security of the minority populations in Greek and Turkish territories in the interval before the final conclusion of peace."

Mr. Lloyd George, the President of the Conference, explained that the exchange of prisoners referred to in (2) was intended to apply not only between Turkey and Greece, but also between Turkey and the Allied Powers. He also explained with regard to (b) that certain points in the Treaty of Sèvres which have been affected by the march of events remain to be discussed in the present Conference. Such are the provisions as regards Armenia and Kurdistan.

Bekir Sami Bey explained that the Turkish Delegation was so confident in the justice of their claims that they regarded the setting up of this inquiry as tantamount to their being admitted. Continuing, he read a document stating that the Turkish Delegation accepted the proposal of the Conference subject to the following observations:—(a) An expression of satisfaction with the application to the Turkish claims of the principle of nationality. (b) An International Administration to be substituted for that of Greece during the inquiry. It was hoped that former officials might be reinstated. The demand for the abandonment of the Turkish claims in regard to the clauses of the Treaty of Sèvres other than those relating to Thrace and Smyrna had been unexpected. (c) In the event of the claims being admitted they would agree to a cessation of hostilities between Turkey and Greece and an exchange of prisoners between all concerned. (d) Greece to send no new forces and not to move the troops now in Thrace and Smyrna. (e) The Turks will give guarantees as regards minorities provided the same condition is exacted from the Greeks. (f) The Commission to conclude its investigation within two months. (g) The Commission to take into account the numbers of Turks compelled to emigrate since the Greek occupation.

In reply to the President of the Conference, his Excellency Bekir Sami Bey stated definitely that, as the Turkish Delegation had itself initiated the proposal for an investigation, they would accept not only the investigation itself but the decision reached.

The opinion of the Greek Delegation was then invited in regard to the above proposal. M. Kalogeropoulos first declared that Greece was animated by pacific sentiments, and desired to take part in any settlement which would lead to a general peace. He then asked for and received an assurance that the proposal did not involve the disarmament or withdrawal of the Greek armies from Thrace or Smyrna while the question was *sub judice*. It was explained to him that the Turks demanded that the Greek Army should not be reinforced, and should not take any offensive step, and the same condition would be imposed on the Turkish forces. After insisting on measures to secure the observance of the Armistice conditions and laying stress on the disadvantages to the Greek Army of this continued delay in the settlement of the question, he explained that he had come to London with definite instructions from the Greek National Assembly to base himself on the Treaty of Sèvres. Consequently he could not give a definite reply until after he had received an answer to a message he had already sent to the Government at Athens.

On Saturday, February 26, nothing was officially done.

The Provincial Council of Behera protests from Damanhur (Cairo) against Mr. Churchill's recent statement regarding Egypt, and emphasises that Egypt is neither a part of the British Empire nor a British Protectorate.

Sir Herbert Samuel, presiding at the Y.M.C.A. annual meeting in Jerusalem, said the Y.M.C.A. might do much in the Holy City to develop that principle of "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity" which should be the aim of each of the three great religions. The Mayor of Jerusalem, a Moslem, was among the speakers.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

M. Leff Pouishnoff in Liszt.

It is a truism to say that none but a virtuoso can make Liszt's major pianoforte compositions interesting, but in devoting a whole programme to him even so accomplished a one as M. Leff Pouishnoff, the very remarkable Persian pianist, was rather abusing our merited goodwill. For Liszt is a pitifully unequal composer, whose psychological intensity is often combined with intellectual commonplace. In his work, the trite and the recondite, the shallow and the profound are inextricably mixed; he may be called, in fact the Dostoevsky of music. But of his poetic vision and truly pianistic feeling there is no doubt; and it was these, his two strongest aspects, that M. Pouishnoff most completely demonstrated at his recital at the Wigmore Hall on February 22. Yet in his beautiful hands even the obviousness became brilliant, and the rich warmth he infused into the real wealth of Liszt seemed to spread a false glow over the poverty. Those dreadfully dull passages in the Sonata in B minor, for instance, were superbly bluffed through; and even the "Liebesträume" became entertaining. The whole evening's performance was, indeed, a feat, but the greatest triumph in it was the exquisite playing of the "Gnomereigen" study, than which nothing more breathlessly lovely was conceivable. M. Pouishnoff is, of course, a complete master of his instrument; in the exploration and discovery of its secrets he is in the company of Busoni and Hofmann; but how fine his orchestral feeling must be was shown in Liszt's arrangement of the "Tannhäuser" overture, in which his tone colour was marvellous, his muted melodies in particular being ravishing. By the way, this young man appears to have a habit of using Chopin waltzes as encores, and it is rather as a humorous afterthought than with reverence or deference that he plays them. At his previous recital, we caught him playing tricks (admittedly one of the privileges of youth) with the C sharp minor waltz, and at this one the cool way in which he tackled on the waltz in D flat to the "Berceuse" was amusing.

Lecture Recitals.

It is not easy to discover the real purpose of lecture recitals; sometimes they are merely educative, sometimes propaganda, and sometimes an entertainment. But even if the lecturer's purpose be fixed, the results of his efforts are uncertain. In the last fortnight at the Wigmore Hall two lecture recitals were given, on February 16 and 18 respectively—the first by Mr. Arthur Hirst on "The Average Englishman's Attitude Towards Music," the second by Miss Elsie Horne on "Moods in Music"; and in both a slight extravagance of claim and lack of precision made the resultant impressions rather hazy. Mr. Hirst indeed attempted the impossible task of establishing connection between art and morality (a task which incidentally Arthur Ralfour has relinquished as hopeless), and when he proceeded to determine the essentiality of the fine arts in a nation and in the individual he found that, despite the help of Hegel and Santayana, he had to withdraw before he had really attacked the position. On the whole, Miss Horne's was a much better and usefuller performance; she, helped by Ruskin and Miss Adelaide Rind, was lucid, fluent and accomplished, but she was also (if I may say so) a little credulous; she still believed, for example, in the genuineness of the slow movement of Mendelssohn's violin concerto and in Chaminade's "Autumn," and she persuaded herself that every mood can be expressed in music.

Mr. Bertram Binyon.

The appeal of all vocal recitals is either the singer, or what is sung, or both; but to-day, probably more than at any other time, it is what is sung that chiefly attracts. Now Mr. Bertram Binyon, who gave a recital at the Æolian Hall on February 16, has definite artistic qualities, but he has also the reputation of bringing forward new works. This time the attraction was Goossens' Three Songs for Voice and String Quartet, the words of which are taken from sixteenth and seventeenth century English poets. These songs were natural and pleasant commentaries on the poems rather than original interpretations of them, and it was only in the first—"The Appeal" of Sir Thomas Wyatt—that the mood of the poem was aptly fused in the strings and the melodic outline of the voice. But this effort is indicative of a very welcome and increasing detraction from what has been called the tyranny of the pianoforte accompaniment. Mr. Binyon was finest in his Italian and French songs—particularly in a Paisiello Cavatina, an old Italian folk-song "Sperazione," a Bassani Minuetto, and in Hœ's "L'Ane Blanc." It seemed a great pity that he should choose to close so good a programme with ballads by Quilter and his excellent accompanist, Harold Craxton.

Mr. Plunket Greene.

Unfortunately, I cannot say much of Mr. Plunket Greene's recital at the Æolian Hall on February 15, because I heard

only a few of his songs. But, in any case, little that is new can be said of him. The immense public work that he has done for British singing and for British songs is not yet finished, but there were signs, sadly inevitable of course, that it is nearly done. Yet it would be the extremest ingratitude now to point out any deficiencies in the unique combination of Mr. Greene and his accompanist, Mr. Liddle; and it is possible to console oneself with the fact that past achievement cannot be marred by present example.

Mr. Rae Robertson.

The interest excited by Mr. Robertson's programme, which he played at his recital at the Æolian Hall on February 17, was worthily maintained in his first group of pieces by Purcell, Byrde and Bull. He allowed the charm of these old English masters to come clearly and simply through the centuries, and their appeal was instant and certain. It was when he played Chopin's B minor sonata and Scriabin's "Vers la Flamme" that we found how powerless a mere technique is to interpret. In both of these the harmonies were treated too insignificantly, and glow in the melodies was absent. Moreover, the tremendous climaxes towards the close of each work were not rightly seized, so that little impression of their greatness was obtained. Mr. Robertson has undeniable gifts; he has a fluent technique, and his touch is pleasant; but his pedalling is not good, and his rhythm not firm enough.

Busoni.

I do not think there is any artist in the world who can so certainly give you the intoxicating but alarming feeling that you are out of your depth as Busoni, who gave a recital at the Wigmore Hall on February 19. Small works he never dreams of playing (unless they be by himself), and after standing through Beethoven's last sonata and Chopin's in B minor, I felt overwhelmed. In the whole programme there was nothing more amazing than the contrast between the unrelenting intellectuality of the first Beethoven movement and the pure loveliness of the arietta and the variations; but the contrast seemed inevitable, and the whole was the most perfectly fashioned interpretation that has yet been given of the obscurest sonata ever written. No emotional warmth was obtruded into the Chopin, which was keenly analytical all the time; but the colours coming from a most finely graded tone and wonderful pedalling were most moving, and the grand climax was literally, quite literally, stupendous. Busoni's own composition, a new "Toccata," seemed to combine the architectural strength and dignity of Beethoven with the ceaseless grace of Bach, but there appeared to be a certain amount of parade in it. But as his is the darkest musical mind prominently before the public at the moment, it is impertinence for me to say anything about the Toccata now.

A Chamber Concert.

The gifts that the gods have bestowed on Mr. Gerald Cooper are few, but there is nothing at all wrong with his taste. He has a fine discrimination, he has modesty, and he has courage. We were not moved, it is true, at the concert which he organised at the Wigmore Hall on February 22, but there was much to be enjoyed in it. With Miss Flora Mann and a handful of strings, he went most creditably for "Domine Deus," from Bach's Mass in B minor; and with her, again, he sang some most charming old-English airs. But we were most grateful of all to him for allowing us to hear again the second Rhapsody of Arthur Bliss, a work the details of which I gave some months ago. Bliss is already a personality in English music, and this composition is one in the form of which he specially excels. There is genius in his use of the wordless voices.

Mr. Leonard Borwick's Transcriptions.

Mr. Borwick's recitals, the last of which he gave at the Æolian Hall on February 23, have proved not only his flair for certain of the classic and modern composers, but also his ability to transcribe orchestral music for the pianoforte. At his last we had Debussy's "L'Après-midi d'un Faune" extraordinarily faithfully done; it was, in fact, a revelation. I, at any rate, should never have thought that the sunny delicacy and the very subtle half-tints which the composer has obtained by use of the woodwind could have been reproduced on a percussion instrument; but there they were, marvellously yet simply suggested. All Mr. Borwick's Chopin is informed by his very individual and deliberate *rubato*, and either endures or suffers (it depends, of course, upon the listener's personal likings) through it; for my own part, I prefer a richer and more romantic reading of the F minor ballade and the Berceuse, though the restrained exhilaration of the B minor scherzo was irresistible. It was charming to find an intimately great artist like Mr. Borwick ending his programme with a delightful little study by Stravinsky; nothing could so perfectly have shown his confidence, his sympathies, and his keen judgment.

ANDANTE.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"THE RISING TIDE OF COLOUR AGAINST WHITE SUPREMACY." By L. throp Stoddard. Ph.D. (Harvard). (London: Chapman and Hall. 12s. 6d. net.)
- II.—"WITH THE INDIANS IN FRANCE." By General Sir James Willcocks, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Etc. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 24s. net.)
- III.—"EARLY JUDAISM." By Laurence E. Brown. M.A. (Cambridge University Press. 14s. net.)

I.—THE RACIAL STRUGGLE FOR LIFE.

In 1798 a clergyman named Malthus published an "Essay on Population," in which he maintained that every species tended to increase in a greater ratio than the supply of food. So prolific, he wrote, was life in the animal and vegetable kingdoms that it would fill millions of worlds to overflowing but for the operation of certain positive checks. In the case of mankind there were war, pestilence, famine, and moral restraint. The latter found favour in Malthus's eyes. "Do not marry," he wrote, "until you can support a family"; but he was not responsible for the theories or practices which long after his death came to be known as "Malthusian." His views created a mighty flutter in ecclesiastical dovecots, and were vehemently combated by the followers of Rousseau, who believed in the perfectibility of mankind; but their substantial truth is nowadays questioned only by people whose reasoning power is obscured by prejudice.

Malthus's generalisations were based on the abnormal conditions which prevailed in England at the close of the eighteenth century. Machine industry, then in full swing, had caused an unexampled growth of population, attended by acute poverty and congestion in our insanitary towns. Had he realised the world-wide application of his doctrines, he would, perhaps, have divined the reason of the wholesale migrations which have temporarily redressed the balance of Nature. They began 3,500 years ago, when our Aryan forbears were compelled by the desiccation of their pasture-grounds in Central Asia to invade Europe in successive swarms. Like other natural phenomena, the process became rhythmical: the human tide gravitating from East to West and *vice versa* at intervals of 500 years. The mighty pendulum now swings westwards, and European civilisation is threatened by the onslaught of a thousand million Asiatics.

Such is the thesis put forward by Dr. Lothrop Stoddard. In a work bearing the significant title "The Rising Tide of Colour" he classes the globe's population as Whites, Yellows, Browns, Blacks, and Reds. The first, numbering 550 millions, are mainly concentrated in Europe. Dr. Stoddard sub-divides them into Nordics, Alpines, and Mediterranean; but he points out that ancient culture has welded them into a single race. At the close of last century their inventive genius, enterprise, and organising power had given them the hegemony of the inhabited world. The Yellows, 500 millions strong, occupy the eastern half of Asia. Although in the main successful imitators of Western civilisation, their efficiency in all the arts of war and peace is equalled by their capacity to adapt themselves to any environment. The Middle East is the habitat of 450 million Browns, who cannot be reckoned an inferior race, although their civilisation differs *toto caelo* from that of the Whites. The territory of 150 million African Blacks stretches for 20 degs. of longitude on either side of the Equator. They are sharply differentiated from the rest of mankind, their outstanding quality being enormous animal vitality, which renders them intensely emotional and equally prolific. In ethnical crossings the negro strain is invariably prepotent, and is rarely, if ever, bred out of a stock. But the black man's superstition and political ineptitude have made his habitat a mosaic of warring tribes, and the massacres ordained by ubiquitous witch-doctors caused an incredible wastage of human life. Prior to the white administrators' advent, the population of Africa was stationary; thanks to law, order, and sanitation, it is now increasing with marvellous rapidity; and in a very few decades Darkest Africa will be cursed with a super-abundant human crop. The world's tale of population is completed by forty million Reds, indigenous to America.

It will be seen that the coloured outnumber the white races by two to one; and the disproportion in their respective birth-rates is equally marked. Whites double in 80 years, Yellows and Browns in 60, Blacks in 40—in extreme cases 15 years. Despite their numerical inferiority, the Whites have, by dint of sea-power, established a world-wide dominion, which was sullenly endured as inevitable by the coloured races. But a train of causation has long been at work which threatens it with ruin. The Whites have always regarded human affairs from the angle of politics, whereas it is race only that matters. Their

strength is sapped by internecine discord, by the abortive Crusades, by dynastic struggles between England and France, by the Thirty Years' War, which has stunted Germany's political growth. Jealousy of Russia brought Great Britain into collision with a race which was destined by Nature to be linked with her in firm economic bonds. In 1902 it led us into an alliance with Japan, which enabled that Power to defeat Russia two years later. The Legend of Plassey had been taken to heart by Yellows and Browns alike: they believed that Asiatics led by Asiatics were no match for Europeans. Our prestige suffered heavily from the Battle of the Yalu River, and it has been destroyed by the Great War. The spectacle of a white world divided against itself and staggering from its huge losses in men and money fills Asia with a keen desire to escape from a hated tutelage. Japan casts longing eyes on Australasia and the Americas; she aims at becoming the spearhead with a shaft consisting of 400 million Chinese. India, Egypt, and the Middle East are seething with revolt. Pan-Islamism dreams of using the Blacks as a lever for overthrowing the Whites' dominion. A handful of Russian Jews, aided by Chinese executioners, are plotting the destruction of our economic life. Asia, in fact, has awakened from its long sleep; and a Japanese Chauvinist summarised its hopes when he boasted that "the East would put the West to bed."

The Great War has precipitated a racial struggle for existence which was bound to occur sooner or later; and the instinct of self-preservation impelled the Whites to protect their territory from the rising tide of colour. The Americas, Australasia, and the extremities of Africa were earmarked as close preserves for their race. In Dr. Stoddard's eyes these regions constitute a system of "inner dykes," which must be preserved at any cost; and he would include Equatorial Africa, which, left to its own devices, will certainly fall a prey to Islamic propaganda. Writing as an American, he is inclined to gratify the powerful instinct which raises the battle-cry, "Asia for Asiatics." European overlordship in that continent he regards as an outer dyke, and contemplates its disappearance with equanimity. Yet he is under no illusion as to the result of the white man's retirement, bag and baggage. At pp. 84-85 will be found a lurid picture of the anarchy which would descend on an India deprived of its white garrison. A greater degree of altruism might fairly have been expected in one who has read the pregnant lessons of history aright. Dr. Stoddard ought surely to realise that India is the keystone of an Empire the collapse of which would react with terrible effect on the heterogeneous population of his own country. If the League of Nations materialises, its first care should be to provide for the legitimate expansion of coloured races with a minimum of injury to the Whites.

F. H. S.

II.—THE INDIANS IN FRANCE.

In this country there has always been a minority of the public and a minority among the Press which has taken an intelligent interest in India and her peoples. Before the war this minority was as small as it was select, and outside it the Englishman, and the Press which instructed him, paid scant attention to our Indian Empire.

If since the war this attitude has undergone a change, if now the affairs of India are the subject for discussion and the material for leading articles in hitherto unfamiliar quarters, the stranger in our midst might jump to the conclusion that this newly awakened interest is due to the fact that India sent over a million men to fight the Empire's battles in the various theatres of war. He would naturally argue that it is the Indian fighting man and his deeds upon the battlefield that have aroused this interest amongst us. And he would be mystified, even indignant, if he were told that it is to quite other men than these, to men unaccustomed to loyalty and brave deeds, familiar with the platform and the Press rather than with the trenches and the battlefield, that India owes the notoriety she has lately achieved; that of the Indian fighting man, of his work, his thought, his speech, the Englishman knows and cares very little. If there was an excuse for this ignorance it is now removed by the volume before us, in which General Sir James Willcocks tells the story of the Indian Army Corps which he commanded for a year on the Western front.

In these pages we follow its fortunes from the time when the Corps of two divisions left India in September, 1914, through the desperate and confused fighting of that winter, to Neuve Chapelle, the second battle of Ypres, the costly failure at Festubert, and on to Loos—the last battle on this front in which the Indian Corps took part. It is a story

which arouses our admiration and respect, and at times our indignation.

Sir James demonstrates very clearly the mistakes in our military policy as regards our Indian Army before the war. Its equipment and training, its terms of service, its system of promotion, its machinery for supplying drafts, the organisation of its reserves, all were found wanting, and all were but symptoms of that lack of interest in the Indian Army which had been the habit of military authority in England for several years before the war. The natural result of this lack of interest was ignorance; an incapacity to estimate the psychological problems involved followed; and there ensued many mistakes and misunderstandings, of which the author justifiably complains.

But in addition to such drawbacks the Indian Corps was handicapped from the start. The Sirhind Brigade of the Lahore Division had to remain in Egypt, and the remainder of that Division and the Meerut Division immediately on landing in France found themselves rushed up to the line piecemeal into the thick of the confused fighting round Ypres and La Bassée. Brigades and battalions, and even platoons, were split up and separated from their proper units. Indian troops were flung into the fight with English battalions whom they did not know, and who knew neither them nor their language; sometimes they were separated even from their own officers. When it is considered that they were engaged in a form of warfare of which they were totally ignorant, in a strange country and in a wintry climate to which they were not inured, it can be imagined how great were the difficulties, moral and physical, which these splendid troops were asked to surmount. It is no reflection on the Indian Sepoy and Sowar to say that it is surprising that under such conditions they gave such an account of themselves against a brave and stubborn enemy.

The need was pressing; every man was wanted, and therefore the Indians were called to hold the breach; but, as Sir James points out, it is surely unnecessary to say that this corps was brought all the way from India to fulfil some nebulous political purpose; the Indians were transported 4,000 miles to France in order to defend the gates of England, whose people had not provided themselves with an adequate army.

It was not until December 7 that the Sirhind Brigade of the Lahore Division arrived and the Indian Corps was at length concentrated and finally took over the front in the vicinity of Neuve Chapelle. Except for the temporary detachment of the Lahore Division during the second battle of Ypres, the Indian Corps was fated to remain in this most featureless, wettest, and muddiest part of our line for the whole of the fourteen months that it was in France. It had to fight and rest amid the most depressing and unfamiliar surroundings conceivable—a Gurkha described it as a "snipe jheel"—without any change whatever. It is difficult to imagine what the reason for this can have been; perhaps, again, it was "policy" of some kind.

Yet, even so, they fought—and came again. In spite of very heavy losses in the ranks and in the irreplaceable and, as the author so often insists, the indispensable British officer, the Indian Corps fought on with an unsurpassable gallantry, to which the many stories of brave deeds bear witness. Their commander makes a point of mentioning by name all those of his corps who performed distinguished service, whether they received awards or not. It is a prominent feature of the book which will, we think, endear it to the Indian Army that familiar names, British and Indian, crop up on every page with the stories of how their owners lived and died; and with such stories there are many anecdotes to show how the "Jawan" regarded the war in France.

In descriptions of such confused fighting, as, for instance, that at Neuve Chapelle, the continual recitation of individual names and actions make it somewhat difficult to follow the course of events. The author perhaps forgets that, though, as a director of the operations, the terrain over which the battle surged is before his eye even as he writes, the reader may not be so sure of his ground. It is impossible to follow detail such as that given in the account of Festubert (p. 279), unless there is an equally detailed map to which reference can be made; the maps, on the whole, are inadequate and too few.

But in the description of Loos there is a marked difference, for the author is describing a fight of which he has not first-hand knowledge: the account is clear, and not overburdened with detail, and the map facing page 319 gives most of the information required. Sir James Willcocks was superseded in command of the Indian Corps in September, 1915, the command devolving on Sir Charles Anderson (formerly G.O.C. Meerut Division). Whatever were the reasons for this change, it was apparently effected in an irregular manner, and in a way which could not fail to wound deeply the feelings of a commander of Sir James' record and position. We must fully understand the severity of the blow, and sympathise with his remarks; to our

sympathy would have been more readily added our deepest admiration if these remarks had not been prolonged beyond p. 321.

At the moment there is prejudice against war books: perhaps we have had too many mediocrities in the past, or perhaps we want to forget rather than remember in the present. But the reading of this book is, we think, in the nature of a debt which Englishmen should pay to the memory of those brave men whose story is here related, that they may learn what the Empire of India stood for in 1914. Their admiration and their gratitude cannot fail. And if they read with understanding they will know how wide a gulf divides the Indian politician who clamours for Home Rule from the Indian fighting man whose voice has never yet been heard. Perhaps even yet gratitude will assume a practical shape before it is too late.

III.—POST-EXILIC JUDAISM FROM CYRUS TO ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

"Early Judaism," by Mr. L. E. Browne, deals with a period of Jewish history which is admittedly full of difficulties. Not only is the history from non-Biblical sources scanty and contradictory, but "the literary problems presented by Ezra and Nehemiah are some of the most difficult in the Old Testament." Many Biblical scholars—and notably Professor C. C. Torrey, of Yale—have so cut up these books by methods of literary criticism that it is difficult for the reader untrained in their methods to follow the narrative. This book seeks to present the facts in what this school accept as their true sequence. To do so the reader is invited to a very close and minute examination of the text and every page abounds in cross references. The author also has another purpose. He believes—and seeks to show—that at that period the Jews were at the parting of the ways, and that instead of pursuing the hope held out to them only a century before by their great prophets, of becoming the great missionary people to the world, they chose instead religious and political principles in direct contrast becoming the great missionary people to the world, they chose instead a line of exclusiveness and intolerance which led to all their subsequent misfortunes. A discussion of matters of religious controversy is not for the pages of *THE NEAR EAST*, and those interested are referred to the book itself. Two matters of more general interest may be touched upon. The great breach with the Samaritans, by the refusal of their co-operation in rebuilding the temple, is assumed to have been a mistake. It was a dangerous policy because all possible helpers were needed at the time, and because it was provoking a neighbour—the surviving representative of the Northern Kingdom—to bitter disappointment and enmity. There was no real ground. "The builders of the Temple were probably of mixed stock equally with the Samaritans." It was a symptom of the hardening spirit of exclusiveness which was growing up. Regarding Sanballat, the Governor of Samaria, further information is learned in the papyri of Elephantine, and these same documents throw a curious light upon contemporary Judaism in Egypt, for at Yeb (or Elephantine) the Jews had a temple, a rival to that of Jerusalem, without apparent offence; and, more strange still, though it was a temple of Yahu (Jehovah), other gods were also honoured there. It is much to be hoped that further papyri may be found in Egypt to answer the many questions which these discoveries have thus far raised.

E. W. G. M.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Nile and Jordan": An Archaeological History of the Inter-Relations between Egypt and Palestine from the Earliest Times to the Fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. With 5 maps, appendices and 3 indexes. By G. A. Frank Knight, M.A., F.R.S.E. (London: James Clarke and Co., Ltd. 36s. net.)

"The Spirit of French Music." By Pierre Lasserre. Translated by Denis Turner. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

"The 'Financier' Rubber Share Handbook, 1921." (London: The Financier, Ltd. 10s., including postage.)

Greek residents in Trebizond are said to have been compulsorily enrolled in the Turkish Nationalist forces and sent to serve in Erzeroum and Kars. All Greek schools in Trebizond have been closed.

MM. Tserepis and Kyriakis, the two Greek officers who were accused of attempting to murder M. Venizelos, were last week at Paris found guilty and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

A Bill has been submitted to the Hellenic National Assembly by which the State grants a dowry of 400,000 dr. gold (£16,000) to Princess Helena, who is to marry the Roumanian Crown Prince.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

March 3 (New Style).

February 18 (Old Style).

Jumada II., 23, 1339 of the Moslem Calendar.

Adar 23, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord and Lady Eustace Percy have left Cairo for the Sudan.

General Gouraud was entertained at luncheon on February 24 by Mr. Winston Churchill.

Prince Nicolas Ghyka, a former member of the Roumanian Cabinet, left London last week for Paris.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry and Lady Grayson are returning to London this week from Egypt.

The Dean of Rochester and Mrs. Storrs celebrated the 40th anniversary of their wedding last week.

M. Briand, the French Premier, was the guest at luncheon last week of Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India.

King Boris will visit America, in company with M. Stambolisky, during the coming autumn.

Captain H. P. Thomas, I.A., attached South Persia Rifles, is now in England on leave. His address is 5, Cumberland Gates, Kew Gardens.

The Duke of Connaught last week reviewed the Bombay St. John Ambulance Brigade and local contingents of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

M. Clemenceau, the former French Prime Minister, who has been making a tour in the East, is sailing from Colombo for Toulon to-day.

On February 26, in St. James's Parish Church, Paddington, Viscount Milner was married to Lady Edward Cecil, the widow of Colonel Lord Edward Cecil.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant-Commander F. N. Attwood, of H.M.S. Emperor of India, and Miss Ursula De Salis, will take place at Malta on March 12.

M. Kokqvetz, the Yugoslav Minister of Commerce, left Belgrade for London last week to discuss commercial relations with Great Britain. He will also have a conversation with the French Minister of Commerce in Paris.

At a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society to be held on March 8, at 4.30 p.m., at 74, Grosvenor Street, Mr. D. A. Lane (late South Persia Rifles) will read a paper on "The Nomad Tribes of South-West Persia." The lecture will be illustrated by lantern slides.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in Ahmednagar, India, between Tom Eric (Tec), second son of the late Danson Cunningham and Mrs. Cunningham, of Eddesbury, West Derby, Liverpool, and Geraldine, only daughter of Colonel and Mrs. F. D. Hunt, Ahmednagar, India.

It was announced at a meeting of the Egypt Exploration Society, held last week in the rooms of the Royal Society, that arrangements have been made for the holding in May, in co-operation with the Burlington Fine Arts Club, of an exhibition of some of the finest specimens of Egyptian art obtainable.

Lord and Lady Pentland last week held a reception at their house in Cambridge Square to meet members of the Royal Asiatic Society, the East India Association, and the Earl and Countess of Reading. Among those who attended were the Marquess and Marchioness of Aberdeen, Lord and Lady Carmichael, Lord and Lady Emmott, Lord and Lady Inchcape, Sir Arthur and Lady Lawley, and Lord and Lady Pirrie.

The Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects arranged on March 1 a joint meeting with the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, when a paper was read by Mr. Jay Hambidge, with lantern illustrations, on "Further Evidence for Dynamic Symmetry in Ancient Architecture."

The engagement is announced of McInroy Este Vibert, British Vice-Consul at Brussels, only son of the late Mr. A. R. Vibert and Mrs. Vibert, of Pembroke House, Grouville, Jersey, and Sonia, only daughter of Mr. E. B. Havell, late Principal of the Calcutta School of Art, and Mrs. Havell, Copenhagen.

The Yugoslav representatives on the Italo-Yugoslav Frontier Delimitation Commission are:—General Maister, Colonel Jetchmanitch, and Colonel Dascalovitch, and the Italian representatives are Senator Salata, General Vachelli, and Colonel Garibaldi. The Commission is engaged in tracing the frontiers from Ipek up to Fiume.

Sir A. T. Wilson, formerly Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia, has been permitted by the Secretary of State for India to retire from the service, and he has accepted the post of Resident Director in Mesopotamia, Persia, and the Persian Gulf of Messrs. Strick Scott and Co., Ltd., managing agents of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

Major-General Sir Charles Townshend, M.P., spoke on Mesopotamia and the Near East at a National Party meeting held at the Caxton Hall on March 1. Colonel Page Croft, M.P., presided. On March 15, under the auspices of the same body, Mr. Rupert Gwynne, M.P., will speak on "Will Mr. Montagu Lose Us Our Indian Empire?"

At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society last week, Sir Francis Younghusband announced that the Reconnaissance Party for the forthcoming Mount Everest Expedition is now complete. Colonel Ryder (subject to the approval of the Government of India), Major Morshead and Captain Wheeler will accompany the expedition as survey officers. Dr. Kellas, who is at present in India and has for many years devoted himself to Himalayan exploration, has joined the expedition; and to reach the highest points two young men have been chosen—Mr. G. L. Mallory and Captain George Finch.

SUDAN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, February 6.

Recent arrivals from Egypt include the following:—

The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, Earl and Countess Ossory, Lord and Lady Maidstone, the Hon. Mrs. Greville, Count Potocki, and General Biddle of the U.S.A.

The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland and Lord and Lady Maidstone are reported to have chartered a Government steamer and are proceeding up the White Nile big game shooting.

Count Potocki is reported to be contemplating a trip by motor cars to Gedaref.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. V. Fox, D.S.O., having completed four years in command of the 2nd Bn. North Staffordshire Regiment, has retired, and is being succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel L. J. Wyatt, D.S.O., who has just relinquished the rank of Brigadier-General on the Staff. Lieut.-Colonel Wyatt is no stranger to the Sudan, having accompanied the North Staffords as a subaltern in their march to Dongola in 1896.

NEAR EAST DEPARTMENT.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has made the following provisional appointments in connection with the new Near East Department:—

Assistant Under-Secretary of State in charge of the Department.—Mr. J. E. Shuckburgh, C.B.

Head of the Administrative Section.—Major H. W. Young, D.S.O., who will have the assistance of Mr. R. W. Bullard, C.I.E., of the Mesopotamian Service, and probably also of an official from the Foreign Office with special experience of Palestinian affairs.

Adviser on Arab Affairs.—Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. Lawrence.

The Department will also include financial and military sections, the heads of which will be announced later. It is anticipated that the total strength of the Department, when completed, will not exceed 15, the majority of whom are already engaged in their several departments in dealing with the questions now to be concentrated in the Colonial Office.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Charles Edwin Odgers, Barrister-at-Law, to be a Puisne Judge of the Madras High Court in succession to Sir Abdur Rahim, who has joined the Executive Council of the Governor of Bengal.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Zahadur Rahim Zahed Suhrawardy, barrister-at-law, to be a Puisne Judge of the Calcutta High Court, in succession to Sir Saiyyd Shams-ul-Huda, who has retired from the Bench.

During Lord Reading's brief period of preparation for his term in India he has attached to him as private secretary at the India Office Mr. P. Chichele Plowden, of the United Provinces Civil Service. Lord Reading has now made the following further appointments to his staff:—Aides-de-Camp: Captain D. S. Frazer, 18th King George's Own Lancers; Lieutenant H. C. H. Ilingworth, M.C., King's Royal Rifles; Captain A. E. C. Harris, M.C., 7th Haryana Lancers; Captain Ralph Burton, Coldstream Guards (Reserve of Officers). Extra Aides-de-Camp: Captain R. T. Lawrence, M.C., 10th Duke of Cambridge's Own Lancers (Hodson's Horse); Flight-Lieutenant R. F. S. Leslie, D.S.C., D.F.C., A.F.C., Royal Air Force.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of the Right. Rev. Louis George Mylne, D.D., formerly, from 1876 to 1897, Bishop of Bombay. Bishop Mylne was a son of Major C. D. Mylne, of the Bombay Army, and was born in Paris in 1843.

The death is announced of Field-Marshal Sir Charles Comyn Egerton, G.C.B., D.S.O. Born in 1848 Sir Charles Egerton was posted to the Bengal Staff Corps in 1871. He was a young officer in the famous forced march to Kandahar under Roberts. There followed a long period of hard work on the North-West Frontier. In the Hazara expedition of 1888 he served as A.A.G., and held the same position three years later in the fighting against the Miranzai, gaining the D.S.O. Next came the Waziristan campaign of 1894-5. Egerton's name first became widely familiar to the British public by his command of the Indian contingent to Suakin in 1896. He took over nearly 4,000 men, and during a period of intense heat held Suakin and Tokar. His work was highly commended and gained the appointment of A.D.C. to the Queen. In 1901-2 he commanded the Waziristan expedition, and subsequently conducted the operations against the Darwesh Khel Waziris. His dispositions brought about as successful a termination of the operations as the scheme permitted. For four years he commanded that historic body whose traditions were so finely exemplified in him, the "Piffers"—the Punjab Frontier Force. Reorganisation brought about its disappearance a few months before he was selected to take the command of the Somaliland operations—June, 1903, to May, 1904—when after several years of inconclusive trials of strength, the so-called "Mad" Mullah was so signally defeated at Jedballi in the Ngal country (losing over 1,000 men in killed alone, while our total casualties were only 58), that he fled from British territory. For this Egerton received the G.C.B.—only 18 months after being awarded the K.C.B. He returned to India to command the Secunderabad Division, and was promoted full general in 1906. In the following year he was called by Lord Morley to the military membership of the Council of the Secretary of State. Shortly after retirement in 1917, after half a century of devoted military service in the field and at the council board, the Field-Marshalship allotted to the Indian Army, rendered vacant by the death of his attached friend Lord Roberts, was conferred on him with general approbation.

In celebration of the Duke of Connaught's visit, the Governor of Bombay has, as an act of clemency, remitted the unpaid balance (£25,895) of the compensation for damages caused in the Ahmedabad riots of April, 1919.

Greek merchant seamen, to the number of 10,000, struck on February 24, at the Piræus, demanding that Parliament should vote the agreement reached at the International Conference at Genoa on the eight-hour day and the imposition of a 4 per cent. tax on profits in favour of seamen.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

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

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

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

PEACE TREATIES: Mandates, Mesopotamia and Palestine. MONTENEGRO. CONSTANTINOPLE. (February 21.)

TURKISH PRISONERS OF WAR. RUSSIA: British Prisoners (Baku). MESOPOTAMIA: British and Indian Troops.—Officers' Pay, Income-tax. INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS (ADDITIONAL PENSIONS). (February 22.)

INDIA: Army Pay.—Army (Strength).—Elections (Voters).—Esher Report (Recommendations).—Auxiliary Force.—Legislative Councils (Ministers).—Stores (Purchase).—Government Reports.—Disturbances, Nihati.—Medical Service.—Shwe Dagon Pagoda. MESOPOTAMIA (MANDATE). INDIA: Imperial Police (Memorials).—Non-Co-operation Scheme.—Motor Ambulances (Government Contract).—Exchange. (February 23.)

TURKEY (BRITISH PRISONERS). INDIA: Riots, Punjab. ARMENIA. ARMENIAN AND RUSSIAN REFUGEES. INDIA: Imports (Uncleared Goods).—Wireless Telegraphy.—Arms Act. EGYPT (TRADE UNION CONTRIBUTIONS). (February 24.)

BRITISH TROOPS (INDIA). (February 25.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Owing to strikes Malta is now deprived of its boat, motor-car, and cab services.

A Czech-Yugoslav League has been formed in Prague with the object of promoting Pan-Slavism.

Albania has subscribed 100,000 Italian lire (nominally £4,000) towards the anti-typhus campaign.

King Constantine has decorated a number of Athenian pressmen connected with newspapers supporting the present Government.

The committee appointed by the Hellenic Constituent Assembly to draw up a new Constitution includes three Moslem deputies.

The Indian Legislative Assembly has accepted the Government resolution to appoint a committee to examine and suggest modifications to the Press Act.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1921.

THE FUTURE OF EGYPT.

The publication last August of the substance of the memorandum embodying the policy agreed upon by Lord Milner's Mission and Zaghloul Pasha's Delegation for the settlement of the Egyptian question has rendered the reading public familiar for some time with the general lines of the proposed scheme; but it is only within the last week, with the issue as a White Paper of the Report of the Special Mission to Egypt, that it has been possible to examine the reasons which led such a pronounced Imperialist as Lord Milner to recommend a course that has admittedly disconcerted a large number of his fellow-countrymen. It is unfortunate that those who have felt inclined to criticize the Mission's recommendations have not been in possession of the different facts and arguments that influenced its decisions. There may still be room for disagreement with the suggested policy, but we venture to believe that after a perusal of the Report such disagreement must be a matter of instinct rather than rely upon a challenge of Lord Milner's reasoning. Individual passages in the Report may be open to criticism; there may be minor contradictions, as when on one page it is stated that "all the Egyptians, even the humblest, have become so habituated to the new standard of orderly, equitable, and honest administration that a complete return to the abuses of the past would not be tolerated," while on the next page the British official is represented as asking himself whether under the proposed régime it will be possible "to carry on the perpetual struggle against corruption and nepotism, and for promotion by merit and not by influence, with any measure of success"; it may even be urged that zeal for a solution has rendered the Mission a little blind to Egyptian shortcomings and particularly tender to the Egyptian Delegates' susceptibilities. But, unless the whole diagnosis of the Egyptian situation is refuted, it will be difficult to repudiate Lord Milner's conclusions.

Starting from the point that Egypt is not and never has been a part of the British Empire, the Report traces the different stages in the abnormal position resulting from the British Occupation in 1882. Although as the outcome of Lord Cromer's able administration public opinion in Great Britain ceased to concern itself with the indefinite character of the situation, in reality a settlement was becoming progressively more urgent the more widely the influence of our presence in Egypt and the introduction of Western methods made themselves felt. "We have never honestly faced the Egyptian problem," says the Report, "and our neglect to do so is in a measure responsible for the present situation." Especially was this the case when, after the war, the Nationalist leaders asked to be allowed to visit London; and we read, "in spite of the insistence with which the High Commissioner appealed for their reception, the real urgency of dealing with the Egyptian problem at that critical moment had not been realised." From that point events moved more rapidly in Egypt than the Administration appear to have realised. By the time the Mission reached Egypt independent opinion was to all outward appearances solidly Nationalist, and in the opinion of the signatories of the Report it is likely to remain so. "The position," they write, "is undoubtedly a serious one, and in face of this solid phalanx of opposition it might seem at first sight as if we had no choice but either to abandon our position in Egypt altogether or to maintain it by sheer force, in the

teeth of the general and ever-increasing hostility of the Egyptian people." A closer study of the problem made it possible to entertain a more hopeful view, and so the Mission was led to its proposed solution. By sifting moderate opinion from the extremist section it found that, side by side with whole-hearted Nationalism, there existed genuine recognition of the great benefits which Great Britain had conferred upon Egypt, of the fact that the country still stood in need of British assistance, and of the very special interest which Great Britain had in Egypt as the central link in her communications with her Eastern Empire and the Australasian Dominions. Nationalism, however, insisted upon the distinctive character of the Egyptian people. "No grant to Egypt of a greater or less measure of 'self-government,' even if it went the length of what is known as 'Dominion Home Rule,' would meet the case, because Egyptians do not regard their country as a British Dominion or themselves as British subjects. This wholly differentiates the problem of constitutional development in Egypt from the same problem in countries which have for years indubitably formed part of the British Empire, as, for instance, British India. We talk of such countries gradually attaining the status of nationhood. The Egyptians claim that they already have this status. No settlement of the future of Egypt which does not recognise this claim is ever likely to be accepted by—it can only be imposed on—the Egyptian people." The difficulty confronting the Mission, therefore, was to reconcile the defence of British interests with the recognition of the national status of Egypt, while at the same time safeguarding for the Egyptians the new level of civilisation which their country has attained under British guidance. It is in a treaty between the two countries that the Mission claims to have found the solution.

As is known, the Egyptian Delegation, having secured in Egypt general approval of its agreement with the Milner Mission, returned to England with the idea of arranging for certain modifications. Chief among these was the insertion of a clause definitely abrogating the Protectorate. Lord Milner, however, decided that the competent authority to discuss the proposed alterations would be the negotiators of the actual Treaty, and the Agreement stands. The Report, the publication of which with its unmistakable sincerity in every line can hardly fail to affect the Egyptian attitude to the Agreement, goes a long way towards meeting the Egyptian objection regarding the term "Protectorate," as it points out that the aim of the Agreement was to find the basis of a Treaty "which should supersede all debates about words and phrases, and be the sole and final definition of the relations of Great Britain and Egypt." The word in dispute has not been defined, and whatever status it imposed on Egypt will lapse with the ratification of the proposed Treaty. In these circumstances it argues a lack of confidence in themselves on the part of the Egyptian delegates to affect anxiety regarding the former relationship rather than to concentrate attention on the new status. Mistakes have been made by Great Britain in regard to Egypt; they are admitted in the Report. But Britons have nothing to be ashamed of in the orderly development of their relations with the country. As the Report points out: "There is nothing new in the recognition of Egyptian independence by Great Britain. Throughout our occupation we have most carefully respected the theory that Egypt was a national unit under the suzerainty of the Sultan of Turkey, and when we abolished the Turkish suzerainty we deliberately chose to proclaim a Protectorate in preference to annexing Egypt or making her part of the British Empire." Reflection must satisfy all thinking Egyptians that a treaty based on the Agreement will be more favourable to them than they had any reason to expect. If there is opposition to the Agreement in Great Britain it will be based almost entirely on concern for the well-being of Egypt. The Milner Mission was under no illusions on one point. "We make no attempt to conceal our conviction that Egypt is not yet in a position to dispense with British assistance in her internal administration." But the signatories felt that within certain wide limits the measure of the assistance to be given

must be left largely to the Egyptians themselves to determine. In their present mood the people of Egypt may try to cut that measure too fine. If they do, retribution will assuredly follow, and the ordered political development of the country may receive a setback. The trouble, however, will be mainly theirs, and the possible harm to British interests will be in no way commensurate with the gain derived from the regularising of the relations between Great Britain and Egypt. In this view the natural anxiety of the British community in Egypt is not overlooked, and we can but hope that the optimism of the Mission in this particular also will be fulfilled. "The whole atmosphere" (in regard to the employment of British officials), runs the Report, "will, in our opinion, be completely changed when the Egyptians are satisfied that the purpose of British policy is to help them to realise their ideal of independence and not to stand in the way of its attainment."

TROY IN 1920.

By C. E. Vulliamy, F.R.G.S.

Chanak is a pleasant though dirty little town, built on the Dardanelles shore at the narrowest part of the Straits, and facing the ancient fortress of Kilid Bahr on the opposite (European) side. At one time the commercial key to the Marmora—a handy port of call on the way to Constantinople—it was sadly knocked about during the war, partly by the guns of the Queen Elizabeth and partly by the opportune Turk, who thought it an excellent occasion to expel the Christian population and wreck their quarters. Thus, although our first view of the place (in November, 1918) showed us a sea front of neat houses—white and brilliant, like a set of false teeth—we discovered hollowness and desolation behind them. Now, with the return of the Greek and Jewish elements, the town is beginning to regain the appearance of prosperity, and has many drink-shops.

Behind Chanak the hills of Anatolia arise in gloomy undulations; in front, the blue stream of the Hellespont and the ancient yellowness of the Gallipoli peninsula.

From Chanak to Troy (Hissarlik—"the place of castles") is a distance of some 18 miles. We had not been long in the place when, fired by the idea of a visit to the fields of Homeric legend, we borrowed the General's car.

Our route lay along the military road that leads to Erenkeui. It must not be imagined that the term "military road" in this case means an ideal highway. Quite the reverse. First, there was the mud, into which we sank to the footboards. Then, the continuous menace of pot-holes; not such pot-holes as stir your lordly indignation in England, but regular pits full of water, deep enough to drown a pig. Then the wooden bridges, on to which the car mounted, and from which it fell, by a sort of step. And then the traffic: strings of camels—twelve or sixteen together—led by one small Turk on a donkey; and little wooden carts which could not get out of the ruts until their owners lifted them. All these things, and more, we found between Chanak and Erenkeui. But at Erenkeui we touched the limit.

This village was inhabited before the war by Greeks. For several obvious reasons, and through several agencies, it was depopulated and completely ruined. Out of a vast number of houses only one or two had even the remains of a roof. It was a devastation of shattered white stone and of pale blue, yellow and pink plaster. The highway was a series of pits, ridges,

rubbish heaps, and disintegrated *pavé*. But from this point we took heart of grace, for below us lay the plains of Troy and the long, sloping spur, only some 6½ miles away, at the end of which stood the walls of Ilium. Another half-hour, and we had left the car and were walking by the banks of Homer's Simois (Dumruk Chai) towards the ruined city.

It will be remembered that Dörpfeld classified the remains on this site as follows: (1) A village of the Ægean Neolithic period; (2) a somewhat later fortified enclosure; (3, 4, and 5) unimportant settlements; (6) the Mycenaean or Homeric Troy, with extensive fortifications; (7) another small settlement; (8) the Hellenic Ilium, built over the accumulated débris of the 6th city; and, finally (9) a Græco-Roman town of the Christian era.

The ruins were found at the end of a long, broad-ended tongue of land which runs down from the hills and stretches out promontorially across the plain. From the lower ground beneath them they are marked by a few lumpy mounds of grass-covered earth—there is nothing dramatic, nothing suggestive even, about their aspect. Troy has been dug out; and so, when you climb to the level from which the excavators cut downward, you look into the place rather than at it. The first glance shows a number of roughly conical mounds, bristling with fragments of stone, bone, and pottery. Near the bases of these mounds lie the remains of little dry-built walls. But as you walk towards the southern or eastern sides you come on traces of the legendary glory of the place. You find a double line of massive walls—the one made of perfectly squared blocks of yellow stone; the other, curving in a series of straight sections (so that the plan is "saw-edged"), of rudely shaped stones, varying considerably in size. The first of these walls belongs to the last important foundation—the Hellenic citadel; the other is the Mycenaean wall, encircling the city of Priam. At the north-east angle of it there stood the great watch-tower and a long flight of steps therefrom—sadly ruined since the time of the discovery.

Of the Græco-Roman city, the most striking remains *in situ* are the marble fragments of a small theatre or temple to the south-east. The temple of Athene which crowned the acropolis of the earlier city, rising superbly above the level of the outer walls, has left scarcely a trace.

It was natural that our imaginations should have made an effort to visualise the Troy of Æneas and Hector. But apart from the line of the outer rampart there was little for fancy to build upon. Within the enclosure lay an amorphous pile of rubbish; a confusion of broken walls. Passing down through the later strata, the excavators have laid bare the relics of prehistoric dwellings—ancient beyond the reach of fable. Most interesting of these early traces is the sloping ramp, paved with flat stones, which led over the wall of the "second period" fortress.

In the recent war, Troy was put into a state of defence by the Turk. Trenches were cut along the northern and western scarps.

There is good evidence of burning in the abundance of reddish clay, and in various signs of calcination and charring. You have only to scratch in the mounds to pick out pieces of ancient pottery, bones, spindle-whorls, bits of metal, and cockle shells. The presence of the latter is a mystery.

But although the casual explorer would find only rubbish—howbeit most antique rubbish—it must be stated that there were others who made very interesting finds. These amateur excavations were forbidden subsequently by orders, but orders prevailed not.



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against the enthusiasm of the scholar or the temporary archaeologist. The prohibition was issued after the representation of "damage" by the Turks—one of their customary exaggerations, put forward (as some of us knew) with the idea of adding to the sum of perplexity and annoyance that taxed to their uttermost the wits and patience of a sorely tried but somewhat inexperienced staff.

Without some historical and classical knowledge, and without the wonderful series of plans made by Dörpfeld, the ruins of Troy would hardly impress the visitor. But the name of Troy carries with it such a wealth of poetic suggestion, the landscape of the Troad and Hellespont contains so vast a field of legend, that he would be the dullest of men who did not feel something of the presence of gods and heroes among these tumbled stones. And so, when we looked towards the mounds at Kum Kaleh and were told that these were the tombs of Achilles and Patroclus, doubt was far from our minds. Scamander flows out to the swampy shore, and still keeps the memory of its name. The hills of Tenedos and Imbros and the snows of Samothrace rise to seaward. To the south, dimly seen, are the white ridges of Ida. With hardly a difference the view we looked upon must have been that which Cassandra saw, as, from the topmost tower, she gazed across the plain.

THE MILNER REPORT.

The "Report of the Special Mission to Egypt" (Cmd. 1131), which was published ten days ago, forms the subject of our leading article this week. It may be of interest to our readers if we give here a few extracts from the Report.

The Mission, it will be remembered, consisted of:—Viscount Milner, then Secretary of State for the Colonies (Chairman); Sir Rennell Rodd, General Sir John G. Maxwell, Brigadier-General Sir Owen Thomas, M.P., Sir Cecil J. B. Hurst (Foreign Office), and Mr. J. A. Spender; and the Terms of Reference were:—"To inquire into the causes of the late disorders in Egypt, and to report on the existing situation in the country and the form of the Constitution which, under the Protectorate, will be best calculated to promote its peace and prosperity, the progressive development of self-governing institutions, and the protection of foreign interests."

The Memorandum of August 18, 1920, to which reference is made above, was published in THE NEAR EAST of November 11, 1920, and need not now be reproduced. It may be remarked, however, that the Report states that: "This document, which presently came to be known as the Milner-Zaghloul Agreement . . . was not an agreement, but merely an outline of the bases on which an agreement might subsequently be framed." It was understood that Zaghloul Pasha and his friends "might make free use of it in public discussion in Egypt." The Memorandum, we are told, was in accordance with conclusions at which the Commission had arrived before leaving Egypt; but "as a result of our discussions with Zaghloul Pasha and his associates, we were now prepared to go somewhat further." We find the record of this advance most clearly in the section of the Report dealing with the representation of Egypt in foreign countries (pp. 26-28). We read:—

It has always been, and is from our point of view, a fundamental principle that the foreign relations of Egypt should be under the general direction of Great Britain. . . . It is obviously impossible to expect that Great Britain should shoulder the responsibility of defending the integrity and independence of Egypt against all possible dangers, if that country were free to pursue a policy of her own in foreign affairs inconsistent with or prejudicial to the policy of Great Britain. This axiom none of the Egyptians with whom we were dealing ever attempted to dispute. They were quite prepared—in a Treaty of Alliance—to give whatever pledges might be necessary to exclude the possibility of any action on the part of Egypt which could cause embarrassment to her great Ally.

Again "the impossibility of our assenting" to Egypt's being left "free to follow a foreign policy independent of Great Britain . . . was not disputed." The question was whether this principle necessarily involved the conduct

of all her foreign relations remaining in British hands. The Commission originally held that British control should be limited to Egypt's political relations, and that Egyptian commercial interests should be left in Egyptian hands; Egypt's representatives having only consular, not diplomatic, status. The Egyptian delegates, however, held quite other views, and considered that "the denial of diplomatic status to the representatives of Egypt . . . would make the settlement we were contemplating entirely unacceptable to their countrymen." They urged that Egyptian representatives "could not take any action injurious to British interests . . . without breaking the Treaty"; that the number of such representatives would be very limited, since Egypt did not desire, and could not afford, to have them in more than a few countries; and that the entrusting of Egyptian interests elsewhere to the care of Great Britain would mark "the specially intimate character of the relations between the two countries."

"The Commission," says the Report, "could not but feel that these were weighty considerations"; but it expressed some uneasiness lest the presence of Egyptian diplomatists in a few European capitals and of foreign diplomatists in Cairo, with nothing to do, "might lead to much trouble," as they might be tempted "to justify their existence by transgressing their proper functions." The Egyptian delegates, however—who had probably never heard the proverb about Satan finding mischief for idle hands to do—"would not admit that there was any real danger of this happening": under the Treaty, Egyptians would be the last to favour intrigues which might make mischief between them and Great Britain; and "the greatest safeguard which we could have . . . was the fact that the Egyptians themselves would be wholeheartedly in favour of an Alliance which fully recognised their national status and dignity." These arguments led the Commission to reconsider their position on the question. They were aware that "the concession might alarm public opinion in this country and imperil the acceptance of the agreement as a whole," but they "remain of opinion that the balance of argument is decidedly in its favour."

The paragraphs devoted to "The Defence of Imperial Communications" are likely to make more satisfactory reading for people in this country. "It was quite impossible" for the Commission to agree to the proposal that the British troops "should be stationed on the Suez Canal, and preferably on its eastern side." But while it is admitted that any force that we may keep in the country "should not be regarded in any sense as a garrison of Egypt," the question where it should be stationed was left open for the conclusion of the contemplated Treaty.

The remaining paragraphs of this section are concerned with the British officials in the Egyptian Service and reservations for the protection of foreigners. It is recognised that the Egyptians look forward, naturally enough, "to the time when the whole, or almost the whole, of the public service will be staffed by their fellow-countrymen"; and the Commission is inclined to think that the importation of British officials has been somewhat overdone of late years. But while the retirement of the British officials would not mean that the country would relapse into the deplorable condition from which we rescued it, the "new model" would be exposed to dangers of deterioration if they were suddenly withdrawn or dismissed. The Commission, however, regards it as highly improbable that anything of the sort would occur. Two contradictory pictures which are presented on pages 29 and 30 respectively do not, perhaps, help us to share their optimism. We read first:—

The number of Egyptians qualified by education and character to take part in the work of government on civilised principles has greatly increased since the occupation. All the Egyptians, even the humblest, have become so habituated to the new standard of orderly, equitable, and honest administration that a complete return to the abuses of the past would not be tolerated.

But on the next page, in a passage depicting the feelings of men holding administrative posts in the event of a change in the political status of the country, we find this:—

Will it still be possible to carry on the perpetual struggle against corruption and nepotism, and for promotion by merit and not by influence, with any measure of success? Such fears are not unnatural.

In regard to the protection of foreigners and the safeguarding of foreign interests, the Report gives clearly the reasons why the Financial Adviser and the official of the Ministry of Justice referred to in the August Memorandum are to be appointed only in concurrence with the British Government. Those reasons are so obvious that we need not reproduce them here; and—as far as they go—they are unlikely to be challenged outside Egypt. The retention of this very slight degree of control would be indeed a small price to pay for the removal of the incubus of the Capitulations.

(To be continued.)

THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

—OMAR KHAYYAM.

The Willcocks case, which is now in progress in Cairo, has set my memory to work in connection with Sir William's proposals for the restoration of Mesopotamia's prosperity. He is, of course, a man of boundless energy, and his reputation in Baghdad was that of one who seemed to take no rest, and to expect his assistants to be as tough and active as himself. The Arabs and Turks both liked him greatly, and so did the Europeans. The latter, however, did at times find the great engineer rather *too* energetic; and somehow or other he and his staff came to be spoken of—though only with a smile—as “the irritation experts.”

On one occasion, when Sir William was following up his theories regarding the site of the Garden of Eden, he suddenly “raided” Baghdad, so to say, to obtain backing for his ideas. He secured a missionary and a padre, who happened to be there at the time, and hustled them off to the Euphrates, where he propounded his views, and in a very short space of time convinced his hearers that he was absolutely right. I remember hearing about it at the time, and being amused by the picture of the audience's mixed feelings: admiration of Sir William Willcock's brilliant argument and his wonderful eye for the lie of land, and indignation at having been hustled so much over the journey.

I do not know whether the names of the Near East are really more difficult for the printers than those of other parts of the world, or whether it is merely that my eye picks them out more quickly; but it certainly does seem to me that printers trip up over them more frequently than over other names. Quite lately, for instance, the *Western Times*, an Exeter paper, had an article on hospital work in Yugoslavia, headed “Exeter Lady in Seberia.” Apparently the “comp.” was compromising between Serbia and Siberia. It seems to me that the Serbs would have done well to stick to the old spelling “Servia.” Even THE NEAR EAST has, I believe, gone astray over this particular name; only with that downrightiness which is so characteristic of it, it boldly described Serbia as Siberia.

In connection with this subject, I notice that an *Evening Standard* compositor came to grief the other day over the style and title of General Haddad, the Emir Faisal's right-hand man. In a list of people present at a luncheon given to Sir Harry Lauder by the Rotary Club, the gallant officer was described as “Pasha-general Hachdad”—which almost looks as if Sir Harry himself had “had a shot at it.” Of course, it may not be the compositor who is to blame, but the reporter. I feel strongly on the subject of handwriting just now, because my colleague, “Andante”—and, yes, I will be honest—one or two others have been making unkind remarks about my fist. But I admit that even the best of writers may sometimes fail to make his writing legible. As for the worst—well, you ought to see “Andante's” and “Commentator's.”

At Kingston Police Court not long ago an Egyptian boy, described as about fifteen years old, was charged with “wandering without visible means of subsistence.” Through an interpreter, he explained that he had been brought over to England as a servant by an Army doctor, but had run away because his master had beaten him. His home was in Lower Egypt, and he was described by the interpreter as a “half-caste Arab.” In the result, he was offered service by a lady, who had lived in Egypt and spoke Arabic, and he accepted the offer eagerly. It seems to me that there are here the makings of quite a good story, and my only surprise is that with so many enterprising journalists about we have not had a “Said, the Fisherman, in Real Life,” or something of that kind served up to us yet. I, for one, should be a great deal more interested in such a story—if it were plainly told!—than in the nauseating tales of “love,” intrigue, and so forth, that are hashed up as “romances” of real life. For, how did a youngster of that age ever make up his mind to “bolt” in a strange country, when he could not make himself understood? How long had he been “wandering without visible means,” etc.? And how, and why, did he drift to Kingston? No doubt it was just as easy for him to get there as anywhere else, say, East Ham. But it is the little facts that lend these stories their interest, and I should like to have this Said Junior's tale. By the way, I wonder what a real Arab, a man of the desert, would make of such a charge as that brought against this youngster. I should like to see the interpreter trying to make him understand it!

CORSAIR.

ARAB ARCHITECTURE AT THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

On February 17 Mr. M. S. Briggs, F.R.I.B.A., delivered, before the Central Asian Society, at 74, Grosvenor Street, London, W., a lecture on Saracenic Architecture, which was substantially the same as he had previously given before the Royal Institute of British Architects. As on the previous occasion, he defended the style from some of the strictures that had been passed upon it, saying that it was the product of the Moslem faith, in a semi-tropical climate, during the Middle Ages; and must not be judged according to its suitability for Christian worship, northern latitudes, and modern habits of life. It should be seen through Oriental eyes. It had an interest for the student of Gothic architecture in Europe, because some of the forms most familiar to us in our Gothic buildings—notably the pointed arch—were attributed to the Saracens. In the long intercourse of Saracen and Crusader many things had changed hands.

In a brief discussion that followed the address Major Ormsby-Gore said he had been a humble student of the architecture of the Middle East. Whether that style should be called Arab, Saracenic, or Moslem had been discussed by the lecturer, who would, he hoped, use the word Arab; for scholarship tended to prove that the earliest great Moslem monuments, such as the mosque at Samara, owed their origin to pre-Islamic Arab art. As to the inter-action of Western architecture and Saracenic, the architecture of the Island of Sicily was of great importance in this connection. In Sicily you found an extraordinary blend of Saracenic, Byzantine, and Norman styles in buildings that had survived from the eleventh century—the time of Sicily's Norman kings, Roger and Robert. It was argued that most of the Crusading churches in Palestine—such, for instance, as the Church of St. Anne in Jerusalem, just inside St. Stephen's gate—had been built by Sicilian masons who had accompanied the Crusaders. Before we had got the pointed arch in France and England the Sicilian masons had got it from the Saracens in Sicily, and had taken it back to Palestine; for the structural use of the pointed arch—which seemed to come from Southern Persia and Mesopotamia about the time of the rise of Islam—had been carried west to Sicily in the seventh and eighth centuries.

As to stalactites, Major Gore said he believed you found earlier examples in Sicily than you did in Cairo—possibly there were earlier still in Mesopotamia. On a Saracenic palace outside Palermo, dating from the end of the ninth or early part of the tenth century, there were stalactites, and on the Norman architecture of Sicily of the eleventh century stalactite vaulting was developed in the most splendid manner.

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America and Mesopotamia.

American oil interests are evidently unwilling to abandon the attitude they have taken up over the question of the development of the Mesopotamian oilfields; at least, so one would judge from President Wilson's Note on the subject of mandates to the Council of the League of Nations, which, it is understood, has been sent partly because of America's anxiety regarding oil supplies, partly because of the problem of the cables; mainly, I suspect, because of the former. The Note indicates that a communication is being despatched giving America's views on mandates, and asking that no final decision should be taken on any matter concerning them pending its receipt. It would appear from reports that there is more than a suspicion of a political flavour behind America's action, and that, in other words, the party about to retire from power is endeavouring to safeguard itself from future criticism. But, assuming that is not the case, the Note would appear to indicate an entire *volte face* on the part of America, for it would suggest the possibility that the United States is now prepared to reconsider its position regarding participation with the Allies in the administrative tasks resulting from the peace settlement. If so, it would be all to the good, for the problems that have arisen would cease to exist. The principal objection taken to the attitude adopted by America has been that she desires to share in the fruits of victory without taking her part in the labour imposed on the Allies.

The Sudan Loan—

This week saw the issue of the balance of the Sudan Government Five and a-Half per Cent. Guaranteed Loan 1929-59, which has been authorised for the purpose of meeting expenditure on railways and irrigation. Last October the first part of the loan—£3,500,000—was issued at the price of 95½ per cent., and the amount of the present issue is £2,880,000 at 92 per cent., a difference which indicates the effect of the trade position on finance in the intervening months. The bonds, which rank equally with the previous issue, are redeemable at 105 per cent. by a cumulative sinking fund operating by annual drawings commencing on November 1, 1929, and are secured on the general revenues and assets of the Sudan, while the interest is guaranteed by the Imperial Government. Subscription to the loan is on easy terms, 5 per cent. being payable on application, 12 per cent. on March 16, and 25 per cent. on April 8, May 4, and May 30. As the return to investors by way of interest alone, to say nothing of the bonus on redemption, is 5.98 per cent., it will be realised that the loan has special attractions as an investment. The first part of the loan was rapidly subscribed, and it is to be anticipated that the present issue will also meet with a ready response, for there is no doubt that the investing public are fully alive to the advantages of a loan of this character.

—and Cotton Cultivation.

As the Government have recognised the necessity of doing all that is possible to further work of development in the Sudan by guaranteeing the interest on their loan, it is difficult to understand why they have been unable to see their way to go a step further by giving similar assistance to the scheme recently brought forward for a railway from Kassala to Thamián with a view to the extension of cotton cultivation in that region. As I pointed out at the time, the refusal was given on very inadequate grounds, and it appeared, indeed, as if some of the authorities here had a rather hazy view of the cotton position. The question is evidently one that requires reconsideration, and I hope that those responsible for the scheme will see that the Government are frequently reminded of its existence, more particularly in view of recent happenings in Egypt, which emphasise very strongly the extreme need for alternative sources of supply for Lancashire.

Trade with Bulgaria.

An important statement was made to the Press last week by M. Dashkaloff, Bulgarian Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour, on the outlook for commercial relations between Great Britain and his country. M. Dashkaloff emphasised the desire of the Bulgarian Government for the development of trade between the two countries, but pointed out that

at the present time there is little activity in this direction. In the meanwhile, Germany is taking advantage of the position, and, by means of cheap goods, is endeavouring to regain the position she occupied in the Bulgarian market before the war. The situation is aptly summed up in M. Dashkaloff's words: "It is the decisive moment for British trade." He points out that Bulgarians have always preferred English goods, but have never been able to get them in sufficient quantities, and he makes the complaint that British industrial circles seem to think that the markets of Bulgaria are only for the Central Powers. That is certainly not the case, and the real hindrance is to be found in the dilatoriness of the Government in establishing a satisfactory export credits scheme. Once that is in working order, I do not think M. Dashkaloff will have any grounds for complaining of the lack of enterprise on the part of British firms.

Question of the Ports.

M. Dashkaloff made a number of interesting suggestions in regard to the question of developing economic relations between the two countries. For one thing, he strongly favours the establishment of a school in Bulgaria for the teaching of English. In matters of this kind, the French are usually ahead of us; they have an institution there, and it would be well, as he suggests, if we followed their example, for there is no gainsaying the value of a knowledge of language and customs in influencing national relations. He also makes the point that British shipping lines have no direct communication with the Bulgarian ports of Varna and Bourgas, and lays stress on the advantage of direct trade by means of ports on the Aegean Sea, which would not be under the control of any other State.

The Attempted Cotton "Corner."

The latest report regarding the co-operative syndicate which has been formed in Egypt to hold cotton and thus force prices up is distinctly amusing. It is understood, it is stated, that the Government, while sympathetic towards all co-operative movements, is not prepared to accede to the syndicate's request for financial aid. On what grounds assistance could be expected from the Egyptian Administration it is difficult to see, and all that can be said is that those who imagined otherwise lack nothing in self-assurance. Of course, the Government could do nothing of the kind. If a number of individuals attempt to create a "corner" in some commodity it is no part of the authorities in any country to connive at their efforts. From another point of view the report is interesting, for it suggests very strongly that the rumour that the syndicate has obtained the support of an American bank is unfounded. It was, in any case, very unlikely that any bank could be found to finance so speculative an enterprise.

The Indian Trade Crisis.

It is impossible to minimise the seriousness of the position that has arisen in regard to British trade with India as a result of the decline in the value of the rupee. Briefly, what has happened is that various trade and other associations in India, on the ground that they have been led by the Government to believe that the exchange value of the rupee would be 2s., have been urging their members to refuse payment of drafts against shipments unless drawn at that rate.

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Many dealers have followed this advice, with the result that the warehouses at the principal Indian ports are packed with goods. Meanwhile British traders are being pressed by the exchange banks for repayment of the advances made against shipment, while the manufacturers are requiring payment for goods ready for despatch. Of course, the position is intolerable, and, in the words of the motion adopted at a recent meeting of the East India section of the London Chamber of Commerce, the attitude of the associations in India is "contrary to all business morality" and "destructive of the sanctity of contracts," and if persisted in "will have a most damaging effect on all present and future business with India, and render impossible the continuance of the past relations between shippers in this country and importers in India." One can only trust that once the consequence of their action is brought home to them Indian importers will realise that their position is untenable. They want to conduct commerce on a basis of "heads I win, tails you lose"; but, as they will find in the future, that is a game that can only be played once.

New Bank in Egypt.

I learn that a new bank is to be formed in Egypt by the Banco di Roma and the Cassa di Sconto, with a capital of £1,000,000 in fully-paid shares of £10 each, 80 per cent. of which will be subscribed by the former bank and 20 per cent. by the latter. The new bank, the headquarters of which will be at Alexandria, will take over the Cassa di Sconto in Egypt and the branches and agencies of the Banco di Roma in Egypt, the Sudan, Syria, and Palestine. The directors of the new bank will be M. G. Vincentini, chairman of the Banco di Roma, M. R. E. Lang and M. A. Rosa, joint managers of the central administration of the Banco di Roma, Baron Felix de Menache, chairman of the Cassa di Sconto, M. Aldo Ambron, M. C. Vanucci, director of the Cassa di Sconto and general manager of the Banco di Roma for the Orient, who will be the general manager, and Ismail Pacha Sirry, late Minister of Public Works in Egypt.

COMMENTATOR.

COTTON GROWING IN MESOPOTAMIA.

II.—THE COMMERCIAL ASPECT.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

BAGHDAD.

In my previous article reference was made to the experimental work which had been undertaken for the past three years to discover the possibilities of Mesopotamia as a cotton-growing country. Before advising the Arab to undertake the extensive cultivation of cotton two prime factors had to be solved. These were the discovery, firstly, of that variety of cotton best suited to the local conditions of soil and climate; and, secondly, the yield of cotton that can normally be expected under these conditions. A considerable amount of valuable information and statistics have been collected which will facilitate and help to crystallise the programme of work of the Agricultural Department. Of the eighteen varieties of cotton that have been under experiment it now appears that the best suited is one grown from seed imported into India from America, but originally obtained from the Pedigree Seed Company, South Carolina, U.S.A. This has been given the commercial name of *Mesopot White*, for the reason that in character it is somewhat distinctive from its progenitor Webber 49, as grown in America.

When grown on small areas the yields of a number of the varieties of cotton under experiment have been exorbitantly high. These high yields (often exceeding 2,000 lb. of seed cotton per acre, as compared with the average of 1,200 in Egypt, 600 in America, and 300 in India) could not be taken as a basis for estimating the average yield for Mesopotamia on a large scale. Nevertheless, the yields actually obtained were indicative of the possibilities of the country.

During 1920 an attempt was made to grow on the share system eighty acres of *Mesopot White* by an Arab Sheikh and his cultivators, who were given the guidance of and were financed by the Agricultural Department. The vicissitudes of war* have to a certain extent vitiated the results of this preliminary attempt to arrive at a reliable figure which would represent the profits that could be expected from cotton cultivation.

In addition to this area, however, some 400 acres were sown by estate owners with seed of Egyptian cotton especially imported on their behalf. On the whole of this latter area the crop gave every promise of good returns, but during the disturbances the plants were neglected and most of the cotton pilfered.

The cotton crop in Mesopotamia is sown in the spring. Picking starts in August and continues until the winter

sets in. On the 80-acre estate referred to, about twenty-five miles from Baghdad, the supervisory official staff, comprised of one Indian assistant and two Egyptian cultivators, had of necessity to be withdrawn when the disturbances broke out in July. As a result, the crop, instead of being irrigated at intervals of ten days until the end of September, received no water after the middle of August. Despite this treatment, an average yield of 1,250 lb. of seed cotton per acre was recorded, and the whole of the crop has since been delivered.

It is reasonable to assume, as a result of this work, that an average yield of about 1,250 lb. of seed cotton per acre can normally be expected in this country; and, with an unfailing supply of water coupled with suitable cultivation practicable to the Arab, it is confidently believed that much larger yields can be obtained.

In many respects Mesopotamia compares very favourably with such newly developed countries as Nigeria, Uganda, the Sudan and Turkestan. In each of these countries the area under cotton was steadily increasing before the Great War, regardless of the low prices then ruling and the high cost of transport due to inadequate communications. In Mesopotamia there now exists a good railway system which taps practically the whole of the irrigated areas. Some 1½ million acres are already controlled by irrigation. Of this area it is estimated that cotton can be grown on 250,000 acres. Taking an average yield of 5-6ths of a bale of cotton per acre, the annual cropping possibilities of the country are at present about 120,000 bales, due allowances being made for a suitable rotation. The ultimate possibilities of the country, with a perfected irrigation system, are estimated at 1,000,000 bales annually.

Much has been written about the shortage of agricultural labour in this country. The writer is of the opinion that there exists a supply of Arab labour sufficient to meet the demand of the present irrigable areas. And as this area increases the incursion of Arabs, more especially from Southern Arabia, will in all probability keep pace with the new areas brought under perennial cultivation. The total population of Mesopotamia (1920 census) was discovered to be practically three millions. Of this number 1,700,000 are believed to be engaged in agricultural pursuits in Lower Mesopotamia, where all crops are irrigated. This is equivalent to seven head of agricultural population per irrigated acre, which is more than ample for the intensive cultivation of such a crop as cotton.

The development of this important line of work undertaken for the past three years mainly in the interests of the Arab population is under the guidance of the Agricultural Department. The British Cotton-Growing Association is contributing valuable assistance by erecting ginneries now ready to handle the 1920 crop. There is now available for distribution seed of *Mesopot White* sufficient to sow about 2,000 acres. Propaganda work is about to be started in earnest.

The natural resultant of these concomitant factors—suitability of soil and climate, transport facilities, perennial irrigation, a population sufficiently large to cultivate the areas commanded by existing canals, and an adequate supply of suitable seed—will be a rapid extension in the near future of the area under cotton and the establishment of an export trade in this product. In a subsequent note it is proposed to deal with cotton as a factor in the political situation in Mesopotamia.

CONDITIONS IN TURKEY.

The following cable has been received by the London Office of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York from its office at Constantinople:—The general situation is unchanged. In some quarters it is predicted that there will be a depreciation in the Turkish pound. The stock market continues dull. Efforts are being extended, particularly amongst individuals, towards the resumption of business with Russia. Imports for the first half of February are over £T4,500,000, a decrease of about £T1,000,000 over the latter half of January. Exports for the same period were over £T400,000, approximately the same as for the preceding fortnight.

FOREIGN TRADE CATALOGUES.

The Department of Overseas Trade have issued an index of foreign and colonial trade catalogues which are available in the Department. The collection, which is housed in the Foreign Samples Section at 7-11, Old Bailey, E.C.4, contains 15,000 trade catalogues of German, Austrian, U.S.A., Italian, Belgian, Canadian, Swiss, Danish, French, Japanese, Dutch, Polish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Finnish firms. Copies of the catalogues will be lent to manufacturers in the provinces on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

*The 1920 Arab rising.

Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, February 7.

Pink Boll Worm Danger.

The Government has issued a communiqué drawing the attention of cultivators to the law which forbids the storage of unginned cotton after April 30, unless it is deposited in warehouses fulfilling all the requirements laid down by the agricultural authorities with a view to preventing the escape of the pink boll worm moth. The reason for this notice is that cultivators are holding up their cotton in an unginned state in the hopes of the market rising, and that this action may mean that a very considerable quantity of cotton will still be unginned on May 1, with consequent danger to the coming crop owing to it not having been possible to kill by fumigation pink boll worm existing in the seed. The Government has taken up the matter with the more important ginners, and in order to meet the cultivators it has been arranged for the ginners to gin and store the cotton until August at an inclusive charge without any obligation on the part of the owner to sell his cotton. It is to be hoped that cultivators will pay the requisite attention to this notice, for, otherwise, not only will there not be sufficient good sowing seed for the cotton area, but whatever cotton is sown will be in danger of very extensive attack from pink boll worm.

Industrial Workers and their Wages.

A law has just been promulgated by the Council of Ministers, and confirmed by proclamation for application to foreigners, forbidding workers to cede their wages to syndicates or other bodies. This has been rendered necessary by the action of the tramway syndicate, which persuaded the workers of the Cairo Tramway to cede their wages to it. The law has been enacted as much for the protection of the workers themselves as for the prevention of any undue influence being brought to bear on them by reactionary elements.

CAIRO, February 10.

Large Deficit for Half-Year.

The State accounts for the half year just published show a very large deficit. Revenue amounted to ££16,640,008 as against ££12,269,077 last year, and expenditure to ££19,684,369 as compared with ££11,409,365. There is an increase of ££4,370,931 in revenue, but, as under expenditure there is an increase of ££8,275,004, the half year balances with a deficit of ££3,044,361 instead of an excess of receipts (££859,712) recorded at the end of the half year in 1920. The chief heads of revenue showing an increase have been customs, ££1,718,247; tobacco, ££893,969; judicial receipts, ££296,807; railways, ££985,685; Ghaffir cess, ££174,665; and military exemption fees, ££132,120; while on the expenditure side more than half the increase is accounted for by railways (££4,665,305), the outgoings of which have been about trebled, the other important items being education, ££192,217; irrigation, ££200,850; survey, ££149,471; and indemnities for the cost of living, ££1,219,467.

It is as yet too early to forecast how the accounts will balance at the end of the year. The bulk of the land tax has still to come in, but, on the other hand, the cotton crisis cannot fail to affect the other sources of revenue. The utmost economy is being exercised in every department, and, although the financial authorities are having no enviable task in handling the situation and budgeting for next year, it would be wrong to adopt at this stage too pessimistic a view of the situation.

THE SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, February 6.

Light Railway to be Constructed.

It is reported that the Government have decided to build a light railway from Tokar to Trinkitat in order to move this year's cotton crop. As a temporary measure, this will no doubt be beneficial, but it is difficult to reconcile the proposition with the conditions on which the £6,000,000 loan was raised, in view of the fact that £400,000 of this sum was distinctly ear-marked for the Suakin-Tokar main line extension and the improvement of existing irrigation works. The estimated cost of the light line is some £25,000, and the transport of the cotton from Trinkitat to Suakin and Port Sudan for ginning will still be in the hands of the owners of the native sailing craft, so that the situation will not be materially improved. This appears to be a case where half measures will wreck the whole enterprise. The expenditure of a further £25,000 on the provision of self-

propelled sea-going lighters to complete the scheme would appear to the mind of the non-Government individual as the obvious course to make certain of moving the crop satisfactorily. It would be interesting to know whether the completion of the main line is again postponed indefinitely, or whether the difference in the cost of the two projects will be diverted to some other purpose, such as beautifying the embankment road in Khartoum, or the provision of an up-to-date drainage system in the capital, which is sadly lacking.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, February 22.

Railway Stores and Coal Required.

It is stated that the Ministry of Communications proposes to buy large quantities of general railway stores and material which are urgently required for the improvement of transport. It is also proposed to buy large stocks of coal to hold in reserve enough to maintain the entire service for three months, by which means it is hoped to be in a position to avoid the stoppage of traffic during any further strikes which may break out.

Suppression of Money Changers.

The fluctuations in exchange led to the growth of a whole crop of money-lenders in Belgrade, and shopkeepers of every kind opened money-changing departments, and battered upon the helpless public, especially in those days when the krone and the dinar were both current simultaneously with fluctuating values. This was stopped by the fixing of the ratio of kronen to dinars at one to four, but the "shroffs" still had plenty of scope in Austrian kronen, lei, levas, lire, francs, pounds, and other assorted currencies. The thing was so abused that at last the Government introduced regulations, and the authorities are seeing that these are carried out. A whole series of amateur money-changers have been suppressed. Recently several have been fined, and severely, too.

CATALOGUES FOR ZAGREB.

His Majesty's Consul at Zagreb states that he would be glad to receive any catalogues dealing with the following classes of British goods which United Kingdom firms may care to send:—Clothing of all kinds, boots and shoes; wood-working machinery and tools, especially for furniture manufacture; agricultural machinery; commercial motors; paper, stationery, and office appliances; building materials, central heating plant, geysers; prints and colours, especially distemper for internal walls; sports goods; household rubber goods; surgical and dental instruments and rubber goods; electrical appliances and fittings for house, shop, and tramway use; shop fittings; fancy leather goods; plant for coal mines; prepared foodstuffs, jams, tinned meats, cocoa, etc.; cutlery and table silver (cheap kinds). The consul also suggests that firms engaged in textile manufacture should send some species of advertisement.

This market was formerly largely supplied by Germany, and the German language is the principal business language, so that it would be preferable if these catalogues were printed in the national language, Serb-Croatian, or alternatively in German, which is the only alternative to Croatian and is largely spoken. Catalogues may be sent direct to H.M. Consul, Gjorgjiceva Ulica 7, Zagreb (Agram), by commercial papers post-marked "Printed matter." The limit in weight for this method of transmission is 4 lb. per packet.

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THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR. OUTSTANDING EXHIBITS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

As I expected, activity at the White City section of the British Industries Fair—the other sections, as my readers are aware, are being held at Birmingham and Glasgow—became much more pronounced after the first couple of days; and while on my subsequent visits the fair was never uncomfortably packed, it needed no demonstration that there has been no lack of appreciation of the opportunity on the part of foreign buyers. It is too early to attempt to forecast the extent of the business done, but from what I have seen there is, I think, no question that if the immediate results of the fair are not all that could be hoped for, it will have a most important influence as soon as the wheels of commerce are once more running smoothly.

Further acquaintance with the White City only served to bring home the suitability of this centre for the fair. It is roomy and convenient, and there are plenty of gaps in the serried galleries of exhibits where it is possible for the buyers to rest their wearied legs. I suppose it is too much to hope that next year's fair will be held at the same centre, but if so, I would suggest that advantage should be taken of the facilities of the White City to hold all the sections of the fair in the same building. There are obvious advantages in localising the fair by concentrating machine exhibits in Birmingham, and textiles, etc., in Glasgow, but the disadvantages are even more pronounced. The purpose of the exhibition is to serve as a stimulant to the export trade, and this can best be achieved by affording every assistance to buyers from overseas for viewing the exhibits under the most favourable circumstances. At present it cannot be said that this is the case.

The most disappointing feature of the fair from my point of view has been the comparative absence of buyers from the Near and Middle East. Bulgaria is officially represented, also Roumania I believe, but the ordinary buyer from these and other countries in that region was difficult to come across. For this present conditions are entirely responsible. The exchanges prevent normal trade transactions, and as there has been delay in setting up an export credits scheme, it is not surprising that would-be buyers have come to the conclusion that a visit to the fair would not be worth while. Another year there will no doubt be a very different story to tell, for there is no question at all as to the great interest taken in the fair in the regions in question. Our Bucharest correspondent touched on this question in a message given in these columns last week, and what he said is of general application.

Toys and Games.

And now for the continuation of my review of the exhibits. Messrs. Hobbies, Ltd., had on view a large selection of their fretwork outfits and treadle saws, which ought to make a strong appeal in export markets. Another interesting stall was that of Messrs. Dean's Rag Book Co., Ltd., who showed a number of their world-famous untearable rag books, etc. Harbutt's Plasticine, Ltd., exhibited a

variety of their plasticine sets, and also showed a remarkable model in plasticine of an Arab mounted on a camel in the desert, with huge palm trees of green and brown plasticine in the background—a very artistic piece of work. Messrs. Meccano, Ltd., were showing some clock-work locomotives, together with some working models made from their constructional toys. Unfortunately, we have not sufficient space to quote all the exhibitors and the firms I have mentioned must be taken as indicating the scope of this section, which, on the whole, shows, in my opinion, that a distinct advance has been made in the quality of British toys since last year.

Among the sports goods section, Messrs. F. H. Ayres, Ltd., exhibited a wide range of tennis and badminton racquets, bowls, and cricket requisites, etc. They also had on view indoor games of every description. The Philip Mead Bat Co. were showing their well-known cricket bats, and also tennis and badminton racquets. Then Messrs. Slazengers, Ltd., whose stand was exquisitely decorated with palms of various sizes, were exhibiting their tennis racquets and balls.

Paper and Stationery.

The paper, printing, and stationery section richly repaid a visit. It has grown enormously since last year, and was housed in a large annexe. Even so, it is still far from being comprehensive of the industry, though I imagine that those who had to visit it intimately would find themselves in agreement that no further expansion was desirable. All kinds of printing were well illustrated, books, magazines, photogravures, etc., being there in abundance, to say nothing of maps and stationery. And over all was the indelible stamp of quality, and the exhibits left no doubt that in this industry Great Britain remains in the van. I was specially interested in the numerous stands of leading publishing firms. Messrs. Thomas Nelson and Son, Ltd., showed an attractive selection of general literature and toy-books; Messrs. Ward, Lock and Co., Ltd., had a tastefully arranged stall full of novels, story books, and other similar productions; Messrs. Blackie and Son, Ltd., showed examples of fine art printing, together with a variety of their general publications; while Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, Ltd., had on view an admirable selection of their fine reproductions of famous pictures in colours and monochrome. Another interesting stand was that of Messrs. E. Marlborough and Co., showing stationery of all descriptions. As usual, the stand of the Cambridge University Press was of special interest, and it is clear that whatever critics may say in other directions, Cambridge continues to lead in the, shall I say, more material art of printing. Another stand that attracted attention was that of "Geographia," Ltd., wherein were displayed *inter alia* the excellent Victory series of atlases. One wondered as one looked how many of them would be rendered out of date by the decisions of the London Conference.

Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., exhibited some exquisite coloured calendars, Christmas cards, and picture postcards. They were also showing some of their admirable fine art reproductions. An interesting stand was that of the Pictograph Publishing Co., producers of original designs for advertising purposes, etc. They showed a number of striking pictures of the eternal feminine, notably a very bizarre study of a Spanish girl in purple and green, with a purple and blue background, standing on a mountain of appetising-looking oranges. Other important stands were those of Messrs. George Rowney and Co., who showed pencils, crayons, inks, and artists' colours and equipment; the Royal Sovereign Pencil Co., Ltd., whose exhibits included all kinds of pencils and crayons; and Messrs. D. Gestetner, who had

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on view several types of their Rotary Cyclostyles. Reference must also be made to the interesting stand of the Imperial Typewriter Co., Ltd., who exhibited their famous typewriter with the instantly interchangeable type-bars and keyboard. The machines are manufactured in English, French, Russian, Greek, Serbian, Polish, Swedish, Spanish, and twenty other languages. This typewriter is well known and largely used in the Near East, and only recently I understand that the Serbian War Office placed an order for three hundred of these machines.

Photographic Goods.

I was rather disappointed with the photographic section this year, though it was better than it was twelve months ago. The exhibits were few in number, and most of the well-known firms were conspicuous by their absence. Why this should be so is a mystery. The markets of the Near East offer vast scope for photographic apparatus and appliances, and a policy of enterprise would richly repay British manufacturers. The exhibitors included Messrs. W. Butcher and Sons, Ltd., who had on view a large selection of plate and film cameras, and also cinematograph cameras and projectors. They have done an extensive business in Mesopotamia and Egypt in cinematographs and projectors, etc., but not so far with the Levant, where, however, as soon as conditions are settled there ought to be a good market both for cameras and cinematographs. The Leto Photo Materials Co., Ltd., had a very interesting stand, showing a wide range of photographs printed on their famous Seltone paper, the excellence of which I can vouch for from personal experience. The stand of Messrs. Kosmos Photographics, Ltd., gave some examples of work done on Novex paper, which has the outstanding quality that it presents no difficulties regarding development, etc. They specialise in a tropical paper which is proof against all climates, which should be of great value to photographers in the Near and Middle Eastern countries. I must also mention Messrs. E. B. Fry, Ltd., makers of the "specialist" lantern slides, printing masks, and passport bindings. They had on view a very fine rainbow-opaque announcement slide, which gives a beautiful effect to any announcement or drawing. Their output of these plates amounts to over three and a half million yearly.

Pottery and Glassware.

One might justly say that, as usual, the china and earthenware exhibits were excellent, but as a matter of fact, good as they have been in previous years, this time even last year's admirable display was surpassed. Particularly noteworthy was the exhibition of art pottery, and it is evident that in this trade there has been no standing still, and that there is no danger of the skilful craftsmanship of bygone years becoming a thing of the past. The firms exhibiting in this section ought to reap a rich harvest in the Near and Middle East, given the requisite enterprise and adequate attention to local requirements. Many of them have shown themselves rather conservative in regard to markets in the past, but no doubt in this industry, as in others, this phase has gone.

To single out the best stand in this section would be an invidious task. So many exhibits presented a perfect blend of colours that it would be almost impossible to discriminate between the various grades of exquisite workmanship. A specially attractive stand was that of Messrs. Doulton and Co., Ltd., showing their art pottery in Flambé, Old Sung, Titanian, and other styles. Messrs. Josiah Wedgwood and Co., Ltd., exhibited a characteristic selection of their well-known products, and at this stand I was particularly

enamoured of some vases in light blue and white. Other attractive exhibits were those of Messrs. Sampson Bridge-wood, and Son. Messrs. Wileman and Co., Messrs. Myott Son, and Co., and Messrs. W. Moorcroft, Ltd., the last-named showing some excellent examples of their "Moorcroft" ware.

In the glassware section the exhibitors included the Berkefeld Filter Co., who exhibited different patterns of the "Berkefeld" filter for domestic, restaurant, ships, camps, laboratory, and experimental purposes; Messrs. Tate, Burtles, Ltd., had on view a large selection of wine-glasses, decanters, butter and fruit dishes, gas globes, etc.; and Messrs. Kilner Bros., Ltd., who exhibited various kinds of mineral-water bottles, wine and spirit bottles, etc., and also the "Kilner" domestic preserving jars. The Amalgamated Glass Bottle Works, Ltd., had on show a large number of hand and machine made medicine bottles, tinted in blue and brown, and other of their products. The British and Foreign Bottle Co., Ltd., were showing a selection of honey, jam, and pickle jars, confectionery jars, and their well-known brown malt extract jars. The firm of Messrs. John Walsh Walsh exhibited some table glassware, cut-glass cake dishes and an excellent set of light green wine-glasses. This stand was, in my opinion, the best arranged in the section, and the exhibits were undoubtedly of the highest quality.

Furniture.

This section, which is practically a newcomer, promises in future years to present one of the most important features of the fair. It was fairly large this year, but it could not by any stretch of imagination be described as representative. I looked for many of the famous firms, but in vain, for they were not there. Perhaps they are under the impression that the fair is not likely to prove useful to them as a trade medium. If so, the sooner they divest themselves of that idea the better. An interesting stand in this section was that of Messrs. Beresford and Hicks, who had on view an admirable selection of furniture in all varieties. Messrs. B. Cohen and Sons, Ltd., had a large exhibit, in which were displayed some admirable examples of wardrobes, sideboards, tables, chairs, and other articles. Other stands deserving notice were those of Messrs. W. and T. Lock, showing bedroom and dining-room suites, and Messrs. Herman and Phillips, Ltd. Reference must also be made to the attractive stand of Messrs. Shannon, Ltd., showing a variety of their well-known office furniture and appliances.

Finally, a word is called for in regard to the exhibits of drugs and druggists' sundries. As in other sections, the recent advance made in this industry was very apparent, and the section, it may be added, was much more complete than in previous years. Space prohibits more than the most casual mention of the stands, but among them the following are worthy of mention:—The British Glass Wool Co., Ltd., showing glass wool, free from lead, for the chemical trades, glass fibre brushes and polishers, etc.; Messrs. W. J. Bush and Co., Ltd., manufacturers of synthetic drugs, perfumes, and toilet preparations, a particularly attractive stand; and Duroglass, Ltd., makers of scientific and laboratory glassware, glass tubing, beakers, test-tubes, burettes, pipettes, etc.

The stand which, in my opinion, was the most tastefully arranged in the exhibition was that of Messrs. J. C. Eno, Ltd., who displayed their well-known fruit salts amid a miniature vineyard of black and white grapes, in the centre being a graceful little statue representing "The Symbol of Health."

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ENGINEERING.

Electric Starting Sets.

Some rather interesting figures have just been sent me with regard to the economy of the C.A.V. dynamo lighting and starting set, and commenting on these it is clear that it will be no difficult task for the owner of a private or commercial vehicle to work out for himself the saving which will result from its adoption.

We may suppose that the average commercial vehicle has its engine running idle somewhere in the neighbourhood of from three to three and a-half hours per day. Even with careful running it cannot consume much less than one gallon of petrol during that time. We may assume that it is possible to save that gallon of petrol by fitting an engine-starter, and that possibility would very nearly be made a certainty by making fuel consumption, or rather fuel saving, a basis for determining the bonus paid to the driver. Calculating the cost of petrol, for the sake of argument, at being 3s. 6d. a gallon, and regarding the vehicle as being at work for five days in the week, the saving in petrol by being able to stop the engine when not wanted and to start up instantly when required by a self-starter, would be 17s. 6d. per week. There is the cost of the outfit now to be considered, and for a 4-ton lorry or a big char-a-banc this would be somewhere about £40. In looking at this, however, it must be remembered that were such a set not installed it would be necessary to provide some other means of lighting, and were that system either oil or acetylene there would be a constant consumption of material, the cost of which would also have to be taken into account. The amount saved in this way would have to be added to the 17s. 6d. already saved, and it will be seen then that the lighting and starting set would pay for itself in a very short time. Taking a set of oil lamps as costing about £10, we find that in about nine months or so we should have saved the cost of the outfit, and still be saving very nearly a pound a week in one way and another. To show the favour with which the C.A.V. sets are viewed by users, I may mention that they are used by, amongst others, the following firms, viz.:—The London General Omnibus Company, Tilling-Stevens Motors, J. I. Thornycroft and Co.; Dennis Bros.; Harrier Motors, Leyland Motors, and Halley's Industrial Motors. By the way, I hear that the C.A.V. firm have just brought

out a new type of electric horn, which, in addition to being reasonable in price, possesses certain advantages not found in other horns of a somewhat similar type.

Revival of Motor Industry.

The revival of this vast and important section of British engineering activity is not only coming, it simply cannot be stopped unless we as a nation purposely stop it. Two cardinal facts exist: one is the gigantic world-wide demand for motor vehicles in general, and the other, of greater significance from our viewpoint, is the marked preference for the British-made car throughout the home and overseas markets. The experienced and discerning motorist is open to pay £100 more for the British product.

Conservative calculation estimated the world demand for British cars at the beginning of 1920 at 50,000, two-thirds of which demand was from overseas markets. It does not take a genius at figures to appreciate that at an average of £1,000 per car this would represent a total of £50,000,000, of which £37,000,000 worth would go overseas. Can Britain afford, with its present National Debt, to turn down thirty-seven million pounds' worth of export trade? Quantity production schemes launched by several of the leading British manufacturers aimed at securing this trade for Britain. Increased production presented the only possible means which could do it. The desired output was not reached, the hampering element in the majority of instances being the fetters around capital.

Of the British manufacturers which launched out upon "the big enterprise"—that is, quantity production of a standardised model upon an economic basis—one name at least stands out prominently as having achieved a really tangible success. It is the Austin Motor Co. This firm has proved indisputably its capacity for producing a type of car which the whole world wants in considerable numbers; a car the design of which caters for the requirements of all motorists and is particularly suited to overseas conditions.

The Austin Twenty.

As to the product itself, the Austin Twenty is undoubtedly an achievement, and one of a national nature. It is the British master-stroke to the American principle of mass production, which has made a better car for the same money. Definitely, there is not another car in the world presenting its equivalent in sheer value. The Austin Twenty is not an average British car; it is above the average; and when one considers its remarkably moderate price it is not difficult to see the reason for its huge demand.

As an indication of the great confidence with which the Austin Twenty car is regarded by the home market, actual contracts have been placed totalling 5,000 cars for this country alone during the current year, and the brightest aspect of all is that the great Austin factory at Longbridge, equipped and organised as it is, is capable of an output of anything from 200 cars a week upwards. Here production costs have been reduced to a scientific minimum by the application of the most modern plant and methods, which explains why the Austin Co. can market the Austin Twenty at the astonishingly low price of £695.

Reverting to the other Austin products, and in particular the famous Austin tractor, this is another engineering achievement of supreme importance, and a further example of the Austin policy of standardising one type of machine—the design of which is the result of the most careful analysis, of experiment and tests—and once the design was defined, of setting about quantity production upon strictly economic lines, thus keeping its selling price down to a popular figure. Since its first appearance the Austin tractor has a consistent chain of successes to its credit, gaining highest awards at agricultural shows, tests, and matches. Three thousand five hundred of these machines are already contracted for during the current year, while manufacturing facilities are capable of increasing output to 200 a week. Consider for a moment the vast export trade possible in this article, bearing in mind that in India alone the major proportion of its three hundred million population live by agriculture.

Baghdad Tractor Show.

Baghdad held its first agricultural tractor competition for fifteen consecutive days during January, with Austin, Fiat, Fordson, and Saunderson machines as the principal performers. The trials were followed with great interest by the Arab farmers, who were very quickly converted to the advantages of mechanical traction, and who placed orders for these machines without waiting for the final and technical results of the competition. The sight of these modern agricultural machines being driven and cared for by the natives was picturesque in the extreme. The competition was carried through very successfully, all the machines doing good work, and the Fiat, which, as usual, used paraffin, being particularly remarked. The trials were attended by the High Commissioner, Sir Percy Cox, by various ministers, and other officials, all of whom expressed their satisfaction at the results obtained.

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TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

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

Drugs.—The Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of drugs, such as proprietary articles, crude drugs, heavy chemicals, fine chemical products, dressings, galenicals, etc. March 10.

Benzine.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 1,700 tins of benzine and 3,155 tins of petroleum (1,155 naked tins and 2,000 tins in cases) for the first half-year of 1921-1922. March 16.

Paints, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of paints, oils, tar, soap, etc., required during the first six months of the financial year 1921-1922. March 17.

Roofing Tiles.—The Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Bulaq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 40,000 "Marseilles" roofing tiles (specification, 50 millimetres). March 17.

Linen, etc.—The Sub-Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Insha, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of bed linen, table linen, etc. (7,000 metres of cotton sheetings, 8,000 metres of tulle for mosquito nets, 1,200 blankets, Morocco wool, etc.), table requisites (12,500 china plates, 4,000 glass tumblers, 3,000 knives, 2,500 forks, 2,500 spoons, etc.) required for the school year 1921-22. March 19.

Envelopes.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of envelopes. April 2.

Lubricating Oils.—The general manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo station, invites tenders for the supply of 1,630 metric tons of mineral lubricating oils (specification, 200 millimetres). April 9.

Equipment, etc.—The Director of Stores, Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of stores required by that Department for the year 1921. The material required includes:—Arms, ammunition, accoutrements, ordnance stores, clothing and necessities for the police and "Ghaffir" services; harness and saddlery; fire-engine equipment; barrack and other furniture; tools; general stores. Tenders, which can only be submitted by firms established in Egypt or having a representative there, must be received in Cairo by April 18. Copies of the specifications, etc., may be inspected by United Kingdom firms interested on application to the inquiry office of the Department of Overseas Trade, at 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Roumania.

Supplies for the Roumanian Ministry of War.—The Roumanian Ministry of War desires to receive quotations from United Kingdom manufacturers and merchants for the supply of various qualities of the following articles which are required in large quantities:—Sugar, rice, coffee, olive oil, tea, soap, canned meat (1920 manufacture), khaki cloth, army boots, uniforms (tunic, trousers, and mantle). The specification of the khaki cloth is as follows:—440 grammes weight per metre, 25 kilogrammes resistance, 25-30 divisions elasticity, to be well carded, sheared, prepared and shrunk. It is proposed that payment will be made by Roumanian Government Treasury Bonds bearing 6 per cent. interest, and repayable in two years' time. All quotations, together with full particulars and samples, should be addressed to Ministère de la Guerre, 7-me Direction Intendance, Strada Jules Michlet Nr. 28, Bucharest, Roumania.

Bulgaria.

Locomotives.—The Bulgarian Legation desires to receive tenders for the supply of 25 locomotives and 270 goods wagons for the Bulgarian State Railways.

Yugoslavia.

Tenders are invited by the Yugoslav Ministry of Public Works for the erection of a power station, main conductors, and transforming stations in connection with an electrical scheme at Kostolac for the supply of current for Belgrade, Semlin, etc. Tenders, which should be addressed to the Director, Ministry of Public Works, Belgrade, are to be submitted by May 1. A translation of the specifications and conditions of tender, together with a plan showing the disposition of the various stations and lines, may be inspected by United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters interested on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

Morocco (Spanish Zone).

Telegraph Posts and Wire.—Tenders are invited by the Development Commission (Delegacion de Fomento) for the supply of 150 creosote posts, 7 metres in length; 2,500 kilos of galvanised iron wire, 4 millimetres in diameter. Tenders are to be delivered by March 22 at the "Negociado de Telegrafos de la Delegacion de Fomento," Tetuan, or at the Ministerio de Estado, Madrid, accompanied by a certificate to the effect that the sum of 500 pesetas has been deposited in the Banco de Espana, Madrid, or in the Moroccan State Bank, Tetuan, as a preliminary deposit. Particulars may be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade.

REMEDIES FOR THE TRADE CRISIS.

Increased Production and Restricted Currency.

In a letter to THE NEAR EAST dealing with the trade crisis arising out of the adverse exchanges and the lack of credits abroad, Sir W. Watson Rutherford, M.P., chairman of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, writes:—

I think there is no doubt that the whole industrial community who were largely mobilised for the purposes of the war, and those who were not called away were working at high pressure in munitions, etc., are naturally feeling the strain, and for some little time will certainly be indisposed to continue any exceptional exertions. This is one of the causes of the great slump in trade, arising out of short production.

Another cause undoubtedly is that the industrial unrest, partly resulting from the above, has made it almost impossible for manufacturers and employers to quote prices and accept contracts, because they naturally feel a difficulty with regard to the demands that might be made upon them for extra wages, and the uncertainty as to the cost of raw materials.

A third cause has undoubtedly been the difficult position brought about by the relative values of exchange between the different countries. This has been partly brought about by the exceptional shortage of various materials, machinery, etc., in those countries which they have been obliged to purchase from outside, and partly also by the abolition of the gold standard and the indiscriminate printing of currency to the extent of millions of money. Some countries have been flooded with a mere paper currency, and in others such currency has been considerably restricted, and obviously, to some extent, the value has been depreciated by the excessive supply.

How far these discrepancies in the currencies could be palliated or put right to any extent by countervailing duties is a matter upon which opinions are divided, but my own view is that any such attempted palliative, even if temporarily successful, would not cure the real evil which is at the root of the difficulty. In my opinion, the only real remedy is increased production and facilities for export, coupled with an immediate restriction on the output and circulation of currency, which is merely printed paper.

So long as some of the nations pay their liabilities by printing additional banknotes and putting them in circulation, so long will those countries inevitably have an exceedingly adverse exchange.

With regard to the subject of the lack of credits abroad, it is obvious that until production can be re-established and the ordinary avenues of trade once more put upon a pre-war footing, credits abroad must inevitably be restricted. Any attempt made by any Government or Governments artificially to create these credits may possibly bring about a temporary improvement, but until trade and production resume their normal proportions it will not be possible to rely upon any such remedies being permanent.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended February 12 amounted to £12,413.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Bucharest reports that the importation into Roumania of gramophones is now freely permitted.

Negotiations for the acquisition by the P. and O. Banking Corporation of a controlling interest in the Allahabad Bank have now been completed.

It is reported that the local authorities at Tunis have sanctioned the exportation of 2,250 metric tons of olive oil to foreign countries, including Great Britain.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—The position as regards currants is much the same. There has been a steady demand for this commodity, and the tendency is towards higher rates. Smyrna sultanas have been in stronger request, and in general prices are on the firm side. Figs are moving off rapidly. Persian dates are still neglected, and prices have fallen to a level which one would think should bring buyers in.

Sugar.—There has been a slight depreciation in prices. West Indian crystallised has been done at 58s. 6d. to 61s. 6d., and American granulated has come to business at 37s. 6d. Home refined has been in steady request at the official rates.

Coffee.—The market has been steady. Quotations are:—March 42s., May 45s., July 46s., September 46s. 6d., and December 48s.

Oilseeds.—There has been little change in prices. Indian linseed is the same at 19s.; La Plata, however, is 2s. 3d. down at 16s. 6d. Rapeseed has been firm, with Toria 6d. up at 19s. and bold Ferozepore unchanged at 18s., while brown Cawnpore is quoted at 16s. Cottonseed has been steady, with Indian at 9s. and Egyptian black at 11s. 3d., an increase of 6d.

Seed Oils.—Oils have been variable. Linseed oil at 32s. 9d. is 1s. 3d. down. Rape oil has gained 1s. at 49s. Refined cotton oil is the same at 40s.; while the Egyptian crude variety is 1s. up at 32s. Turpentine is 3s. lower at 60s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 182s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 298s. cwt.; cheese, 160s. cwt.; chilies, 125s. cwt.; eggs, 30s. 6d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 10½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 80s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 120s. cwt.; East Indian bold, 112s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 103s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 37s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 160s. cwt.; lard, 125s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 10½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 8½d. lb.; raisins Valencia, 130s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 110s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 89s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 72s. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 76s. cwt.; Mauritius, 70s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 23s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 16s. 3d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 13s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £5 12s. 6d. ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 6½d. lb.; Java, 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 89s. 9d. qr.; wheat (English white), 62s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 80s. qr.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; bismuth, 10s. lb.; antimony (English regulus), £39 12s. 6d. ton; copper (standard), £72 5s. ton; copper (electro), £78 5s. ton; gold bars 105s. 0½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 195s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 220s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £20 12s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 2s. 2½d. unit; molybdenite, 60s. unit; nickel, £205 ton; platinum, 325s. oz.; plumbago, £35 ton; quicksilver, £12 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 34½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 1s. 3d. ton; tinplates (20 by 14), 29s. box; tin (standard), £168 5s. ton; wolfram, 14s. 7½d. unit; zinc sheets, £38 10s. ton.

Chemicals.—Acids: boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 1s. 0½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 11½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £25 2s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £51 ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 2½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 ton; borax crystals, 38s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 160s. cwt.; potassium: bichromate, 1s. 2½d. lb.; chlorate, 6½d. lb.; caustic, £55 ton; nitrate, £57 ton; permanganate, 1s. 10½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 3d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £34 10s. ton; sodium: crystals, 150s. ton; bicarbonate, £10 15s. ton; bichromate, 8½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £10 10s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite £23 10s. ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £19 15s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £36 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 10½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 6½d. oz.; red lead, £40 10s. ton; white dry lead, £44 2s. 6d. ton; white ground lead, £54 10s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 19.14d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian, Sakellaridis), 14.50d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £16 17s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £18 12s. 6d. ton; soya beans, £11 10s. ton; palm kernels, £20 ton; Oils: linseed, £32 15s. ton; soya, £29 ton; cotton (crude), £29 10s. ton; olive, 11s. 6d. gallon; ground nut, £33 10s. ton; palm, £37 12s. 6d. ton; rape (crude) £45 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3½d. gallon; turpentine, 60s. cwt.; rubber: plantation No. 1 crepe, 1s. 1½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 11½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11½d. lb.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated February 21:—During the week ending February 12 rainfall has benefited late spring crops in Bengal. Standing crops fair to good generally, except in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, where more rain badly wanted. Bombay cotton market firm. Fine M.G. Oomra, March, Rs. 254; May, Rs. 266. Piece-goods market dull. Calcutta jute and gunny markets lifeless. Talk of jute mills working four days only revived owing to coal transport difficulties. No change in bank rates.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

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

The market shows no signs at present of recovering from the sickness which has fallen upon it. Conditions ruling are practically the same as noted in our last report, and the tendency is to become worse, if anything, rather than better. The amount of business put through has lately fallen to insignificant proportions, and the small inquiry centred chiefly round Sakellaridis. A weak future market has further aggravated matters, and all prices show a substantial decline on the week, brown cotton being the worst sufferer, whilst fully good fair Sakellaridis is getting down almost to a tenderable basis. Holders of Egyptian cotton would do well to realise that there is a large quantity of staple American and "outsiders" on our market which is being offered very reasonably, and that competition must be expected from that quarter whilst present conditions are ruling. Sales 350 bales. Quotations of upper are reduced 150 to 200 points. Quotations of brown are reduced 250 to 400 points. Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced 200 points all round. Fully good fair Sakel (official quotation) 14.50d.

CULTIVATION IN THE SUDAN.

The following particulars are given in the C.E.B. report for December:—

Bahr-el-Ghazal Province, November.—Reports from all districts are good. No grain has been harvested yet, but will be gathered during the coming month. The rainfall for the month was one inch, which is over the average for November.

Mongalla Province, November.—Very fair reports from all districts, but in the Yei River district, owing to poor rains in August and September, the simsim crop has entirely failed.

Darfur Province, November.—The Ushur assessment is expected to be completed by the middle of December. Such results as have been received up to date show substantial increases on last year's assessment.

Dongola Province.—The asal fly has appeared in the Southern district, causing a certain amount of damage to the late dura crops.

Upper Nile Province.—The Sobat is higher than last year and a strong stream is flowing down the Gila, so that river communications are likely to be favourably prolonged. The Garjak country is still cut off by water.

OIL OUTPUTS.

The Anglo Egyptian oil output is as follows:—Gemsah (week ended February 17), 1,292 tons (last week nil tons). Hurgada (week ended February 17), 3,942 tons (last week 3,949 tons).

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the National Bank of Egypt will be held on Tuesday, the 29th March, 1921, at 4 p.m., at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo, for the purpose of—

- Receiving the Directors' Report.
- Receiving the Auditors' Report.
- Submitting the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1920.
- Declaring a Dividend.
- Re-electing Directors.
- Ratifying the nomination of a new Director.
- Electing Auditors for the year 1921 and fixing their remuneration.

All Shareholders holding a minimum of 20 shares have the right to take part in the General Meeting provided the shares be deposited under the following conditions at one of the following places, where cards of admission or proxy forms will be delivered:—

In EGYPT, at the latest, the 24th March, 1921.

At the Head Office, Cairo.

At the Branch at Alexandria.

At the Agencies of the Bank at Assiut, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chebin-el-Kom, Damanhour, Fayoum, Guerga, Kench, Luxor, Mansurah, Minieh, Port Said, Rod-el-Farag (Cairo), Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and Musky (Cairo).

At the Office of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Bank of Athens, Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, Imperial Ottoman Bank, Banque d'Orient, Banco di Roma, Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio, Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Credit Lyonnais.

In the SUDAN, at the latest, the 18th March, 1921.

At the Agencies of the National Bank of Egypt, at Khartoum, Port Sudan, and Suakin.

In EUROPE, at the latest, the 15th March, 1921.

In Paris, at the Offices of the Société Marseillaise.

In Italy, at the Offices of the Banca Commerciale Italiana.

In London, at the Agency of the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

F. T. ROWLATT, Governor.

Cairo, 14th February, 1920.

OTTOMAN UNIFIED 4 PER CENT. DEBT, 1903-1906.

DEPOSIT OF COUPONS NOS. 23 TO 33, INCLUSIVE.

As the result of communications which have passed between the Council of Foreign Bond-holders and the Clearing Office, the Council give notice that:—

- (1) The receipt of coupons on deposit will remain open until a date to be announced.
- (2) Coupons may be deposited which were in the depositor's possession on or prior to the 10th of January, 1920.
- (3) Whilst deposits can only be received from British Nationals, residence within the United Kingdom is not essential, but Bondholders residing in British Colonies and Dominions must make their claims through their own Clearing Offices or Governments.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN BONDHOLDERS.

JAMES P. COOPER, Secretary.

17, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.2,
26th February, 1921.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.**Depressing Conditions.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

During the past week the tone of the market has been one of extreme quietness, and business has been very dull. The most disconcerting feature has been the day-to-day fluctuations in raw cotton rates, and until that section of the market shows some signs of steadiness nobody anticipates any immediate revival of demand. As the weeks pass by more and more machinery is gradually being stopped, and at the present moment there is talk of closing down the mills altogether. Of course, we have the consoling fact that as the days pass stocks of dear goods in the outlets abroad are gradually being reduced, consequently we have conclusive proof that sooner or later buyers will have to commence operations or else the people in the East will have to dispense with Lancashire goods. With regard to the cloth section, there has been a certain amount of inquiry about, but business has been on a very restricted scale. Occasional orders have been booked for Constantinople and Egypt, but the trade outlook in the Near East generally is far from bright. Shippers to India speak rather more hopefully of the situation, especially in Calcutta, but very few definite offers are about. Dhooties have gone through in small lots for Calcutta and mulls for Karachi, but Bombay has been very quiet. Buyers for China have not shown any particular eagerness to operate, and transactions have been of a hand-to-mouth variety. There are no signs of any increased activity on behalf of South America. In home trade circles, business has been very limited. In American yarns for home use prices have been weak when tested, and only isolated sales have occurred at cut prices. Shipping bundles have not been in great request, but a few odd lots of extra hard counts are reported as having gone through for the Levant.

ELECTRIFICATION OF YUGOSLAVIA.

For some time past, says the *Agrarier Tageblatt* in a recent article, the Ministries of Communications and Public Works have been in consultation regarding the formation of a technical commission for the purpose of drawing up a plan for the electrification of Yugoslavia. This plan is now adopted, and all the general lines of the work have been laid down. Henceforth the State will have the first right to create any electrical undertaking, but private individuals may carry out electrical undertakings where the State has not constructed such; but the special permission of the Ministry of Public Works is necessary in such cases. The State is enabled, if necessary, to expropriate such individuals on condition of indemnification. The State may also nationalise existing undertakings so far as is conducive to the above end. The upkeep of the transmission and cables devolves on the electrical administration of each commune. The highest advisory body on electrical questions is the Electro-technical State Council, which is composed of 15 members and 16 deputies (substitutes). The Council will include representatives from the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Public Works, Agriculture, Forestry and Health, the Electro-Technical Engineering Faculty, and the Law Society. As a means for controlling the revenue from electric power, an electro-technical finance committee will be set up at the Ministry of Trade. The manner in which the Ministry of Works will carry out the scheme in its final form will be promulgated in a special order.

YUGOSLAVIA'S IMPROVING POSITION.**Ready Market for British Goods.**

Notwithstanding the unsettled state of Yugoslavia, contingent upon the recent elections for the Constituent Assembly, the economic situation of the country compares favourably with that of its neighbours. As regards agricultural products there is an ascertained surplus of foodstuffs, to say nothing of the valuable forest products. Contrary to what has already been reported in certain quarters, trade by barter has not taken the place of money in the interior. The paper currency is the accepted medium of payment by the peasants, the trouble being rather that they demand too much of it. The exchange, although low, is better than that of the surrounding countries.

Representatives of several United Kingdom firms have secured fair orders, mostly in textiles. The course of sending representatives to investigate on the spot is advisable, for there will be found not only a ready market for United Kingdom manufacturers, but a considerable quantity of goods for export which are required in this country. The export of the available material would have the effect of establishing the necessary sterling credits from which payments could be made for the British manufactures required in Yugoslavia.

THE PRAGUE SAMPLES FAIR.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you allow me to bring to the notice of your readers a few particulars about the Prague Samples Fair and Market, which is being held between February 28 and March 8?

The fair comprises numerous exhibits in all branches of Czechoslovak industries, and provides the best opportunity for visitors to become acquainted with the economic life of Czechoslovakia, as well as for direct purchase of products, such as the well-known Bohemian glass, fancy goods (Gablons ware), toys, bentwood furniture, engineering accessories, musical instruments, gloves, etc. The fair was a great success last autumn, when it was held for the first time, and showed that Prague, situated as it is in the heart of a rich and industrial country, possesses every advantage for developing into an intermediary between the traders of Western and Eastern Europe. Exhibitors from every part of Europe are represented, and buyers from an equally wide area have announced their intention of visiting the fair.

The Czechoslovak Government granted the visitors all possible facilities as regards passports, customs, and financial transactions, and they were allowed special reduced rates on the Czechoslovak and Saxon railways. The management of the fair provided an adequate service of interpreters, and made all necessary arrangements as regards hotel accommodation, dealing with authorities, etc. Those British buyers who take this opportunity of visiting the country can fully avail themselves of the advantages derived from the rate of exchange, and resume relations with all their pre-war commercial friends, besides inaugurating new and profitable business connections.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Czechoslovak Legation, 8, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1, and from the representative of the fair, Mr. F. Sykora, 26, Gloucester Road, N.W.1.—Yours, etc.,

FRANTISEK POKORNY.

Czechoslovak Bureau of Information,
8, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1,
February 22.

BANQUE D'EXPORTATION PRIV. DU ROYAUME DE SERBIE.

(Royal priv. Serbian Bank for Exportation.)

BELGRADE, SERBIA.**Capital, Paid-up, 5,000,000 Dinars****Reserve - - 1,200,000 Dinars**

The Bank transacts all Banking Operations, undertakes all manner of financial, commercial and industrial enterprises and effects Money-Transfers to and from Foreign Countries. The Commercial Department of the Bank deals mainly in the Export of Native Products on its own account and on commission basis.

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CREDIT NATIONAL OTTOMAN

(Established by Imperial Decree dated January 1, 1917.)

Subscribed Capital	- - -	£T. 4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	- - -	£T. 2,000,000
Reserve Fund	- - -	£T. 140,000

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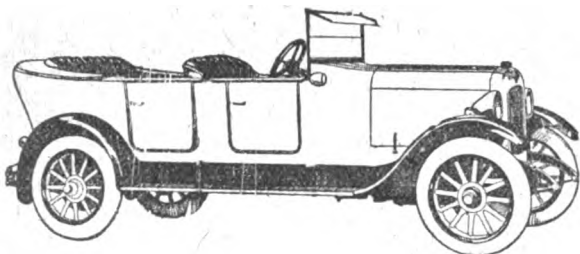
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(Affiliated to the British Trade Corporation).

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Business Houses trading with Turkey can insure Foreign Exchange with the Bank. Banks, Commercial Houses and others having interests in Turkey are invited to apply for terms.

Manufacturers and Merchants may address their enquiries to the Head Office for Trade Lists of Importers and Exporters.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the British Trade Corporation was held on February 23 at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, Moorgate Street, Lord Faringdon (the Governor) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. G. de B. Brounlie, A.C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that on the assets side of the balance-sheet it would be seen that they had cash in hand and at bankers, £254,441, against £63,541 at the end of 1919, an increase of £190,900, which was mainly due to the figures brought in from branches, where it was necessary to maintain a very liquid cash position. Money at call and short notice was £700,000, against £510,000. British Treasury bills held amounted to £250,000, against £700,000. Their investments, which included £350,000 National War Bonds and £175,000 Exchequer Bonds, were brought into account at or under cost, and amounted to £799,264, which was approximately their market value. Bills discounted, loans, advances, etc., stood at £1,977,444, as against £1,201,057 at the corresponding period, an increase of £776,387. The next item was capital in subsidiary companies, £307,380. They would see that the auditors stated in their certificate that they were unable to form an opinion as to its value. Neither were they. The sum of £307,380 represented less than the cost price of their interests in the Anglo-Brazilian Commercial and Agency Company, the Levant Company, the Trade Indemnity Company, and the South Russia Banking Agency. These were all interests they had deliberately acquired with a view to helping British trade.

The Levant Company had spread its trading ventures over a large area, and was at the moment suffering from the heavy fall that had occurred in all commodities, but it not infrequently happened that a sharp check was the precursor of ultimate success. Several of its fields of operation, such as Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria, were handicapped by unstable exchanges, and regions that seemed to open up unlimited opportunities for the marketing of British goods were almost closed against them at the present time. He was optimistic enough to feel convinced that these were troubles that time would heal, and, just as a year since he was able, from records that they had then in their hands, to give them a good account of the Levant Company's prospects, so he hoped that at no distant date they would be able to report a revival from the depression that was now apparent in so many directions. The Trade Indemnity Company, they were informed, showed a considerable increase on its premium income, and was doing all in its power to assist the export trade of the country. The South Russia Banking Agency was in *statu quo*, and no transactions could possibly take place until trade with Russia was placed upon some secure basis.

The progress made by the National Bank of Turkey was satisfactory, especially if they took into account the unfavourable conditions under which it had been working. Merchandise had accumulated at Constantinople, not only because of the general stagnation which had prevailed in all parts of the world, but also on account of special and local circumstances, which had practically cut off trade with a great part of Anatolia, with Southern Russia, and with Transcaucasia, thus throwing back upon Constantinople large quantities of goods intended for those regions. They had not yet received from Constantinople the accounts up to the end of 1920, and he was, therefore, unable to give them any figure of the profits of the year; but he was able to say that no serious losses had been incurred, and that the total of the deposit and current accounts had increased by about 38 per cent.

The profits for the year amounted to £119,309, and, with the balance brought forward, there was available for appropriation the sum of £141,901, subject to income and corporation profits taxes. They recommended the payment of the same dividend as last year—namely, 8s. per share, leaving a balance of £61,901 9s. to be carried forward. It was not a grand reward for much hard work, and it was not as satisfactory as they anticipated a short time since, but they felt that the proprietors would appreciate the difficulties of the present time, and wished them to proceed with caution. It was unnecessary for him to emphasise that the country was passing through troublous times, and greater caution than usual was required in dealing with finance. One of their chief functions was to be the financing of overseas trade, and with the resources at their disposal they had done their best to fulfil their mission, but they were handicapped by the difficulties their clients had in getting payment for goods. It was not only in the European countries that these difficulties were met with. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I. (deputy-governor), seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The ordinary general meeting of the Bank of Athens will be held on Thursday, March 24, at the head office in Athens.

Crédit Foncier d'Algérie et de Tunisie.—M. Philibert, President of the Commercial Tribunal of Algiers, and M. Dubourdieu, former financial director to the Tunisian Government, have joined the board of directors.

Mr. John Duncan Nimmo, senior partner of Messrs. Walter Duncan and Co., London and Glasgow, and of Messrs. Duncan Brothers and Co., Calcutta, has been appointed to a seat on the board of the National Bank of India.

STEAUA ROMANA.

Société Anonyme pour l'Industrie du Pétrole. Bucarest.

CAPITAL SOCIAL COMPLETEMENT VERSE

Lei 100,000,000.

Il est porté à la connaissance de MM. les actionnaires que l'Assemblée Générale extraordinaire des actionnaires du 16 décembre 1920 a décidé l'augmentation du capital social de la Société de Lei 100,000,000 à Lei 300,000,000 par l'émission de 400,000 actions nouvelles à Lei 500 chacune, au prix de Lei 525 —en attribuant aux anciens actionnaires deux actions nouvelles pour une action ancienne et en versant à l'occasion de l'exercement du droit d'option Lei 125 par action plus Lei 25 pour frais d'émission.

L'Assemblée Générale a autorisé le Conseil d'Administration de fixer les autres modalités et conditions de cette émission.

En cette base le Conseil d'Administration décide:

D'émettre 400,000 actions nouvelles dans les conditions fixées par l'Assemblée Générale.

Pour pouvoir exercer le droit d'option à la nouvelle émission des actions de la Société les possesseurs actuels d'actions sont obligés, tout en effectuant le premier versement, de faire leurs déclarations, qu'ils entendent exercer le droit d'option à partir du 25 janvier, 1921, jusqu'au 15 mars, 1921.

En faisant leur déclaration les possesseurs d'actions sont obligés de présenter aussi leurs actions estampillées et ceux dont les actions ont été transportées à Moscou de présenter leurs certificats prouvant la possession des actions, indiquant les quantités et les numéros des actions qu'ils possèdent.

En présentant ces actes ils effectueront aussi les versements sus-mentionnés en recevant les quittances contre lesquelles on leur délivrera plus tard les titres provisoires ou les actions de la Société.

Les actions déposées dans le délai sus-mentionné resteront au lieu de dépôt jusqu'au 31 mars, 1921; dans cet intervalle le Conseil d'Administration par son délégué procédera à la vérification des titres, et après vérification le Conseil décidera de la validité du droit d'option.

Les autres versements pour compléter le capital seront effectués conformément aux décisions ultérieures du Conseil d'Administration, mais les actionnaires auront le droit d'anticiper les versements.

Les détenteurs des actions non-estampillées sont obligés de faire leurs déclarations dans le même délai, en effectuant leurs versements toujours dans les conditions indiquées plus haut. Mais les certificats provisoires ou nouvelles actions resteront mobilisés entre les mains de la Société et ne seront délivrés aux souscripteurs de cette catégorie qu'après l'estampillage des anciennes actions, en base desquelles ils ont manifesté le droit de préférence.

Il est porté à la connaissance de tous les actionnaires de la Société que ce droit de préférence n'étant pas un droit statutaire, mais un droit accordé par l'Assemblée Générale, qui s'exerce dans les conditions et modalités établies par le Conseil d'Administration, conformément au vote de l'Assemblée Générale, ce droit devient caduc s'il n'est pas exercé dans les délais prévus plus haut et dans les conditions établies ci-dessus.

Les nouvelles actions participeront au dividende à partir du 1 janvier, 1921.

Messrs. Stern Brothers announce that shareholders desirous of depositing their shares upon the conditions stated in the above notice may deposit them at 6, Angel Court, E.C., between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. (Saturdays excepted).

Messrs. Stern Brothers will provide facilities for making the necessary payment in Bucharest.

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Insurances effected through the Bank's Brokers.

Applications for Terms invited.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, February 19.

There is no change in the market position. Some sales have been made for Anatolia as well as for Roumania. Sales of manufactured goods continue on a small scale, but not in sufficient quantity to relieve the market. The sales give traders some resources which enable them to carry on from day to day.

Produce.—The fall in prices continues to be the dominant note of the market in produce. Merchants limit their operations in imports, long term transactions being excluded in view of the general state of the market.

Sugar.—The movement of last week has been followed by complete calm, despite the news of the set-back received from America, Antwerp, and Holland. The arrivals of the week amount to 100 wagons, which have been warehoused for lack of buyers. A new fall in prices is to be recorded, bringing them to an equality with prices in the countries of origin. Quotations are sugar from Antwerp, prompt shipment, £40 per ton; sugar from Holland, prompt shipment, £42 per ton; in customs £T36-37 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—The market is weak, and transactions are insignificant. Quotations (per oke, in transit) are: Rio No. 1 Ps. 42-43, Santos Ps. 43-46, inferior qualities, Ps. 27. (For the price in customs Ps. 16.50 per oke has to be added to these totals.)

Rice.—The price continues to fall. There have been no transactions.

Oil.—The tendency is to fall, in view of the approaching imports from Roumania.

ADANA.

The report for January states: The world crisis in cotton, the chief product of this region, has brought about a serious crisis in this market, and the export trade has been brought to a standstill.

MAMOURI-UL-AZIZ.

The report for December states: The cotton crop of 1920 is estimated at about 400,000 kilos. A part is used here for the manufacture of native fabrics. Malatia, Sivas, and Cesarea purchase from us a considerable portion.

THE GREEK DEBT.

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 December 31, 1920 (new style January 14, 1920, to January 13, 1921):—

	Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross receipts Dec., 1920	Dr. 5,513,947.23	Dr. 5,623,732.15
Do. do. 1919	5,012,399.00	4,967,575.00
Difference between estimated & actual receipts for 12 months	1920 +36,730,414.48	+ 47,882,293.85
	1919 +21,568,063.80	+39,676,884.95

GEORGE STEPHANOFF & SONS, SLIVEN (Bulgaria).

Textile Factory for Woollen Cloths
(Founded 1888).

Branch

SOFIA, Plochtat Tzar Kaloyan,
Telegraphic Address: "Stephanovi, Sofia."

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000

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Lt.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

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ON 'CHANGE.

Tendency Downwards: Greek Securities Strong.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday night.

The general position during the week has been unchanged. There is nothing at the present time to inspire confidence, and the wonder is that stocks remain as firm as they do in the circumstances. A new factor making for depression has now made its appearance in the shape of a pending coal crisis, but this has so far had little or no effect. Markets in these days take as their motto: "Sufficient for the day, etc." And, after all, there is always the soothing hope that labour troubles of this character may come to nothing.

Gilt-edged descriptions have been fairly well maintained during the week, and stocks generally are closing on a firm note. Foreign bonds have been noticeably weak.

As usual, the tendency in Industrials has been downwards. Business is extremely restricted, and there is literally no support for the market. In a few cases some improvement has taken place, but the majority of shares have moved to lower values. Oils have been irregular, while Rubbers are closing with renewed weakness.

Near Eastern Government securities have shown no change. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. at 62½, Greek Guaranteed 2½ per Cent., 1898, at 58½, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. at 67, are all unchanged.

The rise in Greek securities is still continuing. The 5 per Cent. 1881 and the 5 per Cent. 1884 Loan are both 1 up at 42, at which there were buyers. The 5 per Cent. 1890 and Fundings have both gained a point to 41, at which there were buyers. The 1910 Loan is 2 up at 32, and the 5 per Cent. 1914 Loan has increased 1 at 40. The 1902 Loan is unaltered at 35.

Banks have remained unchanged. Agricultural 3½ per Cent. Bonds are unchanged at 53, and the 3½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds are the same at 55. Imperial Ottoman Banks have lost ½ at 7½, as also the National Bank of Egypt at 17. Land Banks have gained ½ at 4½.

Land shares have shown a downward tendency. Beheras remain at 7½, while the preference shares are unchanged at 2½, at which there were buyers. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are unchanged at 3½, and Egyptian Consolidated Lands at 1s. 1½d. are the same; but Delta Lands at 8s. 9d. have shed 3d. Gharbieh Lands are ¼ down at 1½. New Egyptians have shed 1s. 6d. at 20s. 6d., and Union Foncières have lost ½ at 2½. Sudan Plantations have gained ¼ at 3½.

Oils are lower. Anglo-Egyptians have lost ½ at 2 and Phoenix have dropped 1s. to 9s. 3d. Roumanian Consolidated, however, are 2s. 3d. up at 13s. 9d. Steaua Romana are the same at 15s.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are 3s. Alexandria Waters are 7, while Morums are 9d. up at 14s. Egyptian Salt and Sodas are quoted at 27s. 6d.

BULGARIAN CONTROL OF CURRENCY.

The Bulgarian State Gazette has published the law for collecting foreign currency payable on exports. According to this law all persons exporting are obliged to cede to the National Bank one-third of the value of their exports in foreign currency at a special rate for the benefit of the State Treasury, which will not, however, be less than 20 per cent. lower than the Bourse rate. The export of Bulgarian bank notes, bonds, State and municipal coupons, etc., is forbidden, as well as those of the National and Agricultural Banks, also gold and silver coins. For needs of travelling, bank notes up to 1,000 leva may be exported.

MARKET FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY IN PALESTINE.

Although little has been done as yet to improve upon the agricultural implements used heretofore in Palestine, now, with the change of Government and the increase in the value of crops, a disposition is being shown to improve agricultural methods and to introduce intensive cultivation, says an American consular report. The country is not well suited to the use of heavy implements and machinery, owing to its hilly and rocky character throughout the larger part of its area. Therefore, strong, but light and simple, ploughs to be drawn by small donkeys and cattle are best adapted to this market. The plain region, extending parallel with the coast, is about 25 miles wide and is almost flat. This, as well as the very fertile flat land south of Hebron, around Beersheba, and the country east of the Jordan River, could advantageously use the most modern type of agricultural machinery. The German and Jewish farmers who settled on the plains parallel with the coast have been using more modern ploughs, and a few harrows, reapers, and binders. Some attempts have been made with various kinds of tractors. An agricultural show is to be held about the early spring of 1921, which is expected to determine which kind and make of tractor is best suited for this district. A small tractor is needed for ploughing the orchards and almond plantations, the owners of which are now experiencing considerable difficulty in having these dug up or ploughed, owing to the scarcity and high cost of manual labour. Such a tractor should be strong and so compact as to be not more than three feet high by three feet wide. If such a motor could be constructed, it is said that at least 500 of this type could be sold in Palestine.

As the people have yet to be educated up to the use of tractors and other complicated machinery, the only possible system of promoting a sale would be the consignment to a reliable local firm, with authority to lease a tractor to a prospective buyer for a few weeks' trial, on condition that, should it prove successful, it would be purchased at a pre-arranged price. Another method would be to send out a mechanic with a machine to demonstrate its actual working to the farmers. Attractive coloured illustrated advertising would second such efforts, and in due course of time a reasonable increase in sales should be expected. It would be a loss of time to rely entirely on correspondence and literature for the sale of agricultural machinery. The lack of repair shops has stood as a serious obstacle in the way of the importation of machinery, but this condition is being gradually remedied, and before long adequate service in the way of repairs in all lines of machinery will be available.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £ ...	25'22½	51'50-52'50
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25'22½	138-143
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee ..	24d.	1'3½-1'3½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25'22½	285-295
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee..	24d.	1'3½-1'3½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	570-590
New York	Dollars to £	4'86½	3'86½-3'87
Paris	Francs to £	25'22½	54'20-54'50
Prague	Kronen to £	24'02	300-320
Rome	Lire to £	25'22½	106-107
Sofia	Levas to £	25'22½	335
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £	24'02	1,700-1,900
Warsaw	Marks to £	20'43	3,100-3,400

In some cases quotations are nominal.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

Telegrams
"TRABANQUE, LONDON."(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.)
13 AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, E.C.2.Telephones
LONDON WALL, 2947-2948.

Authorised, £10,000,000.

Subscribed and Paid up, £2,000,000.

Governor, THE LORD FARINGDON.

Deputy Governor, SIR HENRY BABINGTON SMITH, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I.

London Manager, P. C. WEST.

Manager, A. G. M. DICKSON.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

DREDGING THE DANUBE.

The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Bucharest reports the formation of the Société Anonyme Romano-Olandeza for the construction of dykes and for dredging the Danube. The capital of the company is given as twenty million lei, and it has been formed by shipping people and merchants of Braila, in conjunction with the firm of W. J. Kalis Wzn and Co.'s Dredger Co., 2, Scheveningsche Weg, the Hague, Holland.

The object of the company is to improve the regulation of Roumanian river courses, and they will carry out this work either for the State or for private concerns. The company takes powers to rent or acquire the ground recovered, as well as to take concessions for the construction and exploitation of tramways or railways which may be constructed on the dykes built by them. The scope of the company includes all matters tending towards these principal objects. The company has been brought into being principally through the efforts of Mr. J. R. Opreanu, the managing director of the Bank of Braila, a banking institution of the port of Braila; whilst one of the directors is Mr. C. Contzescu, the Roumanian delegate on the European Commission on the Danube.

It appears to be their intention to procure from the Roumanian Government a concession to reclaim part of the land in the Danube valley at present subject to inundation in the proximity of the port of Braila. Such land would probably prove exceedingly valuable from an agricultural point of view, whilst, in addition, there is the possibility that they may project the construction of quays and docks.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Kingsmere for Bombay (Liverpool, March 7); s.s. Elysia for Bombay (Glasgow, March 19, and Liverpool, March 24).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahsud, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, March 8); s.s. Manipur, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 16); s.s. Shadwell, for Port Said, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, March 21); s.s. Maidan, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 30); s.s. Mahronda, for Port Said, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 5); s.s. Holywell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, April 16).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 16); s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 30).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Maid of Syra for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 8).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Sinclair, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 10).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Sea Victory, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, and Galatz (London, March 15); s.s. Pavia, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Glasgow, March 26).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Assyrian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, March 5); s.s. Trentino, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, March 12).

Ellerman's City Line.—S.s. City of Lahore, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 14); s.s. City of Poona, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, March 19); s.s. City of Bombay, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 28).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Castilian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (London, March 5); s.s. Gourko for Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (London, March 12).

French-Lévant Line.—S.s. Flore, for Bordeaux, Algiers, Mersina, Jaffa, Port Said, Alexandria, and Cyprus (Hull, March 8); s.s. Junon, for Algiers, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, and Constantza (Hull, March 15).

Glen Line.—S.s. Glengyle, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 10); s.s. Glenogyle, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 24); s.s. Glenavy, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 7).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Defender, for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 16); a steamer will sail in May for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, Zanzibar, etc.

Henderson Line.—S.s. Amarapoor, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 9); s.s. Mandalay, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 23).

Holt Line.—S.s. Tantalus, for Port Said, Suez, etc. (Birkenhead, March 11); s.s. Bellerophon, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 1).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Portinglis, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, March 15); s.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 26).

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, early in March); s.s. Maindy Transport, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, end of March).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaiser-i-Hind, for Bombay (London, March 11); s.s. Sicilia, for Bombay (London, March 24); s.s. Padua, for Bombay, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 24).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Hatarana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 12); s.s. Mandala, for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 18); s.s. Nardana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 26); s.s. Australia, for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 26).

Power Line.—S.s. Petworth, for Gibraltar and Moroccan ports (London, end of March).

Prince Line.—S.s. Cyprian Prince, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria (also taking cargo for Beyrout, Jaffa, Haifa, Tripoli (Syria), Latakia, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus ports (Manchester, March 10); s.s. Black Prince, for Malta and Alexandria (London, March 15).

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting in touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, *The Near East*, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "*The Near East*" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "*The Near East*" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, *The Near East*, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "*The Near East*" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

108. Hemp manufacturer in Croatia wishes to get into touch with rope manufacturers who would purchase hemp.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

112. An Alexandria firm wish to enter into business relations with United Kingdom firms dealing in the following exports:—Beers and stout; salmon, sardines, tinned fruit and vegetables; coconut oil; gunny bags; pepper, rice, flour and soap.

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 513.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The London Conference.

A week ago the London Conference, having listened to the request of the Greeks that there should be no interference with the Treaty of Sèvres and to the request of the Turks that the Treaty should be very largely rewritten, proposed to the two parties that the fate of the Smyrna district and of Thrace should be settled by an Inter-Allied Commission on the basis of nationality, provided that both Greeks and Turks agreed to accept the findings of the Commission as well as the remaining terms of the Treaty of Sèvres. After consultation with Athens and Angora respectively, the Delegations delivered their replies on March 4. The Greeks reported that the Hellenic Government had submitted the Allies' proposal to the vote of the National Assembly, and that the latter had unanimously pronounced against it. In these circumstances Greece was quite unable to accept the proposal; but as the Greek Government desired to contribute to the rapid consolidation of peace and order in the East, the Delegation would be particularly happy to transmit "any equitable proposals" which the Conference might formulate for the purpose of arriving at a realisation of what all desire. The Turks, on the other hand, were able to state that "the Grand National Assembly" confirmed the acceptance of the proposed inquiry, and declared itself ready to accept the other provisions of the Treaty of Sèvres, "provided that they be adapted to conditions indispensable to the existence of a free and independent Turkey."

A Fresh Improvisation.

Just as the proposal to send a Commission to investigate conditions in Thrace and Smyrna was a sudden improvisation in the absence of any agreed policy on the part of the Allies, so the Conference has again decided to temporise. The idea of sending a Commission is for the time being abandoned, and an attempt is to be made to arrive at an "equitable proposal" by an understanding between the Greeks and Turks. But inasmuch as neither Delegation considers itself authorised to go outside the letter of its original instructions, it has been decided to strengthen both, in the hope that further negotiations can be carried through more expeditiously. Accordingly Djavid Bey has been summoned from Switzerland, and M. Gounaris from Athens. With the arrival of the former the Turkish Delegation now represents the Constantinople authorities, the Angora Government, and the less extreme element in the old Committee of Union and Progress. Virtually only Talaat Pasha and Enver Pasha, who would seem to have

thrown in their lot entirely with Bolshevism, stand out of the picture, and therefore any decision agreed to by the Delegation can count upon acceptance by Turkey as a whole. The presence of M. Gounaris in London implies, we may hope, that the last has been heard of the Allies' silly policy of refusing to recognise the new order in Greece. M. Gounaris has the strongest following in the Greek Chamber of any member of the Coalition Cabinet, but the Allied Governments contrived to let it be known that they had no desire to see him taking part in the Greek Delegation. They now find it advisable to let him come, and in the interests of Greece and of the Near Eastern settlement we hope that M. Gounaris will be able to satisfy at least the British Government that, whatever views he may have held during the war, he is now actuated solely by loyalty to his sovereign and devotion to the welfare of his country.

A Question of Psychology.

We could wish that the Allied Governments, in dealing with the Near Eastern peoples, would display a little more confidence in their victory in the late war. In this connection arguments thoroughly sound in their application to Germany have no bearing on the position in Greece, Bulgaria, or Turkey, although the continued mishandling of the situation in any one of these three countries may eventually undo much, if not all, that has been achieved by the war. The fundamental difference between the three countries and Germany is that, whereas the latter trusted mainly to her own right arm, they are dependent upon outside support. In the war—in the case of Greece we may, for the sake of argument, accept the current estimate of the Constantine-Streit-Gounaris policy as the country's policy—they expected to find the support they needed in the Central Powers. Now, whatever hopes Germany may still have in herself, the Near Eastern States are under no illusion on the subject. "The staff of this bruised reed" has already gone into their hand and pierced it, and they have no intention of trusting to it again. They can only turn to the Allies, and will do so with complete conviction, if they are allowed.

A Treaty of London?

But if the Allies want to make the most of their opportunity, they must give their confidence unreservedly and offer help wholeheartedly. The Treaties of Neuilly and Sèvres represent in their territorial provisions a policy of vindictiveness, petty spite, and timorous suspicion, on all fours with the Balkan standard of 1913 as displayed in the Treaty of Bucharest. Both documents are unworthy, in regard to the terms indicated, of the

Allies. If they are revised boldly, honestly, and intelligently by the Conference, the Near East as a whole will benefit, and a lasting contribution will be made to the peace of Europe. There is every reason to take for granted to-day the loyalty to the Allies of the new régime in Greece and the desire for better things in Turkey. Before the victory of the Allies no Turkish Government felt the need for reform, as the old methods fitted in well with the general level of Europe's diplomatic morality. To-day that phase has passed, provided that France and Italy do not revive it. The Turks, in particular the Angora Government, recognise that, unless their administration reforms, they will presently cease to exist as a race, to say nothing of their status as an independent country. Let the Allies avail themselves of their opportunity. If the policy advocated proves to be mistaken, they will be in a much stronger position to deal once and for all with Turkey than they are now. There need be no qualms about setting a bad precedent by revision, for the enemies of the Entente will derive far more satisfaction from a couple of bad treaties than from one good one. A real settlement of the Near East is worthy of the best setting, and we suggest that it might be made in a Treaty of London, which for the sake of convenience can leave other provisions of the Treaties of Neuilly and Sévres standing, but will redraft on sounder national lines the territorial clauses.

King Nicholas of Montenegro.

A telegram from Antibes, received last week just after we had gone to press, announced the death there, on March 1, of King Nicholas of Montenegro. His last years had been spent in exile from the land which he undoubtedly loved well, and in the shaping of which he had played such an active part. They were unfortunately clouded in many ways, and in the eyes of the world his figure had become less heroic, less picturesque than it had been when he was only a Prince—and a poet. But, as we are reminded in the appreciation of him which appears on another page, from the pen of one who knew him well, history does not always take the same view of men, or events as the Press of the day; and history may decide that the earlier view of King Nicholas was the more correct. In the meantime we may well remember his finer qualities—his courage and downrightness, his determination to keep his country and his people free, his humour and occasional wit, and his power to stir the people of the Black Mountain with his verse. By putting an end to the prosecution of blood feuds he rendered his country an incalculable service; and his codification of its laws and his introduction—though on a small scale—of such modern improvements as roads and a railway must be set to his credit. There can be little doubt that the greatest misfortune of his life was that it should have been prolonged beyond the time when the Austrians invaded Montenegro.

The Status of Egypt.

The hope for better things in the Near East finds support in the British Government's action in regard to Egypt. Without waiting to submit the Report of the Special Mission to Egypt to a discussion in Parliament, the Government has gone one better than the Milner-Zaghoul Agreement by addressing to the Sultan of Egypt the following invitation:—

His Majesty's Government, after a study of the proposals made by Lord Milner, have arrived at the conclusion that the status of protectorate is not a satisfactory relation in which Egypt should continue to stand to Great Britain. While they have not reached final decisions with regard to Lord Milner's recommendations, they desire to confer regarding them with a delegation nominated by your Highness with a view, if possible, to substitute for the Protectorate a relationship which would, while securing the special interests of Great Britain and enabling her to offer adequate guarantees to foreign Powers, meet the legitimate aspirations of Egypt and the Egyptian people.

If the House of Commons is inclined to feel aggrieved that the invitation should have anticipated a consideration of the Report, it will doubtless reflect that the Government was placed on the horns of a dilemma. The desirability of an early statement regarding the Protectorate was obvious, but it was impossible to discuss the Report with both Lord Milner and Mr. Winston

Churchill, his successor at the Colonial Office, away. It is to be supposed that both will have returned, and possibly a debate have taken place on the question, before the Egyptian plenipotentiaries arrive in England.

Mesopotamia.

No exception will be taken to Mr. Winston Churchill's reading of the problem confronting Great Britain in Mesopotamia as he outlined it on the eve of his departure for Egypt in a letter to the president of the Dundee Liberal Association. Even with the reduction of our military strength in the country, which it was hoped to effect after this year, an expenditure of some ten or eleven millions was still indicated, and it was felt that this was more than Great Britain was justified in spending. At the same time, a policy of scuttle, Mr. Churchill pointed out, was unthinkable, and he looked to an Arab Government supported by a moderate military force as the means of enabling Great Britain to discharge her duties without imposing unjustifiable expense on the British Exchequer. There are one or two indispensable preliminaries to the carrying out of this scheme. We must be prepared to meet any "trouble in the spring"—a possible eventuality to which a correspondent called attention in our issue last week—and in this connection a wise decision in London during the session of the London Conference can save Great Britain many millions in Mesopotamia. Further, there should be no delay in the appointment, in accordance with the wishes of the Arab inhabitants, of an Arab ruler, who, if the present indications of those wishes are correctly gauged, will presumably be the Emir Faisal. Public opinion in Great Britain, there can be no doubt, would not endorse a policy of scuttle; it recognises that Mesopotamia must at first be a charge on the British Exchequer, and it would welcome any reduction on the ten millions mentioned by Mr. Churchill as an earnest of the Government's sound intentions.

The Shah's New Advisers.

So far as it is possible to judge in the light of reports that reach us from various quarters, Persia has no reason to regret the change of Cabinet which we recorded last week. Seyyid Zia ed-Din was at first credited with the intention of keeping all power in his own hands, and doubts were expressed whether he would actually make any pretence of forming a Cabinet or would, for a time at least, play the part of a dictator. Those doubts have now been set at rest by the announcement that a new Cabinet has been formed, and that its principal members have been presented to the Shah. The only survival from the former Cabinet appears to be Mirza Eissa Khan, who was Acting Minister of Finance under the Sipahdar Azam, and who now takes the portfolio as full Minister; while Masoud Khan, who took a prominent part in bringing about the *coup* of February 21-22, is now Minister for War. It is, of course, quite possible that the Cabinet will exercise very little authority, and that all the real power will lie in the hands of Seyyid Zia ed-Din; but such arrangements are not unknown outside Persia, and in any case the machinery of Government at Teheran appears to be running now with a smoothness that had not been perceptible in its operations for some time. The new Prime Minister has thought it advisable to drop the Anglo-Persian Agreement, but the fact that he is inviting British officials and advisers to return to Teheran seems to show that he wishes nevertheless to act in accordance with its provisions. Should that be so, Great Britain, whose policy towards Persia is one of perfectly sincere friendship, will certainly be pleased to afford her help.

The Danger in the North.

While it is now possible to hope that Persia is at last alive to the danger that threatens her from the North, and even that she may be able to prepare herself in time to meet it, if her luck holds good, it would be the height of folly to imagine that the danger had passed. The Bolshevik menace has been a very real one, although it is probable that the strength of the Bolshevik forces in the extreme north of Persia has been—probably intentionally—exaggerated. But a force of some sort has

certainly been waiting in readiness to take advantage of the first opportunity that offered—that is to say, of the withdrawal of the British troops and possibly the seizing of power by a Persian party not unfavourable to Bolshevism. According to a report from a well-informed source, a considerable portion of this force is still hanging about, awaiting a chance to realise its dreams of looting Teheran and the richest part of Persia. If Seyyid Zia ed-Din is wise he will take steps promptly to parry this danger. We are glad to know that he is reported to be doing so already, and we hope his countrymen and others will lend him all the help he may ask for in this direction. He and his colleagues have their hands very full indeed, but they appear to be tackling their task with courage and acumen, and the country has apparently given them its confidence.

Unfortunate Georgia.

The bad news from Georgia is confirmed, and it is no longer possible to close our eyes to the fact that not only has Tiflis fallen, but that it seems probable that Batoum will follow suit; while Bolshevik forces appear to have been overrunning the unfortunate country in all directions. The first attack, by a combined force of Russians and Armenians, broke down owing to an anti-Bolshevik *coup* at Erivan, which, it seems, demoralised the Armenian portion of the attacking force. But the main Russian attack, which followed a few days later, was made in such force, with the assistance of tanks and aeroplanes, that it proved irresistible. To a certain extent it was helped by defections among the Georgian troops; and the result was the fall of Tiflis—which, it need hardly be added was promptly and thoroughly sacked—and the temporary demoralisation of the defending forces. The situation becomes complicated by reason of a sudden move on the part of the Kemalist Nationalists, who are reported to have occupied Artvin and the province of Ardahan. They are doubtless preparing for a further advance on Batoum, which they have, of course, long coveted; and if it should become necessary to choose between them and the Bolsheviks there can be little doubt on which side British sympathies would lie. For the moment, however, all our sympathy must be reserved for the Georgians, who have been putting up a good fight against overwhelming odds, and who surely deserved assistance from the Allies in their struggle. The only help they have received seems to have been that accorded by French naval units; but they have nevertheless rallied, and are reported to have begun two offensive movements against the invaders.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday evening.

The Germans in London.

Somebody with a taste for the obvious once remarked that London was too big to be impressed by anything short of the Day of Judgment. It certainly was not impressed by the German delegates; in fact, it thought them merely foolish. A reasonable economic haggle over the indemnity it would have understood, recognising that it was hardly in human nature to accept the terms as they stood, and that a flat negative was impossible. But the German offer was simply silly. Nobody is expected to show their full hand in politics, and the Germans would not have been condemned had they tried to find a means of dividing the Allies: instead of that, they merely cemented the unity of England and France. "In politics," said Prince von Bülow, some years ago, "we Germans are asses." London, looking at the German indemnity offer last week, was inclined to accept the ex-Chancellor's verdict. Even in quarters which were prepared to let bygones be bygones, and to claim that the leopard had changed his spots, it was frankly admitted that Berlin had made a mess of things when the details of the German proposal were known.

By-Elections.

Home politics have been excessively dull during the week, in spite of the miniature general election. The House of Commons has debated such earth-shaking

topics as the increased salary of the King's Proctor. The country has been mildly amused over the by-election results, which had a quality of unexpectedness. In Kirkcaldy the Government lost what was considered a perfectly safe seat to Labour. At Dudley a Cabinet Minister, Sir A. Griffith-Boscawen, was unseated, also by Labour. Neither of these Labour gentlemen had ever been heard of outside Kirkcaldy and Dudley; at East Woolwich, however, the one Labour candidate of whom everybody has heard, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, was defeated. The Government had thought he was so certain to win that it had refused a coupon to his opponent, who thus enters the House with all the glory of an independent member. Mr. MacDonald had cruel luck. His war record from the first went against him. But the poll was on the very day when the German reply on the indemnities was known. Mr. MacDonald had nothing to do with that, but it certainly influenced votes. I doubt if he will stand again for some time, but he is a bad loser, and he made the oddest excuse for defeat that was ever heard, claiming that he polled all the political votes. This suggests a new conundrum: When is a vote not a political vote? The answer must be: When you don't get it.

But if Labour was unlucky in East Woolwich, the Government was equally unlucky at Dudley. It is an urban constituency, and much exercised over the cost of living. Its late member, the new Minister for Agriculture, was represented as keeping up the cost of living by the home agricultural policy of the Government and the embargo on Canadian cattle. The cry of "dear meat" was raised, and Sir Arthur was really defeated because he declined to pledge himself to alter the whole policy of his department after he had only been five days in charge. It is not likely to mean any real interruption of his career, as other seats are understood to have been offered him. He is a sound administrator and a hard worker.

The election experts are drawing all kinds of morals from these results as to the movements of public opinion, but the only real lesson they convey to the ordinary intelligence is that in politics you never can tell what is going to happen. The old hands are grumbling at the women's vote, which increases the uncertainty, and party organisers are at one in denouncing the intrusion of Eve into the political Eden. But the comminations are uttered in private: in public they praise "her purifying influence," which brings something of the sanctity of the home into the grave controversies of the State." I suppose this humbug is necessary.

The Future of Flying.

Mr. Winston Churchill was not particularly happy over the Air Estimates, but he forbore from making the point that when everybody is calling for economy even the airman must suffer. The main objection of his critics is that we are spending too much on military aviation, and too little on civil flying—sound policy perhaps if another great war were imminent, but unsound in existing circumstances. The increase of civil aviation under State auspices would in a very few years render it an established industry, and provide a reserve of fully-trained men with experience of air problems in the event of war—very much as the mercantile marine feeds the Navy. As it is, our good neighbours, the French, are getting ahead of us in the air once more.



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St. George's, Windsor.

It is clear that a new period of church restoration is upon us. Almost every week one hears that this or that celebrated cathedral is in a dangerous condition, and must be repaired at once. The latest announcement is that St. George's Chapel, Windsor, is in a perilous state, and the architect will not guarantee the safety of the roof for another twelvemonth. The greater part of the church is to be shut for three years while the necessary alterations are made. In this case there will be no public appeal for funds.

The Boat Race.

The Oxford and Cambridge crews have now finished their preliminary training in their home waters, and are moving to Marlow en route for Putney. Report has it that Cambridge are much the better eight, and that Oxford has been seriously perturbed over the changes that have had to be made in its personnel. They are said now to be sound, but not swift, which one takes to be a polite way of saying they are a mediocre crew. But another three weeks' training may make a difference.

The Test Matches.

There is really very little to say about the Test Matches, except that we lost every one of the five—a thing that has never happened before to an England team in Australia. The Australians beat us in bowling, batting, and fielding; and on top of that our men were unfortunate as regards accidents. We are all anxious to see our conquerors this summer in England; defeat in the Antipodes has only whetted our appetites for another tussle here.

There were two unpleasant incidents in the tour which have caused some comment. Apparently there has been a disposition to criticise the umpire's ruling in more than one case. This is a deadly heresy to the old believers in orthodox cricket; for umpires, like kings, popes, and editors, are theoretically infallible.

The other trouble has arisen through some members of the England team being retained by English newspapers to cable home an account of the day's play. Their reports, so far as I have read them, have been feeble in the extreme, but they have criticised the spectators, and this has caused wrath in Australia. It is believed that the M.C.C. will probably take action, and that in future members of an England team will have to forswear reporting.

Sermonic Duets.

A really novel idea was introduced last week at St. Paul's, Covent Garden—a sermon with interruptions from the congregation. The priest in the pulpit gave a discourse on what is known as the ministration of women, and, like most parsons, he scouted the idea of women preachers—he frankly proclaimed himself “a horrid, uncompromising bigot, one of those narrow people who believe in the narrow divine way (of St. Paul) with high hedges on each side.” He was interrupted from time to time with arguments against his view by a lady who challenged one point after another. The discussion appears to have been interesting, although, of course, neither side convinced the other. If this kind of thing were to spread, it would probably lead to better sermons and more interest in church.

Modern Manners.

One of the judges in trying a case in the Divorce Court last week, which was otherwise not worthy of any particular comment, made some remarks on the need of allowing for the looseness of modern manners that have been rather widely quoted. But these *obiter dicta* from the Divorce Court are not to be accepted too seriously. A judge who never comes into official contact with any but unfaithful husbands and fickle wives naturally tends to get his general perspective a little out of focus; just as the mental specialist who never sees any patients except lunatics comes in time to think that the whole world consists of lunatics except himself.

No doubt our morals could be improved. But was there ever a time since Eve ate the apple when that was not so? We are apt to look back to the Early Victorian period as the time when virtue reigned supreme;

but this is all imagination, and part of the universal tendency to ancestor-worship and *laus temporis acti*. In looking through the recently published “Private Letters of Sir Robert Peel,” one was struck by the fact that society was pretty much the same in those days as at present. And after all, the Restoration and the Regency did not set a very good example to the poor degenerate of the twentieth century.

A Fixed Easter.

As Easter comes early this year, another attempt is to be made to reform the calendar by fixing the same date for Easter every year. The reform, like the introduction of summer time, would be very sensible; but despite—or because of—that, it will certainly not become law. A certain amount of opposition to the change would come from the Church, but the real difficulty in the way is that the public does not mind the movable Easter very much. There is no driving-force behind these particular advocates of reform.

The Week's Books.

“The Lands of Silence” (Cambridge University Press), the posthumous work of Sir Clements R. Markham, is a magnificently conceived and executed work. It is a full and accurate history of Arctic and Antarctic exploration from the beginning of those expeditions to our own times. The author was certainly the greatest authority of his day upon the subject, and there is little to add, except in the way of detail, to the record here given.

“Russian Portraits” (Jonathan Cape), by Mrs. Clare Sheridan, is a record of her journey to Moscow to make busts of Lenin and Trotsky and other heroes of the revolutionary régime. The author being an artist, has no particular politics, and consequently her impressions may be in some ways more accurate than those of Mr. Wells, Mrs. Snowden, and others who have gone to Russia with preconceived notions. At any rate, it is an entertaining book, and although she disclaims any literary gifts, her writing is fluent and easy.

A word should be given to “Collected Essays and Reviews” (Longmans), by William James. These are selections, inclusive rather than exclusive, from his scattered periodical writings over a long series of years. In them one notices the beginnings of Pragmatism as it first began to take shape in his mind—the germ of that system, if it may be properly so called, is ascribed to the now forgotten philosopher, Mr. Charles S. Pierce—and the first rough sketch of many ideas which were subsequently given more formal shape in his longer works. But the work has more than the personal interest attaching to a collection of the half-thoughts of a distinguished writer; it throws a good deal of light, not only on his mental processes, but on his reaction to current philosophical theories of that day, and it also indicates clearly how much the world of thought would have gained had his life been prolonged another ten years.

OCELLUS.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official reports:—

MIDDLE EAST (QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS). EGYPT. PERSIA. MESOPOTAMIA. INDIA: Prerogative of Mercy.—Secretary of State (Powers). ARMENIA. (February 28.)

EGYPT: Press Censorship.—Milner Commission (Report).—Workers' Organisations. BULGARIAN PRISONERS OF WAR. KASSALA RAILWAY. ALBANIA. INDIAN ADMINISTRATION (QUESTIONS). INDIA: House Accommodation (Army Officers).—King's Cadetships. —Esher Report (Recommendations). (March 1.)

INDIA: Government Officials (Cost of Passage).—Legislative Councils (Elections).—Rupee Exchange. Government Motor Vehicles.—Punjab Disturbances.—Tea (Export Duty).—Army (Esher Report).—Burma Reform Bill.—Civil Service.—Provincial and Legislative Councils.—Dr. A. D. Denning.—Railway Officers (War Service).—Import Duties. EGYPT (MILNER REPORT). INDIA: Trade Balances.—Central and Provincial Elections. ADEN. (March 2.)

ARMENIA. ADEN. INDIA: Military Accounts Department.—Army Officers (Travelling Facilities).—Government Motor Vehicles. PALESTINE: Jews (Electoral Assembly).—Easter Riots. Jerusalem. BRITISH ARMY: Troops in Mesopotamia (Officers' Wives).—Medals (Distribution). EGYPT (STATTS). (March 3.)

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, February 21.

The Political Situation.

During the earlier part of the week no little perturbation was caused by the publication of telegraphic extracts from the speech delivered by Mr. Churchill at the farewell dinner to Lord Reading, in which he referred to Egypt. A dignified protest was telegraphed to Mr. Lloyd George by the ex-Ministers, headed by Rushdi Pasha, Adly Pasha, and Sirri Pasha, and a similar, but more strongly worded, telegram was sent by Mahmud Soliman Pasha as President of the local Committee of the Egyptian Delegation, the lawyers and other Egyptian corporations. This speech and the replies made by Mr. Lloyd George in the House of Commons have been the subject of much comment in the local Press, but the controversy aroused by them will most certainly now make way for the discussion of the Milner Report, which was released yesterday. Copies were circulated to the Ministers and Government Departments, and this morning's Press publishes the first instalment. The remaining portions of the Report will, it may be assumed, constitute the most prominent feature in the local papers for the next week or so. As the mail goes out early to-morrow morning, and the Report is somewhat extensive, there is no time to report on its reception, or to ascertain the opinions of the various communities interested in the question, and local comments must be left over until next week.

The Sultan.

The Sultan reached Helwan on Monday morning on the conclusion of his visit to Upper Egypt, which has extended over a period of five weeks. On his way down his Highness laid the foundation stone for a new ophthalmic hospital at Maghagha, and by all accounts he is exceedingly pleased with the result of his trip, which in most places was a triumphal progress.

The Judicial Reforms.

Mr. Sheldon Amos, the Judicial Adviser, and Monsieur Piola Caselli, Sultania Counsellor, were to have left this week for Rome and Paris, in order to discuss with the Italian and French Governments various points which have arisen in connection with the judicial reforms. They have, however, now cancelled their departure owing, it is understood, to the receipt of a telegram stating that their presence is no longer necessary. From this it is assumed that the negotiations are following a satisfactory course. Meanwhile, it is clear that the mandate of the Mixed Courts, which expires on April 30, will again have to be renewed; for it will certainly not be possible to introduce the judicial re-organisation on May 1. In fact, in the opinion of many qualified persons the reforms cannot come into effect for at least another year.

Warriors' Day.

The arrangements for "Warriors' Day," to which reference was made last week, are proceeding apace, and the efforts which Colonel Hussy Walsh, the local Secretary of the Egyptian branch of the Officers' Association, and his Committee are making promise to be very successful. In addition to the celebration in Egypt, arrangements have now been made to hold a series of similar entertainments on March 31 at Khartoum under the patronage of the Governor-General, Sir Lee Stack and Lady Stack, and in Jerusalem under that of Sir Herbert and Lady Samuel.

YUGOSLAVIA.

BELGRADE, February 22.

The British Colony.

The Rev. Claude Hinscliff, who is well known in Belgrade, where he served last year on the staff of the Serbian Relief Fund, is now British Chaplain in Serbia. He opened his ministry by a service in the Protestant

Church in Vuk Karadjitch St. last Sunday. The British colony mustered to support their new chaplain, and it is earnestly to be hoped that generous support will be maintained. The British colony is not yet a large one, but is a very compact and friendly body.

Another social event of considerable interest to the foreign colony and to visitors to Belgrade is the opening of the new club. Preparations have been in hand for several months, and now at last the club is an accomplished fact. It is said that an attempt was made nineteen years ago, but fell through for want of support, and that the old draft rules have been taken as a basis of the new constitution. The club is open to a fixed proportion of Serbs and of the different nationalities, and has secured excellent premises in the Knez Mihailova. There is accommodation for meals, which are both good and cheap; there are reading and writing rooms, a card room, and an American bar. Visitors to Belgrade will no longer be obliged to spend their evenings wearily sitting in the cafés, and will be grateful to those energetic and public-spirited gentlemen who have organised what is nothing but a boon to visitors and foreign residents.

"What's In a Name?"

There is a discussion going on in political circles about the official designation of the State. The Croats seem to favour the addition of "Yugoslavia" to the "Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes"; but there is still a "Greater Serbia" party, who would like to see the name of Serbia extended to the whole country. The Bosniaks, and especially the Bosnian Radicals, have instructed their deputies to vote for "Serbia, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes," and to accept, if compelled, the now recognised triple title with the omission of the word "Serbia," but under no circumstances to admit the word "Yugoslavia." There is certainly much to be said in favour of the name "Serbia," which is famous throughout the world; for there are still plenty of people in the west of Europe and throughout the world, who have the very vaguest ideas as to what are the Croats and the Slovenes, and there are plenty of educated people in England who hopelessly confuse the Slovenes with the Slovaks, which is perhaps not unpardonable. Besides, within the Kingdom itself, there is a district Slavonia, which is part of Croatia, and has nothing to do with Slovenia. There are others who say: "The Serbs we know, for they are our gallant Allies, but who are these Yugoslavs?"

Besides, people insist on confusing Yugoslavia with Czecho-Slovakia. It is not an uncommon thing for letters to arrive addressed "Belgrade, Czechoslovakia." One British officer arrived here last year with a passport on which the officials in London had actually secured a Czechoslovak *visé* instead of a Yugoslav one. One correspondent, on receiving from the head office of a famous Paris bank a letter addressed to "Belgrade, Czechoslovakia," wrote and pointed out the error. A very apologetic reply was soon forthcoming, but this time addressed to "Belgrade, the Republic of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes." Even in official documents, in English, we often read of the "State of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes," though the correct title is, of course, "the Kingdom." Even in the native lan-

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guage there is sometimes confusion. The name on the postage stamps is "kraljevstvo," meaning kingdom, which is a good Slavonic form, but "kraljevina" is more usual Serbian. In the Radicals' instructions to their deputies, referred to above, it is the form "kraljevina" which is adopted, and not "kraljevstvo."

Vanishing Brigands.

The police authorities have been very successful in dealing with the brigandage which was so rife after the war in many parts of Serbia, especially in the south and south-east. The north and centre have long since been effectually cleared, and now the outlaws and Albanian robbers are coming in voluntarily in response to the amnesty promised to those who surrender and undertake to be good in future. The most original of these was one Deli Bekir, from Liubeshche, near Pech (Ipek), who would not condescend to hand himself over to the local authorities. One fine day last week a picturesque Albanian highlander walked into the Ministry of the Interior at Belgrade, and quietly introduced himself as the great Deli Bekir, who had managed to come all the way to Belgrade undetected, to hand himself over to the central authorities. Inspired by this example, ten more have notified their intention of coming personally to the capital to surrender.

A Census.

A census has recently been made, and the returns are rather interesting. The population of Belgrade is 110,319, of whom 60,658 are males and 49,661 females. There are 5,000 foreigners. 93,663 are Orthodox, 9,109 are Roman Catholics, 1,053 Mohammedans, 4,701 Israelites, and 50 "without religion."

The catalogue of languages spoken is rather interesting. Of the total population, 93,603 speak Serbo-Croatian as a mother-tongue, 1,230 speak Slovenish, 3,047 speak other Slavonic languages, 3,643 speak German, 1,334 Magyar, 530 Albanian, 315 Roumanian, 182 Italian, and 3,389 other languages.

A Claims List.

The Municipality has issued a return of the statement of claims for damages against the enemy during the war, which is by no means without interest. In the first class, damage to agriculture, the claims amount to 22,606,937 dinars; in the second class, damage to commercial interests and shops, the claim is 393,716,553 dinars; the third class, damage to private property, amounts to 251,908,051 dinars; claims for internment amount to 34,749,470 dinars; the fifth class, claims for shooting, killed, hanging during the Austrian occupation, cover 257 claims. Of the stock and cattle taken away, there are claims for 1,395 horses, 656 swine, 2,095 sheep, 860 oxen, 329 cows, and some smaller items. When it is remembered that these are the figures for Belgrade alone where the keeping of live stock was not encouraged, for hygienic reasons, they obviously demonstrate the capacity of the Austrians for helping themselves to other people's property. The quantity of furniture looted must have been immense, and from the Ethnographic Museum, a really large amount of very valuable carpets, rugs, old weapons, and armour and embroideries was taken. A commissioner from the Museum was succeeded in recovering a good quantity of these objects from the National Museum at Budapest, but some of the most valuable are scattered now in private houses in Hungary, and can scarcely be identified or, indeed, discovered.

GREECE.

ATHENS, February 17.

The London Conference.

The rumours I spoke of in my last letter to the effect that M. Stergiadis would probably be asked to proceed to the London Conference with M. Kalogeropoulos proved true. The High Commissioner at Smyrna came to Athens at the invitation of the Greek Government, and had many long talks with both the Premier and M.

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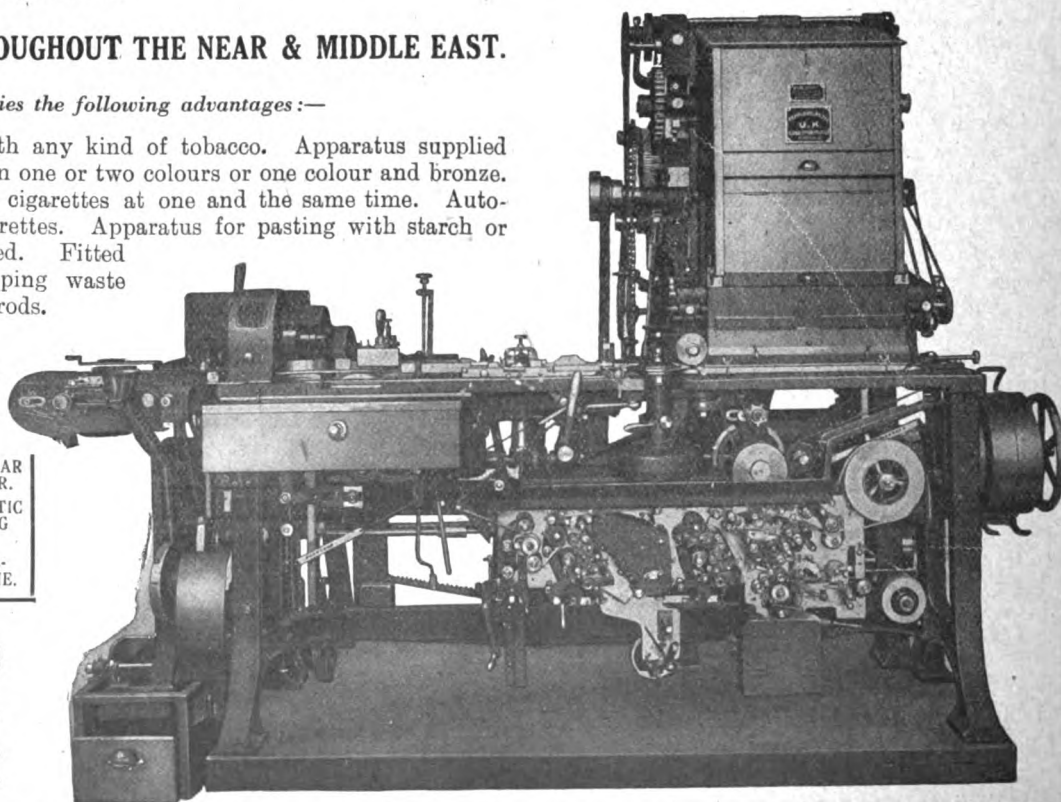
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Gounaris, who recognising how valuable his assistance would be, appeared to be very anxious that he should accompany the delegation. But the Government were doomed to disappointment, for M. Stergiadis blankly refused to go to London, for reasons that have not been disclosed. The only reason for the refusal given to the Press was that M. Stergiadis' present state of health did not permit him to undertake so long a journey at this time of the year. I am informed, however, that it is to other much stronger causes that one has to look for M. Stergiadis' refusal to help his country in this hour of need. It is more than likely that there is a certain amount of truth in the rumour that he was willing to proceed to London on condition that the Greek delegation was given *carte blanche* to get in touch with M. Venizelos there.

The Prime Minister, M. Kalogeropoulos, accompanied by numerous technical, military and financial advisers, also by M. Stergiadis' private secretary, M. P. Gournarakis, left Piræus last Thursday on board the *Narcissus*.

Results of the Census.

Some of the results of the census which was taken on January 1 are now known. The population of Athens, which in 1907 was 175,430, is to-day 300,462, and that of Piræus 130,082 to-day, as against 74,580 in 1907. The increase in the population of the capital during the last thirteen years is therefore just over 71 per cent., that of the principal port of the kingdom being 74½ per cent. The population of Salonika is given as 171,981, of Adrianople 49,170, and of Patras 45,500. The results of the census for the whole of Greece are not yet known.

A Week of Strikes.

Athens was practically without trams and gas for over a week, owing to a strike of the employees of the two companies. The main cause of the trouble was the increase of wages demanded by the strikers. For the first day or so we were entirely without tramcars; later on, however, mechanics were brought up from the Naval Arsenal, and communication on some of the principal routes was partly re-established. One or two isolated cases of sabotage were reported. On Tuesday, the employees of the Athens-Piræus Electric Railway, and those of the electricity works at New Phaleron also struck, to show solidarity with the tramwaymen. Fortunately, communication between the two towns was interrupted only for a few hours, the Government having taken drastic measures to cope with the situation. On Tuesday night, Athens was plunged in darkness for about three hours, and all shops, cafés, restaurants, and so forth, had to close down, while the main thoroughfares of the city, at the time crowded with people, rapidly became deserted, pedestrians bumping into one another as they hurried back to their homes. The electricity works were immediately put under a military guard, and bluejackets were brought up from the Naval Arsenal to take the place of the strikers. At 9.30 p.m. all was in working order again.

From the very beginning of the strike the Government made certain concessions to the men, but these were not considered satisfactory, and negotiations fell through. The authorities then threatened to proclaim martial law and send all the strikers to the front, but even then the men persisted in their demands. Matters were looking very gloomy indeed when, quite suddenly, the Government gave in, and all the employees have now returned to their work after getting practically all they had asked for. The previous day a strikers' delegation was received in audience by King Constantine.

News Items.

The students of the Public Commercial College of Athens, numbering about 600, went on strike as a sign of protest against the removal by the new Minister of Education of Professor Rigopoulos who had been the headmaster there since 1906.

The Prefect of Athens Police has given instructions to all picture house proprietors to refuse admission to the show to any boys under the age of fifteen when there is a detective film showing.

A Bill was passed last week by the National Assembly proclaiming martial law in Thrace.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 23.

Suspense.

Since the departure of the two delegations to London, there have been no local developments of any great importance, and the centre of interest is for the moment in London: Reports of an agreement, by which both the Nationalist and Government missions will attend the Conference under the presidency of Tawfik Pasha, have increased the hopes of moderate Turks that saner counsels will prevail amongst the Nationalists, and that the final result of the Conference will be favourable to Turkey. The departure of an unofficial, or perhaps semi-official, Greek delegation from Constantinople, under the acting Patriarch, H. B. Mgr. Dorotheos, and the reported activities of M. Venizelos have, however, awakened considerable apprehensions in Turkish circles, and it is realised that the Turkish representatives will have to work very hard and very wisely if they are to obtain any success.

The Caucasus.

If the local situation is uninteresting, the trend of events in the Caucasus is ample compensation, although it is exceedingly difficult to judge with certainty the precise significance of recent developments in that disturbed corner of Asia. For one thing, it is hard to understand how there could have been a successful revolution in Erivan at the present moment, unless the Bolsheviks wished for such a development, and withdrew their forces designedly. The object of such a move is not difficult to conjecture, for the existence in Erivan of an administration favourable to the Allies may be calculated to have the effect of preventing the modification of any of the clauses of the Treaty of Sèvres concerning a greater Armenia, which, if it were under Bolshevik influence, would be completely in harmony with the interests of the Moscow Government. It is by no means improbable, of course, that the anti-Communist revolution in Erivan was not in accordance with Bolshevik plans, and that the Dashnaks are returning good for evil by attempting to succour the Georgians in the latter's hour of peril. This view is supported by the news of Georgian successes and the warding off of all immediate danger to Tiflis. At the same time, it is reported that the Bolsheviks have issued an ultimatum to the Turks demanding the immediate evacuation of Alexandropol and Kars. This move on the part of the Soviet Government, coming after the despatch of a Nationalist mission to London and the utterance of anti-Bolshevik pronouncements by Mustapha Kemal, would seem to indicate that the long expected rupture between the Nationalists and their "allies" has come at last. Until the Turks and the Bolsheviks actually come to blows, however, it would be imprudent to consider these circumstances in themselves as a certain indication of a new direction in Bolshevik policy. There is, in fact good reason to believe that a deep game of bluff is being played by both Angora and Moscow, and that the Bolsheviks have by no means come to the conclusion that the Turks are of no further use to their scheme of world revolution. The decisions of the London Conference will probably clear the situation of most of its present obscurity, and there is therefore nothing to be done for the moment but to "wait and see."

It is reported from Allahabad that the threatened Indian railway strike has been postponed indefinitely in view of the Government's offer to appoint a Committee of inquiry.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"PALESTINE RECLAIMED." By Redcliffe N. Salaman, M.D., Temp. Captain R.A.M.C. (London: Geo. Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 1920. 6s.)
- II.—"THE BACKWARD PEOPLES AND OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM." By Sir Harry Johnston. (London: Henry Milford, Oxford University Press. 2s. 6d.)

I.—ASPECTS OF ZIONISM.

"Anyone who wishes to understand the Zionist movement and the Zionist point of view cannot do better than read this book. . . . I commend this book particularly to non-Jewish readers who want to know how a Zionist looks at Palestine." These sentences, from the "Introduction," by the Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, M.P., fairly describe the chief merits of Dr. Salaman's "Palestine Reclaimed." The book is an honest, outspoken, and critical account of Palestine and the new problem of Zionism. It does not exaggerate—as some authors have done—the encouraging side, nor does it belittle the difficulties. In substance the book consists of extracts from letters written—with no intention of publication—by the author to his wife, while he was serving as a temporary Captain in the R.A.M.C., attached to the 39th (Jewish) Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. In such circumstances, the pages necessarily contain many passing impressions, some of which are self-contradictory. On the whole, however, this well-balanced review of the situation will appeal to many who have been antagonised by some of the overglowing descriptions of other "Zionists."

For a war narrative, the letters are singularly free from battle and bloodshed. The Battalion was, with infinite difficulty, got together in Egypt from the most diverse elements—English, American, and Palestinian—and was with but little training transferred to Jericho, whence it took some part in the final advance on Es Salt. They seem to have had little or no fighting, but suffered an enormously high percentage of casualties from the malignant malaria of the Jordan Valley—a fact which reflects discredit upon the Military sanitary organisation.

More important than the military side is the writer's account of the Jewish Colonies and of the new generation which is there growing up. "They are producing splendid specimens of humanity in the colonies. The old people are more or less of the Russian type one meets at home, but the new life is reacting in the children, and in twenty years Palestine will be famous for its handsome Jews." This, however, only applies to those who go "back to the land." For the city-dwelling "Haluka" Jews, who crowd into Jerusalem and the other sacred cities, the writer has nothing good to say. Indeed, he is hardly just to them. "At present the Haluka Jew is an unmixed curse; he gives the Gentile an altogether false impression." And yet the old-world atmosphere he creates is more fascinating to the tourist than that of the entirely modern Jew, with his very fluid political, social, and religious beliefs.

Even more biased is the author when he refers to the "Arabs." (The educated native of Palestine applies the name "Arab" to the Bedouin.) In one passage the writer, however, states that the "Syrians," i.e., the race now inhabiting Palestine and Syria, are "mixed remnants of Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, and the rest"—he might have added Hebrew, Greek, Roman, Persian, and other racial strains. The Bedouin alone have any claim to be a pure "Arab" race. At the same time, because the Syrians (townspeople and fellahin) speak Arabic, enjoy a "Semitic" Oriental civilisation and—in great predominance—are Moslems, they can naturally count upon a sympathetic attitude from the great Arab tribes of the Syrian desert and of Arabia. There is no reason why Hebrews and "Arabs" should not work together; their racial customs are largely from a common stock. But if the Jew is at a "higher cultural level," it is very indiscreet of him to say so, for Moslems and Christians in the land will not admit it. It is, indeed, untrue of the "native" Jew—the Syrian, Baghdadi, Bokharali, Persian, Yemen, and North African Jew—and these elements are sure to increase under new conditions. It is a strange, and, too, an unsound, idea that Eastern Jews are to be "made into Westerns," for it is surely part of the claim of Zionism that Jews are really Orientals who have long been compelled to leave their Eastern home, in Palestine. Zangwill's public utterances—not taken very seriously by any British Zionists, who know

his sense of humour—about clearing all the non-Jewish inhabitants out of Palestine have done much harm, because he has been supposed to speak for the true Zionist, who knows very well that such ideas are preposterous. The existing Syrian race has never had any other home. Indeed, a frank co-operation between the two Semitic people is the only hope of progress in Palestine, and with so much in common it should be possible to soon live down mutual distrust and jealousies. It cannot be supposed that Zionism is to be maintained as an alien movement for an indefinite time under the protection of British bayonets, but it will need the highest tact and diplomacy to weld into one elements so diverse as the Syrian Moslem and Christian (of many sects) and the highly diverse elements of the modern Jewish race. Although critical, our author is always hopeful. But if the interest of these questions rather overshadows the narrative, there are many picturesque incidents and descriptions, and even those already well versed in Palestinian literature will find much that is new.

E. W. G. M.

II.—THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.

This unpretentious little volume, one of a series on "all through current problems and events," edited by Dr. Gollancz, is a veritable mine of information. The subject which it treats of is one of enormous importance, and few are fitted to deal with it with a wider knowledge and saner judgment. Sir Harry Johnston reviews his subject under the sections: "Who are the backward peoples?" "Why are they backward?" and "Our relations with them."

"The situation of the world of 1920 is that 283,000,000 of Christian white people—British, French, Belgian, Dutch, American, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Greek—are directly or indirectly interfering with or attempting to control 920,000,000 Chinese, Tibetan, Indians, Cingalese, Malays, Papuans, Negritos, Melanesians, Polynesians, Persians, Arabs, Kurds, Turks, Berbers, Hamites, Tulas, and Negroes." Can such interference and control be justified? Here is the answer, drawn from history, from ethnology and practical common sense. Interference has justified itself. But our relations are changing. For one thing, "they will no longer stand bullying, arrogance, unfairness, or deprivation of their land, and the hazard of their present and future chances of happiness and ease." . . . "They are right to insist on good manners and probity in their instructors, and on being allowed to share in the administration of their own land when they have fitted themselves for such work by their education and training. They are right in refusing to allow money raised by the taxation and treasures of their own land to be spent on countries outside." . . . "The coloured man, on the other hand, must remember that his land cannot properly be developed without railways and without the white man's capital." Sir Harry Johnston preaches a sane "Imperialism," but, from intimate knowledge, very outspokenly emphasises the mistakes of the past and the present dangers.

The book would form an excellent textbook for a teacher in geography, for use in secondary schools and colleges, the extremely condensed information being expanded by the use of the standard volumes mentioned in the bibliography at the end.

E. W. G. M.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Her Great Moment." By Edwin Balmer. (London: Stanley Paul and Co. 8s. 6d. net.)

"The Tour: A Story of Ancient Egypt." By Louis Couperus. Translated from the Dutch by Alexander Teixeira de Mattos. (London: Thornton, Butterworth, Ltd. 8s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

March 10 (New Style).
February 25 (Old Style).
Jumada II., 30, 1339 of the Moslem calendar.
Adar 30, 5681 of the Jewish calendar.

Mr. Edwin Freshfield left London on March 6 for Smyrna.

Sir Cecil Beck, M.P., has left London for Algeria, and will not be back until after Easter.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie has returned to her flat at Whitehall Court after an absence of two years.

The Earl and Countess of Ossory will return to London about the middle of April from Egypt.

Mr. Alex Devine left for the South of France last week to attend the funeral of the late King of Montenegro.

The Raja of Pudukattai and the Aga Khan arrived at Marseilles on March 5 on board the mailboat Malwa.

On March 4 General Gouraud had the honour of being received by the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace.

Reshid Bey Adra, a Syrian notable, has arrived in London from Constantinople, and is staying at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Lady Chetwode has returned to 20, Sussex Place, Regent's Park, from visiting Sir Horace and Lady Smith-Dorrien at Gibraltar.

Mr. Winston Churchill left for Egypt on March 2. Colonel T. E. Lawrence and Air Marshal Sir Hugh Trenchard are accompanying Mr. Churchill.

M. Frederic Nano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, with Madame Nano, left St. Moritz last week for Berlin, where M. Nano's father is Roumanian Minister.

India will probably be represented at the coming Imperial Conference by the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior and Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, member of the Council of State.

A daughter was born on February 15, at Nicosia, Cyprus, to Mrs. Llewelyn Jones, wife of Captain H. Llewelyn Jones, Manager a.i. of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Nicosia.

Sir John L. Maffey, on whom the Duke of Connaught recently conferred the K.C.V.O., is proceeding, says a Delhi message, to the North-West Frontier as Chief Commissioner.

Djavid Bey, a former Turkish Minister of Finance, and a prominent member of the Committee of Union and Progress, arrived in London last week in connection with the Near East Conference.

The wedding of Mr. Humfrey Grose Hodge, of Charterhouse, Godalming, formerly of the Indian Civil Service, and Miss Pamela Moresby will take place on March 31, at St. James's Church, Sussex Gardens.

Sir Rash Behari Ghosh, who died on February 28, left 2½ lakhs of rupees to Calcutta University for travelling lectures for the purpose of advancing agriculture, and about 10 lakhs to the National Council of Education.

Mr. Chotani, President of the Khalifate Conference, accompanied by Dr. Ansari, President of the India Moslems' League, and Mr. Hasan Imam have arrived in London from India in connection with the Allied Conference.

Comte René de Chérisey, the French representative on the Inter-Allied Reparations Commission in Bulgaria, and Sir Elliot Colvin, the British representative, accompanied by their staffs, arrived at Sofia on the night of February 27. The former is Chairman of the Commission for the first year. The Italian representative is Prince Livio Borghese.

The engagement is announced of John Middleton, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Middleton, of Glebe House, Headingley, Leeds, and Dorothea, only daughter of the late Thomas Durant Bighton, I.C.S., Member of Bengal Legislative Council, and Mrs. Arthur Saltren-Willett, of 134, Westbourne Terrace, London, and Manor House, Padworth, Reading.

The Sultan of Egypt, who has given £E600 to the Warriors' Day Fund, and has accorded his patronage to the ball which is to be held in Cairo on March 31, in aid of it, has also subscribed £E250 to the Royal Air Force Memorial Fund.

The engagement is announced between Captain Humphry Payne, Royal Field Artillery, only son of Colonel E. H. Payne, Indian Army, and Mrs. Payne, and Anthea Penne, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Firth, of Clifton Maubank, Dorset.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain the Hon. G. R. B. Bingham, Royal Welch Fusiliers, and Barbara Melvill, youngest daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Joubert de la Ferté, The Ferns, Weybridge, and will take place on April 4, at Lucknow, U.P., India.

Indian residents and visitors in London are entertaining Lord and Lady Reading at luncheon at the Savoy Hotel on Saturday, March 12, and it is expected that the Aga Khan will arrive from India in time to preside. The honorary secretary is Mr. M. H. Ispahani. The number of public entertainments that are being offered to the Viceroy-Designate bear testimony to the wide approval of the appointment.

The Ecumenical Patriarch Germanos V., who is to plead before the Allied Conference in London for the Christians of the Greek Orthodox Church, arrived in London last week. He was welcomed by representatives of his Communion in England, the chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Greek Minister, Dr. Gennadius. He will present the case of the Christians in Asia Minor, Roumania, and Russia, and will demand religious liberty, and request that the Church of St. Sophia be restored to the Greek Orthodox Communion.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (February 21):—I understand that there will be this coming summer an unusually interesting show of pictures in London. This exhibition, which will take place at the Alpine Gallery, will be held by Mrs. Alec-Tweedie, who has already made her name as an authoress and traveller, and has spent the last two years travelling in Southern Europe, the Near East, and India. In addition to numerous unique sketches of the Western front she will show a large number of water-colour paintings made during her recent travels. A picture which will undoubtedly attract attention is a sketch of Gallipoli made last autumn when Mrs. Alec-Tweedie passed that historic peninsula, and added interest has undoubtedly been given to this little picture by the fact that certain important points have been marked thereon by eminent soldiers whose names are inseparably connected with the Eastern campaign, amongst them Viscount Allenby and General Sir Herbert Cox.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Sir Narayen Chandavarkar, late Judge of the Bombay High Court, has been appointed President of the Bombay Legislature.

Captain W. B. Heard, who is succeeding Mr. A. B. Geary as H.B.M.'s Consul in Cairo, is expected almost immediately in Egypt to take up his duties.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes:—Mr. Luke, Deputy Governor of Jerusalem, has been arranging for his departure from Famagusta. Sir T. Haycraft, who goes as Chief Justice to the same city from the West Indies, was for some years in Cyprus as President of the District Court at Larnaca.

OBITUARY.

A Cairo telegram received here last week announced the death of Dr. David Beddoe, a well-known British medical practitioner of that city.

COLONEL LEACHMAN'S FUNERAL.

The body of Lieutenant-Colonel Leachman, the famous Arab traveller, who was murdered last summer, was brought from Feluja, says the Baghdad correspondent of *The Times*, in an armoured car, and, after lying in state in the Garrison Church of Baghdad during the night of February 28, was buried the following day in the North Gate Cemetery with full military honours. The Acting High Commissioner, the Acting Commander-in-Chief, several members of the Provisional Government, and a vast crowd of all classes of the population attended the impressive ceremony.

NICHOLAS, KING OF MONTENEGRO.

"I have seen the day with my good biting falchion, I would have made them skip; I am old now and these same crosses spoil me."—KING LEAR, Act V., Sc. iii.

It is difficult for those of us in whose veins runs warm Celtic blood to write calmly of one whose name will ever be associated with the tragedy of sorrow, humiliation, and burning injustice.

The story of Nicholas of Montenegro will one day be revealed to the world as a page of cold, unbiassed history. His story will prove no common one, for he was the maker of Montenegro, that little mountain country immortalised by Tennyson and Gladstone, at one time sole rock defence and cherished hope of the Yugoslav peoples in their centuries of fight against the Turk. History often differs from the "current Press" report. It writes very slowly, but always truthfully; and those of us who on the death of this venerable Lion of the Balkans are full of indignation at the yelping jackals who hounded him to his grave, a broken-hearted man, must possess our souls in patience until this time arrives and history pronounces her judgment, confident that the verdict will absolutely vindicate the old man and reveal a sordid story of calumny and infamous intrigue possible only in the Balkans.

It will be a revelation difficult for the average Englishman to imagine, a revelation of events to which the Great Powers (very likely in absolute ignorance) have been passive lookers-on.

As one who has enjoyed the intimate friendship of the King for many years, both in his own country and in his exile, I have known him as a man of strong personality. For his people he had a deep and real affection that went with him to the grave. That he was a "paternal despot" to some extent was probable; but is it a certainty that among primitive people such government and direction may not have certain high values? One is so prone to judge by the standards of London, Paris, and New York.

In common with most men he had his faults. His were the faults of a warm-hearted, generous man, which exposed him to the treachery of those who, when the old lion was wounded, were glad to join the mob at his heels.

Alone of all Europe's monarchs, of whom he was the *doyen*, he bore on his body the scars of personal battle. To the twentieth century financier, to the political wire-puller of to-day, these mean nothing, but there are still some of us who admire valour and the true sporting instinct. Nicholas was a sportsman. He loved fishing. It was his great joy to wander among the hills with his gun. His soul was imbued with the romantic influence of the vast heights, the majestic solitude of the mountains. He was a poet. Little children loved him. Dogs came to him as a friend.

Nicholas was not a business man. He did not realise the significance of the economic development of his nation, and thereby lost most of the sturdy youth of Montenegro who journeyed to America to build their fortunes. If only he had been a "good business man" and less of an Early Victorian and idealist, had developed the resources of his country; introduced foreign capital; and "feathered his nest," how much more he would have been regarded by the politicals and "concessionaires." These things were beyond his ken. Disaster fell upon his country, and he stood powerless and bewildered before the scurrilous intrigues that robbed him of his throne.

I saw him last about two months ago. A broken man who spoke pathetically of his beloved "children," as he called his people. Ambition in a man of eighty years of age had long since died away, though he did long to see his country free before he died. He went to his grave convinced that his people had been the victims of an infamous intrigue; that they had been robbed of the right to determine freely their future and their wishes.

The last subject we discussed was the report circulated by the Serbian Press that he had accepted a pension from the Belgrade Government. The King considered the very offer as a deliberate insult, and maintained to the last his contention that Montenegro was an independent Sovereign State, and he the legal, lawful King of his people until such time as they had an opportunity of expressing their will freely and without Serbian domination and coercion. What the future holds in store for Montenegro depends upon the people of Montenegro themselves. There are many who look forward to his people's right of self-determination—free as they were for well-nigh 1,000 years, yet

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forming part of a genuine federation of Yugoslav peoples. If this is not to be let us inscribe on the tomb of this gallant little nation:—"Pleurant le pays perdu." As for the King, his death may bring satisfaction to his enemies who feared his rights. Those who loved him are glad of the knowledge that the aged chieftain is to be at rest, though sad that he may not slumber amid the rugged rocks of the land he loved.

Nicholas was of the first to declare war on Germany and Austria. He was loyal to the Allies and his traducers can produce no proof to the contrary. The shameful allegations against his integrity are worthy of their origin.

Vex not his ghost! Oh let him pass! he hates him

That would upon the rack of this tough world

Stretch him out longer.

ALEX. DEVINE.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The text of the Draft Mandates for Mesopotamia and Palestine has been issued as a White Paper (Cmd. 1176), price 2d.

A Jaffa Hebrew newspaper has been suspended for one month for making a libellous statement about the Governor of Jerusalem.

Lord Allenby has issued a proclamation at Cairo removing the restrictions placed on the sale of alcohol in public establishments.

The Mayor of Belgrade, at the head of a delegation of municipal councillors, has arrived in Paris to pay a visit to the Paris Municipal Council.

On March 3 the Italian Chamber adjourned (states the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*) as a sign of mourning for King Nicholas of Montenegro.

A telegram of sympathy has been sent by the British Trades Union Congress to the Georgian Socialist Party on the occasion of their country being invaded by Bolsheviks.

There was much stone-throwing and using of sticks at Bombay on March 1, when Pathans were brought in to replace the oil-workers who are on strike; 23 arrests were made by the police.

The French Senate has approved the Convention signed on September 6, 1919, fixing the frontier between Wadai (French Equatorial Africa) and the Darfur Province of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

India's Legislative Assembly has voted that the members' emoluments should be the same as those of the Council of State. They also voted themselves the title of "Honourable" by fifty votes to forty-one.

An Arab editor of the Jerusalem newspaper *Al Aksa* has been sentenced to one month's imprisonment and a fine of ££50 for printing an inflammatory article about the alleged hatred of all Arabs towards the Jews.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1921.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

Even in the kaleidoscopic records of Indian finance it would be difficult to discover a more glaring contrast than is presented by Mr. Hailey's two Budgets. A year ago almost everything looked bright. The revenue sufficed to cover the necessary expenditure, capital for development was provided on an unprecedented scale without increasing the burden of debt, and, in the opinion of the responsible authorities, there was every prospect of stabilising the value of the rupee at a figure which would have rendered the future practically secure. The story unfolded this year is very different. In spite of rigorous curtailment of expenditure there is a large realised deficit, and an even larger deficit is apprehended; a heavy increase in taxation is required to balance the account, the reduced capital provision for development involves not merely a fresh loan in India, but an attempt to draw upon the London market, and the value of the rupee is so incalculable that in the official statement no attempt is made to state the figures in terms of sterling. The immediate position is indeed so depressing that at the outset it is well to insist on the temporary nature of the difficulties which confront the Indian Government. In discussing last year's Budget we wrote that the new India is heir to a great estate, and that is still the dominant factor in the situation, though for the moment the estate is embarrassed owing to a combination of unfavourable circumstances. Last year's monsoon rainfall was inadequate over a large part of the country, and in consequence India has less surplus produce to offer to the world, while, on the other hand, foreign markets are disorganised and unable to absorb the produce which is available. Meanwhile India has been importing on an unprecedented scale, partly for unproductive consumption, but very largely in order to increase her future income; the immediate effect of expenditure under these two categories is the same, for looms or engines have to be paid for as well as motor-cars or mirrors, and the result is that the balance of trade has turned against her, and her currency has suffered in the estimation of the world. Various palliatives could be suggested to ease this situation, but what is really wanted is time. Given favourable weather, the increased earning power of the country will become manifest as the months pass on, and the absorbing capacity of foreign markets may be expected to recover, though perhaps more slowly, until the position becomes stabilised, and India is again able to provide the world on profitable terms with the goods which it requires.

In these circumstances the interest of this year's Budget turns almost entirely on the expedients proposed to tide over the emergency. In explaining the nature of these, we shall follow the official statement in abandoning the attempt to write in terms of the sterling pound, and shall employ the Indian unit of a crore, which represents ten million rupees, and may mean anything from half a million sterling upwards according to the prevailing rate of exchange. The deficit for the coming year works out at 18½ crores, and the problem before the Financial Member is to raise approximately that sum. He cannot reduce the amount materially, because he has already curtailed expenditure as far as possible. The charges for the civil

administration are declared to be on the lowest possible scale, and the Legislature is more likely to press for increases than further reductions. The military budget will doubtless be attacked in the course of the debates, but we confess that, high as it is, we do not see how it can be reduced immediately without incurring serious danger, and we do not anticipate that the amount of fresh taxation will eventually fall much short of the official proposals. According to these the deficit is to be made good from four sources, the Post Office, the railways, the income-tax, and the tariff. Everyone will regret the increases in postal and railway charges, but it has to be remembered that they are the result mainly of higher wages to the employees; on the railways net revenues have fallen seriously, the postal surplus has already disappeared, and in making these adjustments India is only following the course already imposed by circumstances on nearly every country in the world. Taken together, these two sources are expected to yield 7½ crores; income-tax is to provide 3½, and the balance of about 8 crores is to come from the tariff on imported goods, leaving an estimated surplus of moderate dimensions. Some critics may be disposed to urge that a larger sum should be drawn from the income-tax, and on theoretical grounds their case is tolerably strong, but the Budget must win the support of the new Legislature, and, from the standpoint of practical politics, it is questionable whether the country is yet ready for a large and sudden increase in direct taxation.

There remains the customs tariff. The principal changes proposed in it are an increase in the general rate from 7½ to 11 per cent., together with additional duties on matches, now almost a necessary of life, and on sugar, tobacco, liquors, and a long list of other luxuries. No attempt is to be made to countervail these increases by internal duties; the promise of a Commission on Imperial preference shows that no immediate action can be expected under that head; and while we may accept the official statement that the sole object is additional revenue, and that there is no ulterior motive of any kind, we must recognise that, whatever the motive, the effect of the new duties will be definitely protective, and that their level is in some cases sufficiently high to make a practical difference to the trade of the country. The proposals are, therefore, likely to excite hostility in England, and we notice that Manchester interests are already beginning to press for an enhancement of the countervailing excise on piece-goods, so that the impending discussions may have an important bearing on the practical interpretation of the new Indian constitution. In the old régime, English interests were certainly not without influence in such matters, and were on occasion able to override the proposals of Anglo-Indian officials; the question which has still to be settled is whether similar influence can be exerted successfully against official opinion with an elected legislature at its back. On this last point, at least, there is no room for doubt. Assuming that fresh revenue must be raised, the Indian legislature will prefer the tariff to any other possible source, and the flavour of protection will serve as an attraction rather than a drawback. It is no part of our intention either to justify or to criticise the attitude of Indian legislators in this matter, but it is well that the fact should be clearly recognised. The balance of Indian opinion is definitely protectionist; given a free hand, it would probably attempt to make the tariff the dominant feature of Indian finance, and we anticipate that the chief incidents of the impending debates will consist of attempts to shift a still larger part of the burden on to foreign trade. Realisation of this fact enables us to appreciate the present budget as a whole. A large sum of money has to be found, and the problem before the authorities has been to propose such measures as may prove acceptable, or, at the least, tolerable, to the members of the newly elected legislature. It was inevitable, therefore, that the proposals should include an increase in the tariff, and, the topic once raised, the discussion is likely to result in fixing the main lines of taxation for some years to come. It will be a severe test of the capacities of an untried legislature, and we are not disposed to attempt a forecast of the outcome, but, according to the present indications, the world must reckon with the possibility of a protectionist India.

CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM.

A paper read by the Rev. L. J. Egerton Smith, Senior Chaplain to the Forces, at a meeting of Christian workers in Constantinople, held in 1920.

Let it be stated that I approach this subject as an inquirer, disclaiming any knowledge other than that of an interested observer. Residence in this land, where the Crescent has displaced the Cross, has naturally forced home certain questions as to the relationship of the rival faiths—their interaction upon each other, and the ultimate issues that are involved. It quickly becomes evident to the most casual observer that the Near East problem is at heart a religious problem, not merely diplomatic and political. And the more closely the facts are interrogated, the more clearly does the religious element emerge. It is not without significance that the settlement with Turkey is the final and most difficult stage of the Peace negotiations. Obviously the glib suggestion that Turkey be pushed out of Europe is not the easy solution of the difficulty that its advocates would have us believe. You may delimit national barriers with a stroke of the pen; you cannot so determine the frontiers of a faith; and Turkey is more than a State—she is a Theocracy. The day may not be far distant when Islam and Christianity must squarely face each other, and upon the issues of that day the destinies of the world will depend.

Points of Contact.

I take it as a principle that it goes a long way toward the reaching of an understanding between disputants that they make an attempt to understand each other. Speaking generally, it has to be admitted that Christian and Moslem scarcely know where the other stands. The idea of the average man, for example, that Mohammedanism is a complete innovation, and that the religion and culture of the Moslem world are wholly at variance with Western thought and creed is, if not wholly false, sufficiently remote from the truth to make it a very serious misapprehension. In our zeal for the truth it is easy to exaggerate differences and to conceal approximations. There are points of contact and resemblance between Christianity and Islam, despite the fundamental divergencies upon points of dogma. This could scarcely be otherwise when it is remembered that by the very fact of its historical position, Islam is under heavy obligations to Christianity. That we may readily concede. It has not been fully recognised, however, that Islam in certain other respects, notably in the departments of philosophy and literature, has partly repaid her debt. What are these approximations? Do they afford any hope of a *rapprochement* between the rival creeds? The very suggestion sounds Utopian. But who will dare to say that the situation is devoid of hope?

Mohammed's Message.

It should be borne in mind that Islam bears no sort of relation to post-Reformation Christianity. Mohammed was a product of Mediævalism, and his theories of life and religion were cast into moulds shaped by the conditions and creeds of his own times. Let it not be inferred that the religion of Islam, as we know it to-day, is identical with the teachings of Mohammed. We see a highly complex structure, with many accretions, separated by a long process of development from its original form. Mohammed's age was a period of religious indifference. He himself was an epileptic subject, liable to morbid and fantastic hallucinations, with alternating moods of excitement and depression. The Arabs were idol-worshippers, believers in evil spirits. In addition, there were local cults of the old Semitic character. It is known that Christianity had penetrated into Arabia from Syria and Babylonia, and that certain of the tribes had accepted the Christian faith. Indeed, there was a period when it appeared likely that the whole peninsula would become Christianised. Strong colonies of Jews had settled in North and South Arabia, and they gained proselytes among the people. Inevitably the impression made upon the serious-minded Mohammed was one of diversity and inherent antagonisms: an impression which the unhappy divisions amongst the professedly Christian sections did not tend to remove. Says the Koran: "But the sects have fallen at variance among themselves about Jesus." And Mohammed conceived the idea of proclaiming a religion which should combine the best elements in these rival faiths, so far as he understood them. Moreover, Christianity and Judaism had their sacred books. Who but he should bring to the turbulent tribes of untutored Arabs the new message from God, which should guide them to the gardens of Paradise? So we find him standing forth urged by Divine impulse—who can doubt—and proclaiming his message:—

"Be ye converted, for the Day of Judgment is at hand. God has declared it unto me as he declared it unto Moses and Jesus. I am the apostle of God to you Arabs. Salvation is yours only if ye submit to the will of God preached by me."

This is Islam—submission to God. Religion, as it presented itself to the mind of Mohammed, was purely national in character. From the earliest times, under the guise of religious differences, national diversities asserted themselves; theological disputes provided the rallying ground for racial distinctions and political antagonisms. He had broken with the belief in tribal deities, and recognised the one God who revealed his purpose to chosen nations through inspired prophets. And so it naturally came about that he regarded himself as the successor of the prophets. His knowledge of the Christian Messiah and of the leaders of Israel was imperfect, largely derived from traditional and apocryphal sources; but it provided useful material for his purpose. At the outset his idea seems to have been to identify himself with these great faiths and to incorporate them into a new religious system; he himself being in the succession of Adam, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, and far greater than them all. He made free use of the earlier revelations, adapting the messages of the prophets and of Jesus to his own ends. It is all done so clumsily that it can only deceive the very elect. For example:—

"Remember when Jesus, the son of Mary, said: 'O! Children of Israel, of a truth I am God's apostle to you, to confirm the law which was given before me, and to announce an apostle that shall come after me whose name shall be Ahmad.' But when he (Ahmad) presented himself with clear proofs of his mission they said: 'This is manifest sorcery.'"

Rodwell's translation of the Koran has the interesting note on this verse:—"Mohamet had, no doubt, heard that Jesus had promised the *Paracletos*. This title understood by him, probably from the similarity of sound, as equivalent to *Periclytos*, he applied to himself with reference to his own name Mohammad—i.e., 'praised,' 'glorified,' from the same root and of the same meaning as Ahmad, also one of the Prophet's names."

The Koran, the Final Word.

So the Koran was the final word: it came down in its entirety from God to the third Heaven, and was revealed in fragments to the Prophet. It mattered not for his purpose that in reality it was largely derived from the Old Testament and New Testament, with the addition of Arabian legends and floating Christian traditions of a local character. An integral part of the new teaching was that the chosen prophets of God were men who, by virtue of their office, attained to material success. Setbacks and refusals might be encountered, but ultimate triumph was assured. Therefore the Cross of Jesus found no place in Mohammed's system: it spelt disaster. So the explanation was made that Jesus did not die as was supposed, but was translated to Paradise, another—presumably Simon of Cyrene, who was supposed to bear resemblance to our Lord—taking his place at the Crucifixion. The Jews are condemned for saying:—

"Verily we have slain the Messiah, Jesus the son of Mary, an apostle of God.' Yet they slew him not and they crucified him not, but they had only his likeness. They did not really slay him, but God took him up to Himself."

Presumably motives of self-preservation guided Mohammed in taking this attitude, lest he himself should be subjected to like rejection on the part of unbelievers. The result was that the Cross disappeared—an irreparable loss to the Orient.

As an outstanding example of Mohammed's imperfect understanding of the Christian faith we take his rejection of the doctrine of the Trinity. Upon no dogma does the Koran more insistently pronounce than monotheism. It is fundamental to Islam. It was a protest on the one hand against the polytheism of the native tribes and against the tri-theists on the other. And as such it was perfectly sound. But it considered the Trinitarian teaching to be God the Father, Mary the Mother, and Jesus the Son, these three standing in the relationship of husband, wife, and son. God the Father is represented as saying to Jesus: "Oh, Jesus, son of Mary, hast thou said unto mankind, 'Take me and my Mother as two Gods beside God'? He shall say, 'Glory be unto thee, it is not for me to say that which I know to be not the truth. I spake not to them aught but that which thou didst bid me: Worship God, my Lord and your Lord.'"

No more tragic blunder was ever made. Where Mohammed derived this idea is not clearly known, as our knowledge of the Christian sects of the peninsula is very slight. Dr. Becker suggests that here we have a development of some gnostic conception which regarded the Holy Ghost as of female sex, instances of which may be found in the apocryphal Gospel to the Egyptians. In such circumstances we cannot look for a consistent Christology in the Koran. The divinity of our Lord is denied; yet the immaculate conception is accepted, and miraculous powers are ascribed to Jesus, including the absurd apocryphal stories of Christ's childhood. Nor is it without significance that the Moslem belief in the resurrection of believers is based upon the teaching of Jesus, and that Mohammedans generally believe that Christ will be the judge of all men at the last day. There

is high commendation of Jesus and his followers to be found in the Koran:—

"We gave Jesus the Evangel, and we put into the hearts of those who followed him kindness and compassion."

"In the footsteps of the prophets caused we Jesus the son of Mary to follow, and we gave him the Evangel with its guidance and its light confirmatory of the preceding law."

"To Jesus son of Mary gave we clear proofs of his mission and strengthened by the Holy Spirit."

In Search of a Compromise.

The truth of the matter seems to be that the early days of the Prophet were occupied with a sincere attempt to effect a compromise between his own teaching and the Jewish and Christian creeds. To his chagrin he found this only aroused the hostility of both Jew and Christian, and that his newly-proclaimed message, so far from being the solvent of religious differences, only served to accentuate them. Jew and Christian could not sit down with Mohammed in the Kingdom of God. Thus there followed the inevitable break with these faiths, and we read bitter complaints concerning the antagonism of the Jews in particular:—

"Of all men thou wilt certainly find the Jews and those who join other Gods with God to be the most intense in hatred of those who believe, and thou shalt certainly find those to be nearest in affection to them who say: 'We are Christians.'"

In the first instance, Mohammed and his followers had prayed towards Jerusalem. It was only when the breach between himself and Israel was past healing that he issued instructions that the Faithful should pray towards Mecca. On the other hand, the renunciation of idolatry was final. When it was urged upon the Prophet that the old Meccan deities should be worshipped at the same time with Allah, he replied:—

"Oh ye unbelievers,

I worship not that which ye worship.

I shall never worship that which ye worship;

To you be your religion, to me my religion."

Little by little Islam was forced back into Arabian moulds of faith and practice; Mohammed found himself compelled to accommodate his methods; so that at the best it became little more than a compromise. Striking evidence of this is seen in the influence of the ancient Kaabah worship of Mecca. The Kaabah was a sacred building, in one corner of which the Black Stone had been built, an object of great reverence to the Arabs. A fragment of the famous Kaabah stone from Mecca is to be seen set in the mihrab of the Ahmedieh mosque in Stamboul, and is greatly revered.

Much has been made of the exclusiveness of the Mohammedan creed and the fanatical hatred of the Moslems for all alien faiths. It is true that terrible excesses have been perpetrated in the name of Islam, as unhappily in the sacred name of Jesus. One of the darkest blots in the history of this fair city was the domination of the self-styled Crusaders. But it should not be overlooked that Islam makes generous concessions to adherents of other creeds. Mohammed himself was consistent in this, that in so far as he believed that the earlier religions had been founded by Divine revelations, therefore the believers of these other creeds were not wholly in error.

"Thou shalt see every nation kneeling; to its own book shall every nation be summoned."

And he laid down the principle that if on the path of conquest any people surrendered to him without resistance and paid the tribute imposed, they should be preserved, and freedom of worship guaranteed. His successors did not always act upon this principle, that must be admitted. But, as Lane remarks in his "Modern Egyptians," "The Moslems are as remarkable for their toleration as for their contempt of unbelievers."

(To be continued.)

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 SHEREEF ALI HAIDER AND MESOPOTAMIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I shall be grateful to you if you will allow me to reply to Mr. Urinowski's able criticism of my letter, which appeared in your issue of February 17.

Your correspondent is under the impression that I base Ali Haider's claims to British confidence on the Shereef's attitude during the war. On the contrary, I support my statement by his conduct before the war, at a time when he had everything to lose by being pro-British and everything to gain by being pro-Turkish. During the war, I may remark, King Hussein, in his position, had everything to gain by helping the Allied cause, and, of course, rendered valuable assistance to General Allenby. He had nothing to fear from Ali Haider, as the latter's true character and sentiments were well known to him.

I do not wish in any way to say anything that will reflect on King Hussein, but is Mr. Urinowski aware of the details connected with the deposition of Abdul-Muttalib on account of the latter's Anglophile tendency; is he aware that those connected with his deposition, some of whom are now in high positions, others under Allied supervision at Malta, continually intrigued against Ali Haider on the grounds of his being sympathetic towards Great Britain, and therefore unfitted for any high position? Can Mr. Urinowski say that Ali Haider belonged to the notorious Committee of Union and Progress, while I conclude he is aware that those he supports were ardent members of the Party? Does the thoroughly English education Ali Haider has given to his sons, as well as the whole of his political career, synchronise with an Anglophobe attitude of mind?

The reasons why Ali Haider proceeded to Medina during the war were purely pacificatory; Hussein's rebellion in the regions of the Sacred Places had appalled all devout Moslems. Had Ali Haider offered his services to King Hussein there would have been no restraint on those tribes (and they were many) which bitterly opposed the latter. Ali Haider therefore rendered the best effective help he could, in his position, to the Allied cause. If Ali Haider had "been more concerned with capturing the Emirate," he could have done so with the greatest ease, as he could have organised a formidable army of far greater strength than that of Hussein's. Even your correspondent has recognised his passivity in this respect.

With regard to the second point I raised in my previous letter—viz., Ali Haider's claims on the people of Irak—allow me to emphasise that he is not merely "a descendant of the last orthodox Khafif, Ali," but the living head representative of his house. On Hussein's own admission the House of Devi-Zeyd (Ali Haider's) is senior to that of Devi-Aoun (Hussein's). Ali Haider, therefore, should make the strongest appeal to the people of Irak-el-Arabi, whether Shiah or Sunni, in this respect.

Mr. Urinowski betrays his ignorance of Ali Haider when he says he "has secluded himself from his people by living in favour at Constantinople." Ali Haider's honest intentions and Anglophile sympathies have cost him dear. Before the declaration of the Constitution in 1908, he was not permitted to go out of the city, much less to Arabia, for fear of his conducting a propaganda in our favour. From 1908 until the declaration of war he was barred from any "favour" by the strong anti-British members of the Committee of Union and Progress.

The part Ali Haider has played in the effort to achieve an Arab nationality shows at once his patriotism, his statesmanship, and his peaceful intentions. Before the war there was no talk of Arab independence, though there was a plan to separate Syria from the Turks. When Ali Haider was approached on this subject by those who advocated violence against the Ottoman Empire he suggested that, instead of revolution, they should all work to oblige the Porte to open schools throughout Arabia, where the language taught must be Arabic, to appoint a certain number of Arabs to high

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official positions, and construct roads and railways. At the same time he suggested that the Arabs on their side should obtain a true census of the Arab population, so that they might be represented in the Turkish Parliament.

At that time the Turkish population was 12,000,000, the Arab 18,000,000. The Turks would, therefore, be obliged either to grant autonomy or to succumb to the majority, and so the question would be automatically settled without any revolution. Apparently the Arab leaders who had come to Ali Haider fell in with his views, and everyone worked on these lines until the declaration of war in 1914.

Complete Arab "independence," as has been suggested in many quarters, would be fatal for a community, half of whom are only semi-civilised. Ali Haider has the wisdom and foresight to see that before the principle of self-determination can be applied to Mesopotamia it is necessary that that country should have the refining influence of a Mandatory Power for a few years. This is in accordance with the views of all sane Englishmen.

Furthermore, your correspondent states that Ali Haider's "hatred for Hussein would not conduce to a harmonious working of his followers with the supporters of Hussein were he head of affairs in Mesopotamia." Ali Haider's ambitions have always been towards the establishment of peace, and it is not likely that he will allow the personal injuries he has received to stand in the way of his ideals. In fact, Ali Haider's appointment would be to Hussein's advantage, as I shortly hope to point out.—I am, etc.,

CHAMPION.

MUSICAL NOTES.

M. Huberman.

When Mr. Ernest Newman, with the mordant accuracy that informs all his work, dubbed Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov "the Weary Willies of Music," he was severely reprimanded by some foolish judges; but the essential verity of his delightful disrespect was illustrated at two notable recitals during the last week. Why so fine a fiddler as M. Huberman, whose recital was given at the Wigmore Hall on March 3, should have wasted his time on Tchaikovsky's effete concerto (Opus 35) is inexplicable. Of course, the public liked it, but M. Huberman is obviously an artist to whom popularity is not the first consideration. It is an arguable point whether violin concerti with pianoforte accompaniment should ever be played in public, but that the first and third movements of the Tchaikovsky might be left to grow dusty on the shelf admits of little question. This was a disappointing recital, first because the violinist was not in good form—his intonation was surprisingly erratic—and also because of his choice of pieces. A new sonata by the young Polish composer Alexander Tansman was given its first performance, but it seemed to be very carefully orthodox, and scarcely gave proof of the individuality claimed for it. Another thing which M. Huberman introduced to London was Fernand Le Borne's "Poème Légendaire," a mixed work replete with modern inarticulateness and incoherence. Indeed, the fact that M. Huberman is a fine artist was partly obscured in this recital, but it was evident in some unusually beautiful phrasing and tone in both the "Mélodie Slave," from the Tansman sonata and in the "Canzonetta" of the Tchaikovsky concerto.

M. Leff Pouishnoff.

As my readers will remember, my opinion of M. Pouishnoff, the young Persian pianist, is very high, and it was indeed nothing but his superlatively good playing that induced me to listen to the whole hour of Rachmaninov pieces of which the first half of his programme at Wigmore Hall on March 3 consisted. For there is perhaps no pianoforte composer more steeped in facile impotence than Rachmaninov; only occasionally does he depart (as, for instance, in G major prelude, Op. 32, No. 5, or in the Barcarolle Op. 10, No. 3) from the superficial and allow his undeniable genius play. What M. Pouishnoff made of the C sharp minor prelude I, having carefully missed it, do not know; but to all the rest of the Rachmaninov group he did more than justice, and must, through sheer power of unworthy persuasiveness, have converted many unbelievers. (It was, by the bye, quite refreshing to hear this extraordinarily accurate pianist humanly indulge in a few mistakes in the G minor prelude, which he played as an encore.) To Scriabin M. Pouishnoff brings very individual and deliberate methods of interpretation. Remembering the kindling warmth of his Schumann and Chopin, I little thought that he would treat Scriabin with the strict intellectuality which admittedly is one of the elements of the Slav's genius. The "Gothic" sonata (Op. 23) he played in a straight and generally perfect manner, but I do not think it was a great reading. Particularly, the first (*dramatico*) movement is more true to

itself when played ruggedly, uncouthly, if you will. In the second and third movements (*allegretto* and *andante*) the pianist did not trouble overmuch to expose the exquisite melodies from their harmonic shroud, though in the fourth (*presto con fuoco*) the riot of beauty was gloriously done. There was something more than magical, something almost mystical, in the delicate restraint which informed the readings of smaller things like "Caresse Dansé," "Enigmé," and some of the earlier studies; we have not heard these done so strictly and so surely before in London. The magnificent imperiousness which is a special virtue of this pianist was shown in a wonderful interpretation of the "Poème Satanique" (Op. 36); he rode like a conqueror above its ironic chords.

Busoni.

To say anything new about the most admirable executive artist in the world is not easy; words are, in fact, wanting to describe the last recital of Busoni at the Wigmore Hall on March 2. If there is anyone who is so complete a master of his instrument, who has so many grades of touch, who, above all, can make such magnificent use of the pedals, I have not yet heard of him. For both as artist and pianist Busoni stands alone. It was, however, chiefly as a pianist that he showed himself at his last recital, a pianist who showed us, as certainly no other living man is capable of showing, to what uses the modern grand pianoforte can be put. The architectural frescoes which Liszt has built round a theme from Bach's B minor mass became not the tawdry embellishments that most pianists make of them, but endlessly beautiful things; in his own transcription of the Andantino from Mozart's E flat concerto, Busoni displayed the restrained intensity that is one of his finest characteristics; and from some of Bach's choral preludes transcribed by himself he drew the loveliest of full organ tones. Nothing that Busoni does is forgettable; but what will probably become legendary was his playing of the last movement of Weber's first sonata, the "Moto Perpetuo"—the exhilaration arising from its almost incredible speed affected the whole audience.

ANDANTE.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Egypt.

The *Spectator*, in its issue of February 26 does not conceal its dislike for the Milner Report. After explaining that "the whole situation in Egypt is topsy-turvy," it states that Egyptians are not doing what they are supposed to be doing at the present time, but are "looking after their own affairs, and not troubling their heads with matters of government." It proceeds to demonstrate that the difficulty of finding out what the majority of the Egyptians really want is "insuperable," and its conclusions are far from hopeful:—

If what we have said is true, and we believe it is, we are perilously near a crisis, or perhaps we should say perilously near finding that after all the hopes we have raised and all the ill-blood that has been created the only sound plan would be to carry on. But that, unfortunately, is now impossible. We are too deeply pledged to do "something pleasant," and to do it quick.

We frankly confess that we cannot suggest any plan for getting out of the *impasse* into which the Government have brought us. Things will probably have to be a great deal worse before they are better. If one tried to prophesy, one could only say that presumably the Government, after a good deal of wrangling, will give the European Nationalists nearly but not quite the whole of their demands, but will give it so ungraciously that the situation as a whole will not be improved, but aggravated. As soon as a National Government has been established, it will get rid of its limitations. That accomplished, the National Government will gradually fall into the condition of all Oriental Governments. It will be undermined with corruption, and not only with corruption among the men at the top but with corruption everywhere. Corruption, however, is a very expensive and disintegrating thing, and after, say, twenty years of it we shall expect to see Egypt financially ruined and a prey to insurrections of the kind which overthrew Ismail Pasha. When this happens we or someone else will have to come in to preserve order, and then the old round will begin all over again. A new Cromer will have to be found to rebuild the old machinery and restart it. Probably even the irrigation works

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will not have been kept up. We can imagine one of the British engineers noting how his father's, or grandfather's work, though ruined by native folly and neglect, is still sound at its foundations!

Meantime, what of the peasant and the lower classes generally? They will be once more trodden down into the mud from which we raised them, and will be quite unable to explain how it was that when the English, whom they were told to hate and did hate, went away, things, instead of getting better, got ten times worse. And here is the real crux of the question. If the Nationalists have their way, it is not we who will suffer. On a balance of account it will be extremely good business for us to clear out of Egypt proper while guarding the Canal. We have never as a nation made anything out of Egypt, for English people held little or none of the Egyptian Debt, which we doubled in value, nor of the irrigated land, to which we gave a fourfold increment. It is not we but the Egyptian who will suffer, as he has always suffered throughout history at the hands of Pharaohs, Ptolemies, Romans, Arabs, Mamelukes, Turks, and the rest. When the poor sweated Egyptian peasant fell dead at his water wheel or while driving his primitive plough, there was always another dark-skinned worker to take his place and endure his tale of misery and oppression. His rulers took from him everything except just the amount of produce necessary for his survival. He had a value as a taxpayer, and therefore he must be allowed to live. The only time in his history when the *fella* was something more than a true proletariat was from 1890 to the present time. During that period, at any rate, he had his rights and was protected from the tax-collector and the usurer who stood behind the official plunderer. And now, poor wretch, it looks as if the wheel of fate is to turn once more, and he is to be again condemned to a type of suffering which can be compared only to that of the dumb, patient, long-eared beast which so appropriately bears the heavy burdens of the heavily burdened.

THE MILNER REPORT.

(Continued.)

A feature of the Report which cannot be ignored is the distinction it draws between the Official and the Fella. Or, rather, between the attitude of these two types towards the Mission. Thus, on the first page, we read of the strong contrast between "the caution and reserve exhibited by the native official world" and "the storm of protest and disapprobation with which the arrival of the Mission was greeted by the native public and the native Press." Again, on page 9, reference is made to "the cordial and intimate relations which many old residents in Egypt, and not a few senior officials and their wives, have established with their Egyptian neighbours"; but this goodwill was, as we know, unable to prevent the boycott of the Mission. That boycott, however, "carried out as it mainly was by students and schoolboys," was not approved "by educated Egyptians generally, or even by all those who held advanced Nationalist views. Rudeness to strangers appeared to them inconsistent with the courtesy and hospitality upon which all Egyptians pride themselves." The unfortunate thing seems to have been, as was repeatedly pointed out in THE NEAR EAST at the time, that moral courage was lacking: "there were a large number of men who were really anxious to bring their views before the Mission, but were deterred from doing so by fear of the personal annoyance to which they might in consequence be exposed." The steps taken to overcome the difficulty thus created are too well known to need recounting here.

In connection with the quotation above regarding officials, it may be noted that the Report mentions the "particular resentment . . . occasioned in Egypt at the time of the arrival of the Mission by a recent increase in the numbers of the British engaged for the public service." The number of British officials has risen from a few hundred to upwards of sixteen hundred, with scales of pay higher than those of Egyptians; and though these higher scales are doubtless justifiable, they have been readily represented as constituting a grievance. It is satisfactory to learn that the Mission does not regard as justified the oft-heard criticism that the quality of the British officials has deteriorated; but the critical sense of the Egyptians has been greatly developed.

An important contributory cause of the unrest in Egypt was "the manifest insuccess of educational policy resulting in the production of an unnecessarily large and ever-increasing number of candidates for official posts, provided with examination certificates, but destitute of any real educational culture." Almost inevitably a proportion of these failures turn to political agitation, and we do not need the Report to tell us that "Nationalist propaganda has been at work for many years in Egypt." Most people will agree that "the evolution of a sane and moderate Nationalist spirit might have been regarded with sympathy and interest"; but it is unfortunate that "political rivalries among the Western Powers led it from the first to assume an anti-British colour." Finally, among the causes of unrest, "there is the latent but ever-present

impatience of the Moslem with Christian rule. . . . There is in the East a patriotism of religion which is an even more fundamental sentiment than the patriotism of home and tradition."

Two passages bearing on the Fella and the political agitator and his methods may be given. We read on page 15:—

It has been said that "every Egyptian worth his salt is at heart a Nationalist." This is only true of the educated and semi-educated classes, who constitute less than 10 per cent. of the fourteen million inhabitants of Egypt. It would be meaningless as applied to the 92 per cent. of illiterates and especially to the fellaheen, who are two-thirds of the whole people. The turbulent crowds of the great towns may indeed be easily worked up to excitement by political catchwords, which they vociferate without understanding. But the fellaheen, as a body, are normally very indifferent to politics. They are a primitive peasantry, living on the land and by the land, to which they are passionately devoted. . . . But while their outlook remains limited, their independence has developed, and they are far more tenacious of their rights than in the old days of despotism. And from the following page comes this passage:—

It is inconceivable that the sentiment of their social superiors of every class, of all the men who make opinion, should not in the long run profoundly affect the mass of the people. No doubt Nationalism as a political creed has little attraction for these unlettered millions, though they can easily be taught to repeat its catchwords. But then it is not so much by abstract political arguments that the extremist agitator seeks to win their support, as by the constant vilification of everything British and by subtly attributing every local disaster and every personal grievance to the malignity or incompetence of British officials. This campaign of mendacious denigration is carried on by many agencies, by preachers in the mosques, by country-bred students returning for the holidays, by all but a few organs of the Arabic Press. It is true that the fella cannot, as a rule, read himself, but he can always be read to, and if everything that is spoken or written to influence him points the same way, the falsehood so sedulously instilled cannot fail ultimately to poison his mind.

The Mission, however, was satisfied, even before leaving Cairo, that it would be a profound mistake to take the view that Nationalism is synonymous with violent Anglophobia and aims at the complete subversion of the existing system of government in Egypt. How far its view will be shared by the Government and people of Great Britain it is too early yet to say. But the Report is a courageous and enlightening document, and the more it is studied the better it will be for Anglo-Egyptian relations.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Sudan Loan Result.

The result of the Sudan loan is one more proof that nothing can be accounted certain before the event. While a loan for San Paulo, the whereabouts of which would, I think, puzzle the average Englishman, was readily subscribed, over 80 per cent. of the loan for the development of what might well be described as one of the most promising regions in the Empire was left with the underwriters! To say that it is disappointing is to use a mild term. I am inclined to think that one reason for the result is to be found in the somewhat inadequate publicity given to the Sudan issue. There appeared to be a tendency to believe that, in view of the reception accorded to the first part of the loan, the appearance of the new issue would be sufficient to guarantee its success. But while that factor no doubt had an effect, it would not explain the result and the apparent preference given to a minor foreign issue over a British, the interest on which is guaranteed by the British Government.

Possible Explanations.

I have talked with various people on the subject, and have received a number of conflicting opinions. One rather interesting view is that the success of the San Paulo loan is due to the support of cosmopolitan capital which has not shown any great concern as yet in the affairs of the Sudan. That, if it be true, is gratifying; but if it was through purely British capital that the first loan was oversubscribed, how was it that its support was withheld on this occasion? Possibly the explanation for this inconsistency is to be found in the fact that this is the period of the year when the tax-collector is making the first of his terribly heavy half-yearly demands. I have also heard it suggested that the result is evidence of the growing reluctance of the British investor to support any Government security so long as there are no signs that due attention is being paid to economy by the authorities. I have very little doubt that that may have had something to do with it.

Rupee Exchange.

There are one or two points in the Indian Financial Statement which seem to invite comment, notably the reference to the rupee. The Finance Member admitted that Government expectations had not been realised in regard to the exchange rate, and also that the attempt to make them good had to some extent contributed to the excess of imports, but he urged that the new policy had had to contend against very adverse forces. That, of course, is unquestionable, but one would have thought that those capable of conceiving so bold, and as many people now think so mistaken, a policy would have been able to foresee in broad outline the general course of events, and would have planned their course accordingly. The Finance Member went on to say that, in supporting the market last year, the Government had *hoped* (the italics are mine) that abnormal conditions would improve, but that as time went on it became impossible to resist the conclusion that this anticipation was unsafe. We are told that Government efforts to maintain exchange for the time being have failed, and that for the present, in the Finance Member's opinion, there is no practical step which the Government can take to end trade depression and general uncertainty. Unfortunately, Mr. Hailey at the same time hazarded the conjecture of "a likely substantial recovery" in the second half-year, if there were a good monsoon. The immediate effect of this tentative prophecy, it is to be feared, will be to make remittances from India, which have been tight enough during the last few weeks, still tighter.

Protection Against Lancashire.

Another feature in the statement of special interest is the proposal to increase the general *ad valorem* duty of 7½ per cent. to 11 per cent., except for matches and certain luxuries, but including manufactures. As this proposal is unaccompanied by a counterbalancing increase in the cotton excise duties, it can only be interpreted as a protectional measure against Lancashire, whose trade is bound to be affected to some extent if it is passed. Naturally, the announcement has been followed by immediate protests from Lancashire. The India executive of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce has sent a telegram to the Secretary of State for India expressing its condemnation of the action of the British and India Governments, and suggesting that, as the need of further revenue is the sole object of the increased duty, the circumstances could in some measure have been met by increasing the excise duty to 7½ per cent. "The Chamber," the telegram adds, "views with alarm the total disregard shown by H.M. Government of the interests of the cotton industry in this country and of its present deplorable condition, and suggests that the Government's constant expressions of concern to increase exports from this country is inconsistent with their present action." In the past Lancashire's protests have invariably borne fruit, but the position is now materially altered, and it remains to be seen whether the India Government can be prevailed upon to abandon the proposal.

The F.B.I. and Export Credits.

An important memorandum on schemes for promoting the restoration of international trade in general and British export trade in particular was forwarded last week to the Government by the Federation of British Industries. The statement, which may be taken to represent the views of the great majority of the leaders of commerce and industry in this country, sets out in plain terms the needs of the position, and the urgent necessity for support to exports by means of a suitable export credits scheme. The Federation, however, entertains no extravagant expectations of a speedy restoration of world trade and prosperity even to this country by artificial means such as this, and it is pointed out that the best that can be hoped for is that the special financial accommodation and facilities provided may have the effect of stimulating into activity the forces of wealth and productive industry by which alone the fortunes of the impoverished countries can be repaired and the requisite means of international exchange be continuously provided.

The Ter Meulen Scheme.

The Federation approves the general principles of the Ter Meulen scheme, and urges the Government to bring strong pressure to bear with the object of expediting its introduction, with such amendments as may be desirable. As the announcement of the appointment of Sir Drummond Fraser as organiser of this scheme shows, tentative steps are being taken to bring it into being. The difficulty is

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that many months must perforce pass before it is in working order, and it needs no emphasis that in present conditions delay such as would thus be involved must be avoided if possible. The Federation meets this point by the suggestion that a scheme to finance export credits and to insure the British exporter against eventual loss due to the failure of the importer to meet his obligations should be promptly introduced. The memorandum goes on to explain the various objections to the present export credits scheme, and says that whether that be amended or a new scheme adopted, provision should be made for insuring the exporter against loss in consideration of his paying a suitable premium.

The Cotton Position.

It hardly needs emphasising that once conditions permit of a general trade revival, there will be an enormous demand for cotton goods from all parts. Unfortunately, the adverse conditions with which cultivators of cotton have been faced this year seem likely to result in a large reduction of cotton in the United States, according to advices I have just received from a valued correspondent, and should that be the case Lancashire will find cotton very hard to obtain just at the time when there is the greatest demand for its products. Any curtailment of cultivation in the United States would be a most short-sighted policy, for there is not, and never has been, any question of over-production as regards cotton; on the contrary, its cultivation has failed to keep pace with the growth of the world's consumption, and it would not be difficult to imagine a position in which Lancashire was unable to obtain anything like adequate supplies.

Bolshevism—and after.

The news that has come to hand during the last few days suggests rather forcibly that we may be within a measurable distance of seeing the end of Bolshevism in Russia and the rise in its place of a sane administration under whose auspices Russia's readmittance to the world's commercial markets will again be possible. But if we assume that happy outcome it would be futile to anticipate any widespread influence on the general position for a very long time to come. The reconstruction of Russia is likely to be an extremely lengthy process in the best possible circumstances. Transport, for one thing, is chaotic; for another, the whole machinery for trade will have to be built up again, and until this has been accomplished Russia's participation in the world's markets must perforce be very restricted. Still, in present conditions the world will be glad of the slightest assistance, and there is little doubt that the moral effect of the downfall of the Bolsheviks on the world's economic recovery would be very pronounced.

COMMENTATOR.

SAND AND LIGNITE PROPERTIES IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade has been approached with regard to the disposal of a workable deposit of lignite, and another of sand, on the Danube between Belgrade and Novi Sad. The deposits are stated to lie within 50 metres of the Danube, and to require a switch of some 300-400 metres to connect up with the main railway line Budapest-Belgrade. The price is two million dinars (about £17,000), and it is said that the vendors would put up one million dinars against a further million dinars contributed by the purchasers. The proposal is to develop the lignite and the sand together in the manufacture of glass. Inquiries should be addressed to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £	25·22½	51·25-51·75
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25·22½	138-143
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·3-1·3½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25·22½	275-285
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·3-1·3½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	565-585
New York	Dollars to £	4·86½	3·90-3·91½
Paris	Francs to £	25·22½	53·80-54·20
Prague	Kronen to £	24·02	290-310
Rome	Lire to £	25·22½	105½-106½
Sofia	Levas to £	25·22½	327
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £	24·02	1,700-1,900
Warsaw	Marks to £	20·43	3,275-3,400

In some cases quotations are nominal.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

GREECE.

ATHENS, February 17.

Politics and the Exchange.

The Liberal journal *Eleftheria* (Liberty), of Volo, has published a table showing the fluctuation of the exchange on London during the recent political events. The details it gives are as follows:—A fortnight prior to M. Venizelos's fall the exchange was 35.00 drs.; on the eve of the elections, 38.75; three days after M. Venizelos's departure from Greece, 40.00; at the time of the plebiscite for King Constantine, 48.00; the Allies say they will lend no more money to Greece, 51.00; the Near East Conference is decided upon, 53.00; M. Gounaris decides to represent Greece at the conference, 55.00; M. Ralli resigns, 58.00; M. Gounaris will not go to the conference, 56.50; rumours that M. Stergiadis and M. Coromilas will represent Greece at the conference, 53.50.

Unsold Tobacco.

The Greek Chamber of Commerce in Athens has received information from London to the effect that practically no Greek tobacco was sold on the English market during December. Out of a total stock of 24,318 bales only three were disposed of. In spite of the discouraging news which tobacco dealers have been receiving of late, a further 290 bales of Greek tobacco were added during December to the already overstocked market. In view of the above the Greek Chamber of Commerce is advising tobacco exporters to suspend temporarily all further shipments to England.

Miscellaneous.

Control of foodstuffs, which was reintroduced a fortnight ago, has again been abolished.

The Hellenic Government has been informed by its Consul in New York that, in order to encourage and facilitate the export of frozen meat, the United States Government has decided to inaugurate a special boat service to Piræus and Salonika exclusively for the transport of frozen meat.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, February 15.

Cyprus Stock Committee.

The Cyprus Stock Committee, which has done much good work for Cyprus, has been reconstituted. Mr. A. K. Bovill, O.B.E., who has just retired from the office of Principal Forest Officer, has been appointed chairman, the other members being Col. Gallagher, D.S.O., Chief Commissioner of Police; Mr. Barrett, Director of the Government Farm; and Mr. H. McLaughlan.

Timber Supplies.

No little discontent has been expressed regarding the alleged over-felling of timber during the period when fuel was exported for the needs of the campaigns in Palestine and Egypt. Many have advocated the construction of a light railway from the northern Troodos range (where trees are said to have been unduly sacrificed) to Papho (*Ktima*). During the war the timber was shipped from Famagusta.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended February 10 amounted to £E12,818, making the total for the year £E435,734. For the corresponding periods of last year the totals were £E13,187 and £E336,991 respectively.

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EGYPT'S TRADE IN 1920.

LARGE EXCESS OF IMPORTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, February 18.

The December Customs returns, which have just been made available, give us the trade figures for the whole of 1920. The following table shows clearly what phenomenal strides the foreign trade of Egypt has made during the war:—

	1913.	1917.	1919.	1920.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Imports.....	27,865,195	33,175,139	47,409,717	101,880,963
Exports.....	31,662,065	41,060,612	75,888,321	85,467,061
Re-exports ...	578,251	529,799	4,307,401	2,551,894
Transit	2,972,574	8,247,487	8,911,846	12,811,874

The figures for the past year are easily the largest hitherto known in the modern history of Egypt. As can be seen, imports have more than trebled and exports more than doubled since 1917, while since before the war re-exports have increased by 400 per cent., and the transit trade has expanded by over 500 per cent.

The most noticeable feature about the past year's statistics is the swing over of the balance of trade against the country to the extent of about fourteen millions as compared with 1919, when the credit balance in Europe was increased by £E33,000,000. From the fact that during December there was a decrease of £E12,947,892 in exports and an increase of £E1,158,502 in imports, it would appear that the adverse swing of the trade pendulum will continue for some time yet.

Under imports the principal items have been:—Preserved meat, £E631,707; preserved fish, £E585,309; cheese, £E193,475; leather, £E420,846; boots and shoes, £E721,490; wheat, £E2,414,508; maize, £E220,329; barley, £E320,536; potatoes, £E334,864; flour, £E7,029,164; fruits, £E1,457,801; sugar, £E2,787,365; tea, £E240,929; coffee, £E1,125,393; wine, £E438,287; spirits, £E662,492; vegetable oils, £E675,805; petroleum, £E1,972,098; mineral oils, £E1,674,285; printing paper, £E409,545; wrapping paper, £E307,373; cigarette paper, £E344,884; cardboard, £E325,457; wood for building, £E2,688,988; coal, £E8,315,450; cement, £E273,363; manures, £E2,901,064; household soap, £E639,812; matches, £E283,760; cotton yarn, £E1,324,177; sewing cotton, £E339,726; cotton textiles, £E18,771,487; woollen textiles, £E3,128,359; silk yarn, £E526,369; silk textiles, £1,913,181; empty sacks, £E1,258,009; manufactured iron or steel, £E4,623,552; and tobacco, £E3,184,998.

Practically all these items show substantial increases in value, which in most cases are quite out of proportion to the increases in quantity. In fact, in some instances, such as cotton piece goods by the metre and vegetable oils, the quantities have actually decreased, while the total value has increased.

Under exports the principal items have been:—Eggs, £E301,863; untanned hides and skins, £E459,912; leather, £E253,230; rice, £E173,796; cottonseed, £E3,492,239; cottonseed cake, £E594,950; onions, £E543,576; sugar, £E1,144,987; phosphates, £E416,877; raw cotton, £E75,096,026; and cigarettes, £E951,121. The same remarks regarding increase apply as to imports, and a noticeable feature is the fact that cotton exports decreased by over 40 per cent. in volume, but increased by over 15 per cent. in value.

The principal items under re-exports were:—Canned meats, £E30,535; hides and skins, £E47,418; cereals, etc., £E87,728; kerosene, £E198,206; mineral oils, £E83,527; coal, £E224,182; and cotton piece goods, £E434,544; while under transit the main articles were coal, £E7,321,437; benzine, £E3,619,671; and oil fuel, £E1,792,488.

The United Kingdom's share fell somewhat, the proportion being 37 per cent., as against just under 50 per cent., in imports, and 45 per cent., as against just over 50 per cent., in exports. India increased her share by about 50 per cent. to £E3,338,709, and Australia and New Zealand nearly trebled theirs to £E4,900,722. Of the other countries, the most important increases were in respect of the United States, whose imports were nearly quadrupled at £E10,751,055, and whose exports at £E26,469,171 showed an increase of 60 per cent.; France, whose shipments nearly trebled; Italy and Chili, whose consignments were just about doubled; and Sweden and Switzerland, each of which quadrupled their sales to Egypt. Interesting reappearances were imports from Austria, £E310,090; Belgium, £E1,927,150; and Germany, £E1,186,121. It is, perhaps, of interest to note that of the cotton exports Great Britain took 40 per cent., the United States 35 per cent., France 10 per cent., and Austria and Germany 2 per cent.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan showed further expansion. Imports came to £E2,286,986 and exports to £E3,954,221, as compared with £E1,778,646 and £E2,847,607 respectively in 1919. The main items under imports into

Egypt were:—Bullocks, £E494,482; sheep, £E460,164; hides and skins, £E111,666; sesame, £E380,868; dates, £E146,044; groundnuts, £E115,794; charcoal, £E68,080; and gum arabic, £E34,259 (a decrease of 80 per cent.). Under exports from Egypt the chief items were:—Hides and skins, £E37,367; cereals, £E227,841; refined sugar, £E1,099,217; coffee, £E175,578; cotton textiles, £E984,385; sacks, £E160,952; and tobacco, £E234,831.

The warning recently given in the note on the State accounts for the first half of the current financial year—viz., not to adopt too pessimistic a view of the huge deficit then revealed—is being justified by the figures published for subsequent months. At the end of October the deficit stood at only £E612,286, and although at the same date the previous year there had been an excess of receipts over expenditure of £E1,898,896 the October figure certainly makes the situation much more hopeful. The pull up in the revenue during October was due to a large instalment of £E1,341,293 in the land tax and £E2,136,524 from interest on funds; while on the expenditure side railways again had a huge expenditure, this time of £E990,433, and indemnities for increased cost of living took £E933,615.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

Payment of Full Original 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 1920 will permit of the payment in 1921 of the full original interest on the loans of each of the three groups. As regards sinking fund, the additions in 1921 will be 28 per cent. of the original interest in the case of Groups I. and II. and 26 per cent. in the case of Group III.

The whole of the 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 the principal figures on which the above results are based:—

Receipts: The gross receipts in 1920 from the assigned revenues from which the plus-values are derived were 65,630,414 drachmæ, as compared with the gross receipts in 1919 of 50,468,063 drachmæ, showing an increase of 15,162,351 drachmæ.

Plus-values: The receipts from the assigned revenues, after deduction of 18 per cent. of the plus-values for expenses, were 59,018,940 drachmæ, and the amount fixed by the Law of Control being 28,900,000 drachmæ, there was a plus-value of 30,118,940 drachmæ, of which the bondholders are entitled to 60 per cent., or 18,071,364 drachmæ.

Benefit from exchange: Net profit on exchange was 6,844,680 drachmæ, of which the bondholders are entitled to 60 per cent., or 4,106,808 drachmæ, making the total plus-value applicable to the service of the debt 22,178,172 drachmæ.

Of this amount there is available for interest the sum of 10,985,086 drachmæ, which produced 15,937,593 francs (being half the above amount of 22,178,172 drachmæ, less a sum of 104,000 drachmæ, 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).

For sinking fund there is available the other half, without deduction, viz., 11,089,086 drachmæ, which produced £272,232, equal to 6,805,798 francs.

Adding to the former amount the interest saved on amortised bonds and to the latter the balance brought forward from 1919, the following result is shown for 1920:—Total amount available for increase of interest, 17,643,633 francs; total amount available for increase of sinking fund, 6,854,055 francs.

Out of these sums the additions to interest and sinking fund stated above will be made, the balance of 4,735,094 francs in the case of interest being paid into the Greek Treasury and that of 60,550 francs in the case of sinking fund being carried over to the next distribution.

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COTTON GROWING WITHIN THE EMPIRE.

A HOPEFUL OUTLOOK.

At a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute on March 8, at which Sir Henry Birchenough, Bart., K.C.M.G., presided, Mr. J. W. McConnell, chairman of the Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers' Association, read an interesting paper on "Cotton Growing within the Empire."

Pointing out that at present, speaking in general terms, the cottons spun in Great Britain came from three sources, the British West Indies, Egypt, and the United States, Mr. McConnell said that he supposed that about three-fourths of the total quantity used came from the last-named—the United States. That had been so throughout the last 120 years, except, of course, in the time of the American Civil War. Practically, then, the question was whether the Empire could grow cotton in kind and quantity that would make them less dependent on the United States. There were good reasons why this was desirable. Her crop was probably approaching its economic limits. Her own consumption was increasing. Her climate was variable, and her crops consequently varied greatly in size.

Position in India.

Cotton growing within the Empire might be considered under two heads: Countries where cotton was already established without special stimulus from Lancashire; and countries where cotton growing was somewhat of a novelty. The first class were principally India and Egypt, if for cotton purposes the latter might be reckoned within the Empire. For the most part the present-day cottons of India were not used in Great Britain. Out of the total of, say, 4,500,000 bales, about 2,500,000 were used in India itself. Japan and China used about one million and one-eighth, and the remainder used to be sent to Germany, Austria, and other parts of Europe. For many reasons it was not thought to be possible, and for other reasons it was not considered desirable, to alter the main growths of India so as to make her cotton suitable for British use. It was also in no way desirable to grow additional cotton at the cost of growing less food. The improvements which must be aimed at principally were, first, to enlarge the yield per acre; and, second, to make the cotton grown of better quality, without altering its suitability for the mills which now used it. Such developments as those would greatly promote the prosperity of the agricultural population in India. However, apart from that, it was known that there were districts in India, notably in Sind, which might be put under irrigation and which might then produce several hundred thousand bales of cotton of a kind which would be readily marketed in Lancashire.

The special interest of cotton in Egypt lay principally in two factors. First, everything in Egypt, and cotton among the rest, was grown under irrigation. In growing cotton under irrigation, Egypt was, until a few years ago, unique. Now, cotton was being grown similarly under irrigation in California and in Arizona. The beginning had been made of growing cotton under irrigation in the Sudanese Gezira, and successful attempts at growing cotton under irrigation were being made in Northern India. It was thought probable that in parts of Nigeria and in other places in the Empire which were now sterile, irrigation might make the growing of cotton possible. It could also easily be seen how much the study of the laws of plant development was simplified, when the supply of moisture and consequently of plant food could be exactly controlled.

The other point of interest is that Egyptian cotton was of a very distinct type. Its origin was, he believed, not exactly known. It began with a special plant brought to notice by a French engineer, Jumel, growing in the garden of one Maho Bey. Then it was gradually modified by crossing with exotic plants, such as Sea Island and Brazilian. However this might be, it had now for many years been essentially of one type. There were indeed, speaking commercially, many kinds of Egyptian cotton, which differed so much that the differences were of great importance to spinners. But they were all of the Egyptian type. Just in the same way there were many differences in the main American crop, but all its varieties were so much of one type as to be readily separable from Egyptian, or from Indian, or from Brazilian or other types. The three important economic characteristics of the Egyptian type were, first, that more than any other cotton it was free from short and imperfect fibres, and therefore made a clean yarn, and was also less expensive to work; secondly, its whole range of kinds was suitable for spinning the much-needed counts of yarn which were finer and stronger than those that could be made from American Uplands; thirdly, it happened to be the cotton which gave the best results under the mercerising process, by which ladies were enabled to appear to be wearing silk garments without having dipped too deeply into their husbands' pockets. Egyptian cotton was used universally for all purposes, such as motor tyres, where strength was essential. It was also the bulk cotton used for all the finer materials called for by the dictates of fashion. It was only excelled by the Sea Island type. About two-fifths of the Egyptian cotton crop was used in Great Britain; and about one-fourth of British spinners were dependent on it.

Problems for Egypt.

The question of increasing the growth of cotton in Egypt was also one of great interest. Everything in Egypt depended on the Nile. And the profitable use of the Nile depended: firstly, on water storage; secondly, on water distribution; and thirdly, on efficient drainage. Water distribution had been most efficiently handled under the direction of British engineers. Suitable barrages had been erected at appropriate places, which had made it possible to spread the Nile water where and whenever wanted over large areas both in Upper and in Lower Egypt. Water storage had also been provided to a degree sufficient for all needs up to the present time, and plans had been made, and were now being carried out, which it was hoped would suffice for large extensions of cultivated land. In regard to drainage, the position was less satisfactory. There were two aspects of this to be considered. First, dividing the Delta into three parallels there were large areas of land in the middle tract where drainage was now imperfect, and there were further large areas in the Northern tract which were mostly salted desert, or swamp, or even under water. Great public works had been designed in Lord Kitchener's time for draining both these areas, and it was computed that when they were carried to completion in the course of fifteen or twenty years, there would be an automatic increase to the crop of cotton amounting to 750,000 bales of 500 lb., or a 50 per cent. increase over the previous maximum. These schemes were inevitably postponed during the war, and the latest news with regard to them was of rather a disappointing and uncertain nature.

The other aspect of the question was highly technical and scientific, and he could only explain its character. It was known that the cotton plant in dry ground put its roots down six or more feet below the surface. It was also, he thought, now admitted, though the theory was for some time in dispute, that if the subterranean water (which it could readily be believed was never very far below the level in the Delta of a great river) rose again after the plant had pushed down those long roots, they, which were the most active roots of the plant, would be drowned and die, so that the plant would fail of the strength necessary to continue bearing fruit. That was again a question of drainage, but that was a much more difficult matter to deal with than was the mere removal of the irrigation water after it had served its purpose. Statistics, carefully collected and fairly examined, indicated that there was some secret cause at work, which prevented the land in Egypt from producing per acre more than perhaps three-fourths of what it did before the water storage and water distribution had reached its present efficiency.

He now turned to what was being done fresh in the Empire, largely due to the enterprise and perseverance of the British Cotton Growing Association. In the British West Indies cotton was being grown when they were first discovered, but as an industry it was reintroduced about the beginning of the present century. Of the cottons grown, the greatest interest attached to those of the Sea Island variety. That variety, which took its botanical name from Barbados, was introduced into the United States from the Island of

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Anguilla through the Bahamas soon after the Declaration of Independence. For one hundred years and more America enjoyed a monopoly, and at the highest point about 100,000 bales of it were grown in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. In the last year or two the Boll-weevil had made the growing of it commercially impossible in any of the States. It had been replaced in the mills of the world partly by improved cottons from Egypt and partly by similar cottons developed from Egyptian seed in Arizona; but for the very finest types the only present source was the West Indies, and particularly the British Windward and Leeward Islands. The quantity grown there was about 5,000 bales, infinitesimal in comparison with a world's crop of 20,000,000 or more, but a vital and necessary portion notwithstanding. Moreover, the management both by the Agricultural Departments and by the individual planters of those charming little islands was an example which, if followed in the rest of the Empire, would rapidly solve all difficulties in cotton growing. The Sea Island cottons from the West Indies were almost entirely consumed in Lancashire and in Lille, where many of the finest mills worked in close alliance with British firms.

The Sudan and Mesopotamia.

In other parts of the Empire they had so far as was known great possibilities. The Sudan grew a little, and could grow a large quantity of cotton under irrigation on the Gezira, south of Khartoum, and at Tokar and at Kassala. That of the Gezira in particular was of excellent quality, whether it was of the Egyptian or the Upland type. The Sudan was also known to be suitable for growing excellent cotton in the rain district further south, where transport on the White Nile might be possible. Uganda, as the result of comparatively few years' work, was promising 250,000 bales per annum, and might be expected before long to increase that to 1,000,000 bales. From Nigeria, that was particularly from Northern Nigeria, 100,000 bales would be expected in the early future, with practically illimitable possibilities in more distant years. In Nyassaland, Rhodesia, and in the Union of South Africa, the beginnings had been made, and if the prices obtained for cotton were reasonable in relation to the costs of living and to the prices of other products of the soil, development might be progressive and even rapid. The Union of South Africa in particular appeared to him to be taking up the matter on lines which ought to secure success.

In Mesopotamia, if it remained so far within British control that peaceful existence could be secured, the prospects were good. Experimentally, a cotton extremely suitable to Lancashire had been grown there, giving better value both to grower and to spinner than it gave either in America, where it originated, or in India, whence the planting seed actually came. In Australia, that was in Queensland, cotton was at least a possibility. Grown there entirely by white labour and at a high cost, two things were necessary. First, it must only be grown on a part of each planter's holding; secondly, it must be intrinsically cotton commanding a high price. As regards the latter condition, he had recently seen samples of extremely promising appearance, grown apparently from Sea Island seed, and in value quite among the highest classes. The cottons in all these places that he had mentioned were exactly what were wanted for their Lancashire mills, and also were suitable for Canadian use. There were many other smaller districts in the Empire where cottons might come to be grown when knowledge about it was more widely extended, but he thought he had said enough to justify, at any rate, a confident hope that the British Empire would in due course be able to grow a very large proportion of the cottons required for spinning in the mills of the Empire.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence. Calcutta, dated February 28:—During the week ended February 19, general crop prospects unchanged. Bombay cotton market easy; fine M.G. Oomra, March, Rs.238: May, Rs.252 8. 0. Piecegoods market dull. Attitude of piecegoods merchants has hardened. Majority standing fast for settlement of bills on 2s. exchange basis, only a little new business being done on cash rupee basis. Calcutta jute market dull but steady. Some business done in Hessians early last week, on revived rumour of mills working only four days from March 1, but later, buyers retired and rates reverted. No further reduction in freight rates. No change in Bank rates. At the Tea Sale, on February 22, prices were steady for well-made black Pekoe Souchongs, and the few fine liquoring teas; all other grades were lower. 585,080 packages were sold to date at an average price of 5 annas 5 pies per lb.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Algerian Oilfields.—Production from leased area:—November, 41,968 kilos; December, 39,783 kilos.

LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give the following extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for January:—

Turkey entered the new year under a heavy cloud of commercial depression, which is slowly but surely growing thicker and blacker. The commercial future of the country is bound inextricably to the political future; and until the Allies have determined this, business must remain in its present state of stagnation. Great hopes have been raised among some of the local merchants by the Allied decision to hear the views of the Angora party. Others again believe that nothing can come of this new conference. Nevertheless, considerable interest was aroused by the announcement of the departure of the Turkish delegates for London, on February 12. This announcement, however, has had little or no effect on the exchange.

Much interest has been displayed locally by news of the intended payment of indemnity to Allied subjects. It is calculated that with the two million sterling paid by Turkey for the two warships in building before the war, together with the Egyptian tribute, the total sum now available in London for distribution must be about five million sterling. This sum will be handed to the financial commission at Constantinople for distribution. The state of the national finances is known generally to be very bad; indeed, until recently, Government officials at Constantinople were three months in arrears of salary; and in the more remote parts of the country the state of arrears was much greater.

Throughout the month of January exceptionally fine weather was experienced, which has alarmed the farmers to some extent. It is feared that the crops, growing too rapidly under the influence of the warm sunny weather, will be caught by the bitter cold winds that blow from the Caucasus later in the spring.

Flour and Cereals.—The flour market was more cheerful in January. About 11-12,000 tons arrived, of all qualities, chiefly from America, Australia, Bulgaria, and Roumania. Prices fell in sympathy with the American market, and 140 lb. bags realised £T13½ to £T12½ for various qualities. The stock in hand is about 11,000 tons. The flour imported into Constantinople is for local consumption only, so that the market may be considered well stocked. There were fair arrivals of barley during the month, and the market remains well stocked, although the demand continues to be good. Prices have fallen, however, to 9½-10½ piastres per oke.

Sugar.—Arrivals were greater during January than for the preceding month, chiefly Java, from New York, Marseilles, and Holland. Prices came down to some extent, and the market closed at prices from £50-56 for different qualities. The stock remains small.

Canned Goods, etc.—With the persistence of the unfavourable exchange of Turkish money, orders are still being cancelled, and goods now on the local market are those imported four or five months ago when Turkish money was worth more. Tinned goods, however, continue to come into the port, especially sardines, codfish, milk, and herrings in the barrel. Prices generally have not increased; tinned salmon, tinned fruits, and biscuits are being sold at 25 per cent. below cost.

There is the same eagerness to get rid of the present stocks, and prices are being cut as fine as possible. This eagerness obtains amongst the retail merchants especially. They seem to ignore the fact that replacement of stocks will cost them so much more, and that if through their sales they increase their capital by 20 per cent., the capital has only about 50 per cent. of buying value. Most of the wholesale grocers, however, refuse to withdraw their goods from the customs, with the result that the custom house is full of canned goods, jams, liqueurs, etc.

There is a great demand here for canned goods and spirits, and, under normal conditions, Constantinople should be a good market for these articles. Many of the grocers' co-operative associations in the city are embarrassed owing to the depreciation of Turkish currency and the resultant slump in local buying. In the past their strength lay in their rapid turnover, but through purchases effected at an unfavourable moment, they have had their capital, or a considerable part of it, tied up, and are consequently very nervous.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

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ENGINEERING.

Wolseley Motors.

One of the most interesting visits to works I have paid was that of a few days ago to the huge establishments of the Wolseley Motors, Ltd., at Birmingham. It is remarkable to note that the Wolseley Company seems practically unaffected by the undoubted depression which exists in so many parts of the country, and I was impressed not only by the size of the staff and the number of cars in hand, but by the astonishing activity which prevailed throughout the mammoth buildings, which, by the way, cover over 30 acres of ground. A visit paid immediately afterwards to the Ward End Works of the same company, but situated in another part of the city, confirmed the view as to the remarkable activity of this branch of the industry.

The selling organisation of the company is probably one of the most perfect in the world. The vast commercial ramifications of the Vickers Co., the owners of Wolseleys, provided at the outset a world-wide organisation for selling purposes such as no modern motor concern could attempt. It was a comparatively simple matter for the Wolseley Co. to follow in the steps of the parent organisation, or rather to adopt the machinery of such organisation for the purpose of selling Wolseley cars. As a consequence Wolseley cars are being exported to-day in spite of the detriment of adverse exchanges to every country on the globe where trade is possible. Naturally the difficulty of exchange has made some inroads on the export of these cars, which probably accounts for the fact that the full quota of 200 cars a week has not been reached, not to say exceeded, as it might reasonably have been expected to do. From my own impressions regarding the plant and staff of the company, however, it will not be long before they are in that enviable position.

The Wolseley Products.

The smartest little car on the road, in the opinion of a number of capable judges, is the 10 h.p. Wolseley, which, although a vehicle of the highest class, was designed to meet the popular demand for an economical, reliable, and easily-driven runabout. Most of my readers will remember the pre-war Stellite car; it was the forerunner of this production which has incorporated in its design all the best features of that very popular production. The engine has been redesigned throughout, and possesses many unique and patented features, the outcome of four years' war experience in building aero engines. There are four cylinders, cast monobloc, with bore and stroke 65 mm. by 95 mm. respectively. While these dimensions conform to the R.A.C. rating of 10 h.p., the engine actually develops over 20 h.p. with remarkable flexibility. The overhead valves are actuated by an overhead camshaft with Wolseley patented driving gear, the cylinder head being detachable. The B.L.I.C. dynamo and electric lighting details are on the left side of the cylinder bloc, the starting motor and steering gear on the right. Petrol is gravity-fed from a tank under the scuttle dash to a patent equalising carburettor which has been specially designed to give easy starting from cold. A gear type oil pump is driven from the vertical shaft at the point where it leaves the crank case. This pump draws oil through a gauze-covered nozzle, and delivers it to a three-way pipe. One of these leads supplies oil to troughs in which the big ends dip, and also to a well feeding the rear crank-case bearing; the second leads to drilled passages in the cylinder head casting, and thence to the camshaft bearings and to the inside of the hollow rocker pivots and to the rubbing points. Cooling, as is usual with engines of this size, is by means of a thermo-syphon system. I hope to be able to deal with the Wolseley "Fifteen" and the Wolseley 20 h.p. Car de Luxe in a subsequent note, but sufficient has been said to show the sound engineering character of the light 10 h.p. car.

In a recent interview Sir Vincent Caillard, the chairman of the company, said to the writer, after dealing with the war work of the organisation and the gigantic task of changing over to peace production:—"Throughout the war the whole designing skill and manufacturing energy of the Wolseley Company were devoted to the great variety of war material. It doubtless would have been in a much better position had a section been retained for motor-car production, but with two such great upheavals—from peace work to war work, and from war work to peace work—none except those intimately connected with the company can have any conception of the work and expense entailed. Add to this the fact that not the smallest amount of energy could be

devoted to the production of post-war designs, and you will see that there must have been serious delay in getting together plant sufficient for post-war activities. This delay was, of course, greater in the case of large manufacturing companies like the Wolseley than in the case of smaller companies, because the big manufacturing concerns could not take any risk in embarking on the manufacture of motor-cars on a large scale; so appeals were made to the Ministry of Reconstruction—urgent and repeated appeals—mind I am not blaming the Ministry of Reconstruction, because we had to win the war. The result was in September, 1919, we were prepared to design and deliver three cars. I am speaking to a company of experts, and you will realise that the manufacture of a new car must occupy considerable time; and it is not unusual that a period of two years should pass from the announcement of the design to the development of quantity. It was obvious that the Wolseley Company, and indeed no progressive motor company, would embark upon a large scale manufacture of warmed-up pre-war design, and thorough overhaul was necessary, because during the time that had elapsed there had been, partly owing to the development in the aeronautical industry, a great advance in the design of internal combustion engines.

"The Wolseley Company's new model cars were based upon this advance. They did not fit the new types of engines into the old type of car, but they endeavoured to produce the individual parts correspondingly, so as to produce one perfectly combined and efficient whole; thus the new model Wolseley cars are the result of experience again right up to the moment of inception, and I am happy to say that the public as a whole have recognised that the new models were passed for production in June, 1919, and we had every hope that we should have been in full production in March, 1920; but owing to the unfortunate moulders' strike no castings were available for twenty-two weeks, and the factories could not commence producing complete cars until August, 1920. Since then output has been greatly accelerated to 150 cars per week, and the maximum of 175 cars per week."

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade has forwarded some particulars of the sugar production in 1920 in Yugoslavia taken from an article which appeared in the *Agramer Tageblatt*. It appears that out of the total capacity of the eight refineries of the State of 6,200 wagons of sugar only 1,867 wagons were produced, and as the internal demand is for about twice this quantity, instead of exporting sugar, it was necessary to import about 1,800 wagons. One of the chief causes of this shortage is that the acreage under beet cultivation is small: cultivation hardly paying the peasant, who before the war received 3 kgs. of sugar for every cubic metre of beet delivered to the refinery.

In order, therefore, to put the sugar industry on its feet, so that it may at least be able to cope with the demands of the country itself, it has been suggested to the Minister of Finance that for every cubic metre of sugar beet used in the refineries 3 kgs. of sugar should be freed from the monopoly tax. These three kilos of sugar would be given to the peasants by the refineries as payment in kind. Thus the cultivation of beet could be intensified, and the productivity of the refineries brought up to their highest capacity. The State would lose about seventy-five million crowns in duties (300 millions was the total amount obtained from duty on sugar), but the sugar production would be increased and react favourably on the price of sugar. This suggestion may be taken into consideration at the Ministry of Finance.

The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade reports that it is probable a corn exchange will be established in the near future at Novi Sad. At present there is no relation between prices for corn at Novi Sad and, say, Belgrade. The need for exchanges in these two towns, which are the great centres for the corn, vegetable, and meat trade of the country, is no doubt very great, and exchanges should tend towards making the export of the agricultural produce of Yugoslavia more feasible. There has also been a movement for having a similar exchange at Subotica, but it is unlikely that this will mature at present.

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POLISH.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business continues to be brisk. Currants have come to business readily, especially the lower grades. Sultanias have also been a good spot. Figs are now selling freely, while a fair demand has arisen for Persian dates.

Sugar.—There has been a slight rise in price. West Indian crystallised has been done at 59s. to 61s. 6d., while American granulated at 30s. has risen 6d. The Home refined has been in strong demand at the official rates.

Coffee.—A steady tone has characterised the market. Costa Rica, fine bold blue has come to business at 133s. 6d., and peaberry is quoted at 146s. to 161s. 6d. Nairobi ordinary bold to bold greyish has been done at 81s. to 94s. 6d. The futures market has been firm. Quotations: March, 41s. 6d.; May, 42s.; July, 43s. 6d.; September, 44s. 6d.; December, 45s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—Prices have all declined. Indian linseed is 1s. 6d. lower at 17s. 6d.; and La Plata has lost 3d. at 16s. 3d. Rapeseed is weaker, with Toria at 18s. 1s. down, and bold Ferozepore at 16s. 9d., a loss of 1s. 3d.; while brown Cawnpore has come to business at 14s. 9d., a drop of a like amount. Cottonseed has been steady, with Indian at 8s. 6d. and Egyptian black at 10s. 9d., a decline of 6d. each.

Seed Oils.—Oils have been changeable. Linseed oil, at 30s. 6d., is 2s. 3d. down. Rape oil is the same at 49s. Refined cotton oil is unchanged at 40s.; while the Egyptian crude variety is 1s. down at 31s. Turpentine is 5s. lower at 55s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 172s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 298s. cwt.; cheese, 160s. cwt.; chillies, 125s. cwt.; eggs, 31s. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 10d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 80s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 115s. cwt.; East Indian bold, 112s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 103s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed cochon), 37s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 160s. cwt.; lard, 121s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 1s. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 120s. cwt.; sultanias (Smyrna), 110s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 86s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 57s. 6d. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 72s. cwt.; Mauritius, 66s. 3d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 23s. cwt.; sago flour, 15s. 6d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 13s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £5 5s. ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 6½d. lb.; Java, 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 88s. 9d. qr.; wheat (English white), 75s. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 55s. 6d. qr.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer: first, 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 6d. lb.; cows: first, 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 3½d. lb.; cows: second, 60 lbs. and up, 3½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 3d. lb.; bulls (first), 3½d. lb.; bulls (second), 2½d. lb.; kips (first), 5½d. lb.; kips (second), 4½d. lb.; kips (third), 3½d. lb.; horse-hides, 6s. to 9s. Calcutta Market.—Prices in rupees per 20 lbs. Arsenic hides, cows: Agras, 6 to 11; Durbhanges, 5 to 6; Patnas, 4 to 5; salted cows, 3.8 to 6.8; arsenic hides, buffalo, 2.8 to 6.8. Skins: calf, 6 to 8 per 20 lb.; goat, 12s to 150 per 100 pieces.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulus), £39 12s. 6d. ton; copper (standard), £79 17s. 6d. ton; copper (electro), £75 ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; gold bars, 105s. 11d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 195s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 220s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £17 7s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 9d. unit; molybdenite, 57s. 6d. unit; nickel, £205 ton; platinum, 320s. oz.; plumbago, £35 ton; quicksilver, £12 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 32d. oz.; spelter (G. O. B.), £24 12s. 6d. ton; tinplates (20 by 14), 28s. 10d. box; tin (standard), £165 15s. ton; wolfram, 14s. 4½d. unit; zinc sheets, £37 10s. ton.

Chemicals.—Acids: boric, 75s. cwt.; oxalic, 10½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 10d. lb.; ammonia sulphate, £25 2s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £47 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 2½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 ton; borax crystals, 38s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 152s. 6d. cwt. Potassium: bichromate, 1s. 1d. lb.; chlorate, 6½d. lb.; caustic, £52 10s. ton; nitrate, £56 10s. ton; permanganate, 1s. 7½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £34 10s. ton. Sodium: crystals, 150s. ton; bicarbonate, £10 15s. ton; bichromate, 8½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 10s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (90 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £20 5s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £36 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 7½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 6½d. oz.; red lead, £38 5s. ton; white dry lead, £42 10s. ton; white ground lead, £52 12s. 6d. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 9.08d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian, Sakelariades), 14.50d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £16 15s. ton; rape (Toria), £18 15s. ton; soya beans, £12 15s. ton; palm kernels, £21 ton. Oils: Linseed, £33 2s. 6d. ton; soya, £33 5s. ton; cotton (crude), £31 10s. ton; olive, 11s. 6d. gallon; ground nut, £40 10s. ton; palm, £38 15s. ton; rape (crude), £48 ton; petroleum, 2s. 3½d. gallon; turpentine, 61s. 6d. cwt. Rubber: plantation, No. 1 crepe, 1s. 1½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 11½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11½d. lb.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Depressing Outlook.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

Sellers have experienced another unsatisfactory week, for although values have continued on a low level, buyers have not been induced to operate more freely. The decision of the Indian Government to increase the import duty on cotton goods has met with distinct disappointment from Lancashire people, and though overtures are to be made in official quarters, there is little likelihood of any interference by the British Government. Spinners of yarns are in the depths of despair, and as the output is far greater than the requirements, spinners are curtailing production on a larger scale than recommended by the Masters' Federation. With regard to the cloth section, very little of a cheery nature can be said. There has been a very limited inquiry, which in most cases has been entirely unworkable. Advices from India show that clearances are being successfully carried out in the bazaars, but there has followed no general flow of orders. Only scattered sales have occurred, mainly in dhooties and jaconets for Calcutta. Buying for China has been of a hand-to-mouth variety. It is understood that merchants in Shanghai still hold large stocks of dear goods. No special feature has presented itself in inquiry for the Near Eastern outlets, and shippers have reported practically an absence of buying. Occasional sales have gone through for Egypt and the Levant, but generally only small lots at cut prices have been sold. The yarn section has remained very sluggish. American counts have weakened in price in sympathy with a poor offtake. Egyptian spinnings have had no friends whatever, and producers have lost further ground. Taking everything into consideration, the market is in a very bad state, and it looks as if it will be some time before any revival of demand will present itself.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended March 3:—Fundamentally there is no change in the situation since our previous report of the 24th ultimo. The spinning trade is still floundering in financial difficulties, and the healthy off-take of actual cotton which is so eagerly looked for still fails to make its appearance. During the last two or three days a strong feeling of optimism has arisen in Egypt, caused apparently by a rumour that Government assistance was about to be given in that country to help the trade over the present difficult period. This rumour, up to the present, lacks confirmation. The immediate effect, however, was a slight stiffening of prices here, and one or two sanguine shippers withdrew their cotton altogether from the market! The wisdom of this proceeding still remains to be seen; suffice it that, in the interim, they missed business. One important sale of white Sudan cotton took place during the week, about 310 bales being moved, and one broker was the fortunate possessor of a buying order for a quantity (rumoured at 1,000 bales) of Sakelariadis fully good fair to extra fine. Needless to say, he found no lack of sellers, and some very cheap cotton changed hands. It is presumed that this cotton is destined for the Continent. Manchester reports continue to be very depressing, and considerable stoppages of machinery are expected at Easter. C.i.f. business is officially, and very aptly, described as neglected. Total sales 1,200 bales, which includes 330 bales Sudan cotton. Quotations of Upper are reduced 100 points, those of Brown and Sakelariadis 150 points. Fully good fair Sakel 13.00d. per lb.

DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, in their monthly report, state:—

Currants.—The situation on the whole can only be summed up as disappointing, for trade has not developed appreciably. It is true that occasionally there was promise of some small renewal of activity, but the movement never gathered strength, and dwindled almost from its inception. Buyers pursue their Fabian tactics, and little has been done apart from some inquiry for old Government stocks, which at the figures of 32s. to 45s. are excellent value. Some sales also were effected of Vostizza growth, new crop, at 86s. to 95s. The fall in the Greek exchange has caused a corresponding rise in the value of stocks held in Greece, and this is, of course, a favourable factor. Quotations are:—Pyrros, 60s. to 65s.; Amalias, 65s. to 68s.; Patras, 66s. to 70s.; Gulf and Panariti, 72s. to 78s.; Zante, 70s. to 78s.; Vostizza, 82s. to 95s. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date, 18,550 tons.

Valencia Raisins.—There is practically no inquiry for the little stock remaining. Selected is quoted at 100s. to 120s., and the few parcels of seedless which were sold realised 95s.

Sultanias.—A further small arrival of Smyrna, per Bavarian, is to hand, but demand continues slow, and where sales have taken place it was at a further reduction in price, latest figures being:—Smyrna, 108s. to 125s.; Greek, 110s. to 125s.; Afghan yellow, 100s. to 110s.; red, 90s. to 95s.

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S.R.G. Societatea Rom. de Combustibili.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei
Industria Forestiera din Transilvania.—Capital, 12,000,000 Lei
Industria Chimica Romana.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei

Tipografia Gutenberg.—Capital, 10,000,000 Lei

Gazeta Populara.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei

Crucea Societate pentru comerțul și industria de vestimenta și odonare
bisericești.—Capital, 1,000,000 Lei

Minele de Aur din Romania.—Capital, 5,000,000 Lei

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(Joint Stock Company).

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In 1914 the cultivated area was (according to an estimate of Dr. Cofesco) 34,475,750 acres ; of which 13,074,922 were ploughed lands, 468,670 were vineyards and orchards, 1,436,960 were meadows, 2,948,472 were pastures, and 5,705,750 were forests.

POPULATION. About 17,400,000.

IMPORTS (1915). £8,533,234.

United Kingdom, £348,997 ; Austria-Hungary, £3,718,182 ; Belgium, £43,230 ; Germany, £3,575,159 ; France, £660,287 ; Turkey, £558,238 ; Italy, £762,023.

EXPORTS (1915). £21,742,379.

United Kingdom, £2,238 ; Austria-Hungary, £13,576,255 ; Belgium, £2,343 ; Germany, £7,044,803 ; Turkey, £443,325 ; Italy, £37,838.

[Note.—In 1914 the Imports from the U.K. amounted to £2,231,773, and the Exports to it to £1,433,535.]

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FULLY PAID-UP CAPITAL AND RESERVES:

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BANCA ROMANEASCA.

Established 1911.

Authorised Capital, 160,000,000 Lei. Capital Paid Up, 100,000,000 Lei. Reserve Fund, 38,936,306 Lei.

Head Office in BUCAREST, 5, Strada Smardan.

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Vice-President, G. I. STOICESCO, former Vice-President of the Senate, Professor of the University.

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General Manager:—N. P. STEFANESCU, Engineer, Inspector-General, former General Manager of the Navigation Fluviale du Danube.

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The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia, for Bombay (Glasgow, March 19, and Liverpool, March 24).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Manipur, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 19); s.s. Shadwell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, March 24); s.s. Maidan, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 30); s.s. Magdapur, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 11); s.s. Holywell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 16).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 16); s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 30); s.s. Yorkshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 13).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Macvicar, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, March 15); s.s. Clan Kennedy, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 24).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Sea Victory, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, and Galatz (London, March 15); s.s. British Coast, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Liverpool, March 24); s.s. Pavia, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Glasgow, March 26, and Liverpool, April 2).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Trentino, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, March 12).

Ellerman's City Line.—S.s. City of Lahore, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 14); s.s. City of Poona, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, March 19); s.s. City of Bombay, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 29).

Ellerman's Hall Line.—S.s. City of Genoa, for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, April 1).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Gourko, for Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (London, March 12).

French-Javan Line.—S.s. Junon, for Algiers, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, and Constantza (Hull, March 15).

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenogle, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 24); s.s. Glenavy, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 7).

Glynn Line.—S.s. Ravenspoint, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, March 12).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Dramatist, for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 18). A steamer will sail in May for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, Zanzibar, etc.

Henderson Line.—S.s. Mandalay, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 23).

Holt Line.—S.s. Demodocus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, March 11); s.s. Agapenor, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, March 11); s.s. Euryades, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, March 14); s.s. Belleophon, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 1).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Portinglis, for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, March 15); s.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 26).

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, about March 15); s.s. Maindy Transport, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, early in April).

Moss Line.—S.s. Assiout, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, March 19).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Malatian, for Malta and Alexandria (also taking cargo for Mersina, Beyrout, Alexandretta, Tripoli, Haifa, Jaffa, Port Said, Cyprus, etc.) (Liverpool, March 12); s.s. Destro, for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, March 26).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaiser-i-Hind, for Bombay (London, March 11); s.s. Sicilia, for Bombay (London, March 24); s.s. Padua, for Bombay, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 24); s.s. Naldera, for Bombay (London, April 8); s.s. Sardinia, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 8).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Mandala, for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 18); s.s. Hatarana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 19); s.s. Nardana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Middlesbrough, March 19); s.s. Australia, for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 2); s.s. Hatipara, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 16).

Prince Line.—S.s. Black Prince, for Malta and Alexandria (London, March 15).

THE ABOUKIR COMPANY.

The report of the Aboukir Company for 1920 states that the sales during the year for cash or by instalments were:—Aboukir, 881 feddans 11 kirats for £123,646 4s. 6d.; Bourlos, 1,838 feddans 12 kirats 4 sahm for £151,897 16s. 7d.; total, 2,719 feddans 23 kirats 4 sahm for £275,544 1s. 1d. To round off the boundaries of the properties the following purchases of uncultivated land were made during the year:—Aboukir, 181 feddans 17 kirats for £950 9s. 6d.; Bourlos, 234 feddans 2 kirats for £5,780 17s.; total, 415 feddans 19 kirats for £6,731 6s. 6d. The area 234 feddans 2 kirats was included in the sale of Bourlos. The profit for the year was £69,869 2s. 9d., which, with the balance brought forward from the previous year of £7,857 3s. 2d., makes a total of £77,726 5s. 11d., from which has been deducted the interim dividend at 8 per cent. (coupon No. 18), £24,000.—£53,726 5s. 11d. It is proposed to deal with this as follows:—Proposed final dividend of 8 per cent., less tax (Coupon No. 19), £24,000.—£29,726 5s. 11d. There has been added to the reserve fund the sum of £20,000, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £9,726 5s. 11d. Meeting, March 15, 12 noon.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting in'o touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

112. An Alexandria firm wish to enter into business relations with United Kingdom firms dealing in the following exports:—Beers and stout; salmon, sardines, tinned fruit and vegetables; coconut oil; gunny bags; pepper, rice, flour and soap.

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory: Will act as agent or on commission basis.

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The Bank receives Deposits for fixed periods not exceeding one year at rates to be obtained on application.

ON 'CHANGE.

Tendency Rather Better: Greeks Decline.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

On the whole a rather better tendency has prevailed in most markets during the past week. The outcome of the London Conference came too late to have any appreciable effect; whether it will have much will depend on subsequent developments.

The gilt-edged market has been exceptionally rather weak. This is to be attributed in part to the failure of the Sudan Loan. The figures of the issue are now available, and show the result to be worse than was at first anticipated. £2,880,000 was offered, and of this the public subscribed £432,000, or only 15 per cent.

A noticeable improvement has shown itself in the Industrial group, and, while business remains very restricted, there have been a number of rises in the leading descriptions. There has been little doing in Oils, while Rubbers are again weaker, and the time is possibly within sight when there will be a return to the dismal level of values that obtained before the war.

Once again there is no change to record in Near Eastern stocks, which rank as British Government securities, Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. being 62½, Greek Guaranteed 2½ per Cent. 1898 being 58½, with buyers at that level, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. 1855 being 68.

Greek securities have declined. The 5 per Cent. 1881 and the 5 per Cent. 1884 Loan are both 2 down at 40, at which there were buyers. The 5 per Cent. 1890 and Fundings have both shed a point at 40, which also had buyers. The 1910 Loan is 1 point down at 31, but the 5 per Cent. 1914 Loan remains unchanged at 40. The 1902 Loan has dropped ½ at 34½, at which there were buyers.

With one exception there has been no change in Bank shares. Agricultural 3½ per Cent. Bonds and the 3½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds are both unaltered at 53 and 55 respectively. Imperial Ottoman Banks at 7½ are unchanged, but National Bank of Egypt have gained ¼ at 17½. Land Banks are the same at 43.

Land shares have been variable. Beheras have risen ¼ to 8, while the preference shares are unchanged at 2½. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are unchanged at 3½, but Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1½d. down at 1s. Delta Lands remain at 8s. 9d., but Gharbich have been a weak spot, closing ¼ down at 1. New Egyptians have gained 1s. at 21s. 6d., while Union Foncières are ½ up at 2½. Sudan Plantations have declined 7-16 to 3 5-16.

Oils have been variable. Anglo-Egyptians have lost ¼ at 1½, while Phoenix at 9s. 3d. are unchanged. Roumanian Consolidated, however, are 9d. up at 14s. 6d. Steaua Romana are the same at 15s.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are 3s. Alexandria Waters are 7, while Morums are 6d. lower at 13s. 6d. Egyptian Salt and Sodas are quoted at 27s. 6d.

A reduction in their minimum rates of discount from 7 per cent. to 6 per cent. is announced by the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Bengal.

A contract for the repair of 570 Roumanian railway coaches and 8,000 cars at a total cost of 207,000,000 lei has been awarded to a works in Czecho-Slovakia and another at Ohlau, Silesia.

It is reported that the citrus crop of Patras and district for 1920-21 season shows an increase of 20 per cent. in quantity and 30 per cent. in value.

The Roumanian Minister of Transportation has been authorised to purchase 50 locomotives of the Prussian model at a total cost of 160,000,000 lei.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

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

Granite Quarry.—The Director-General, Cairo Tanzim Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the opening and working of a granite quarry at Aswân for the output of granite paving sets for delivery to Cairo Tanzim Department and to Alexandria Municipality. Period of contract, three years.—March 15.

Benzine.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 1,700 tins of benzine and 3,155 tins of petroleum (1,155 naked tins and 2,000 tins in cases) for the first half-year of 1921-1922. March 16.

Pumping Station Stores.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the general supply of pumping station stores for the year 1921-1922, consisting of engineering articles, oils, paints, grease, waste, wood, ropes, etc.—March 17.

Paints, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lights Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of paints, oils, tar, soap, etc., required during the first six months of the financial year 1921-1922. March 17.

Roofing Tiles.—The Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Bulaq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 40,000 "Marseilles" roofing tiles (specification, 50 millimetres). March 17.

Linen, etc.—The Sub-Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Insha, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of bed linen, table linen, etc. (7,000 metres of cotton sheetings, 8,000 metres of tulle for mosquito nets, 1,200 blankets, Morocco wool, etc.), table requisites (12,500 china plates, 4,000 glass tumblers, 3,000 knives, 2,500 forks, 2,500 spoons, etc.) required for the school year 1921-22. March 19.

Envelopes.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of envelopes. April 2.

Lubricating Oils.—The general manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Cairo station, invites tenders for the supply of 1,630 metric tons of mineral lubricating oils (specification, 200 millimetres). April 9.

Equipment, etc.—The Director of Stores, Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of stores required by that Department for the year 1921. The material required includes:—Arms, ammunition, accoutrements, ordnance stores, clothing and necessities for the police and "Ghaffir" services; harness and saddlery; fire-engine equipment; barrack and other furniture; tools; general stores. Tenders, which can only be submitted by firms established in Egypt or having a representative there, must be received in Cairo by April 18. Copies of the specifications, etc., may be inspected by United Kingdom firms interested on application to the inquiry office of the Department of Overseas Trade, at 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Blankets.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 2,500 woollen blankets, grey G.S. (L).

Yugoslavia.

Thread.—The Yugoslav Army Clothing Department, Belgrade, has invited tenders for the supply of 12,000 dozen reels (500 metre) thread, khaki colour, No. 30-40; 13,000 dozen reels (500 metre) thread, white, No. 32-40. A deposit of 20 per cent. for foreigners and 10 per cent. for Serb-Croat-Slovene subjects of the amount of the tender must be paid. Tenders should be forwarded direct to Ekonomika Odeleuje (Economic Department, Army Clothing Department), Ministère de la Guerre, Belgrade. March 14.

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CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ROUMANIA.

A congress of the Industrial Associations of Roumania took place last month at Bucharest. This congress was called together by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce with a view to getting some expression of opinion from those most concerned regarding new legislative measures which it might be considered desirable to introduce for the benefit of Roumanian industry. Amongst the various resolutions passed the most important would appear to be that advocating a radical modification of the customs duties, and suggesting the institution of a Commission upon which the industrialists should be represented to give effect to the proposal.

Resolution 4 is also of special interest to British firms in that it expresses the opinion of the congress that public works contracts and the supply of material for the Government should be so arranged as to give a decided preference to Roumanian firms. It was claimed that the State, with rare exceptions, should make its purchases from and award contracts to national industry. The temper of the congress appears to have been set strongly in this direction.

Resolution No. 5, recommending the principle of allowing the expropriation of land and property required for the creation and development of such commercial undertakings as are essential to the economic development of the country, has frequently been mentioned as desirable by the Director-General of Industry, M. Manolescu, and there seems every probability that some such stipulation may be passed into law.

The principle that the natural resources of the country should be exploited by companies in which the State holds a joint interest with associated firms, as postulated in the sixth resolution of the congress, is significant as pointing the way to one of the methods whereby such exploitation could be carried into effect without arousing political opposition. No mention of petroleum enterprises is made in this connection, however. The disposition of the congress, which was composed wholly of manufacturers, was strongly in favour of preventing the importation of goods which could be manufactured in the country.

It is not to be expected that these resolutions will become law in the near future, but they are worthy of notice as indicating that the manufacturers of Roumania are demanding a measure of protection for their enterprises, and that in their consideration the best method of affording such protection is through the action of the customs duties.

At the present moment Roumanian industries are given special encouragement according to the Roumanian laws for the encouragement of industry of 1899, 1907 and 1912, the application of which has recently been extended to cover the new provinces now incorporated in Greater Roumania. It might have been expected that these advantages, including as they do a substantial rebate on the rates of freight chargeable by the Railroad Administration, would have been considered reasonably sufficient for the purpose invoked, but the spirit evinced by the manufacturers concerned indicates that they are desirous of securing still further advantages from the Government.

A preliminary commercial treaty between Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania has been signed.

It is officially announced that certain provisions of the Patents and Designs Act henceforth apply to the Yugoslav State.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 514.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The London Conference.

There is much in the Allies' attempts to evolve a settlement of the Near Eastern question over which a cynic can make merry, but those who are more earnest in their desire to see the problem settled will welcome the steps taken by the ninth Allied Conference. In spite of all the fulminations against revision of the Treaty of Sèvres that document has now been modified in some important particulars, but less in regard to its territorial provisions than in respect of the clauses which wounded Turkish *amour propre* far more deeply. The Treaty of Sèvres placed Turkey outside the pale of civilisation and informed her that in the opinion of the Allies she would never have the least chance of coming within it. The modifications offered by the London Conference adopt the attitude that it is just possible as a result of the upheaval caused by the world-war that Turkey has learned her lesson and is resolved to turn over a new leaf. Full opportunity of doing so is to be afforded her, and all who are interested in the well-being and progress of the Near East will hope that the Turkish authorities, both in Constantinople and Angora, will accept the offer in the spirit in which it is made.

Roumania and Her Neighbours.

Roumania and Poland have signed an agreement which provides, among other things, for military co-operation in the event of an attack from the East. Being of a purely defensive character, this arrangement should be welcomed by Europe at large as well as by the two countries most closely concerned. Much less satisfactory news regarding Roumania is to the effect that the Roumanian police in Transylvania have unearthed a widespread conspiracy aiming at the organisation of the Magyars for the purpose of co-operation with regular Hungarian troops in an attempt to restore Transylvania to Hungary. The attempt was timed for the Spring, and considerable numbers of rifles and machine-guns are reported to have been smuggled into the country already. Some fifty arrests have been made, including several priests and Magyar officials, and it is expected that further ramifications of the plot will be discovered. Remembering the ill-treatment to which the Magyars in the day of their power subjected the Roumanians of Transylvania, it would hardly be surprising if the latter, now that the position is reversed, should be tempted to give them a taste of their own sauce. But as a matter of fact the conduct of the Roumanian officials would seem to have been remarkably good in the circumstances.

Collapse of Georgia.

The Georgian resistance to the Bolshevik advance collapsed with a suddenness that told its own tale of a shortage of munitions of war and—unfortunately, it must be added—of sympathy with the invaders among a section of the defending force. The Government fled to Batoum, followed at first uncomfortably closely by the Bolsheviks, and accompanied by the inevitable great crowd of refugees. In the circumstances the Government, having to make a choice of evils, with the added necessity of choosing quickly, very naturally preferred the Turks to the Bolsheviks, and invited the former to occupy the port. The invitation was accepted, and troops, apparently under the command of Kiazim Karabekir Pasha, took over the defence of Batoum on March 10. The Turks refused the Georgians' request that the civil control should remain in the latter's hands, and, proclaiming martial law, proceeded to disarm the Georgian troops and the population. In view of the methods of the Bolshevik agents, this step can cause no surprise. It is impossible to withhold our sympathy from Georgia in the great disaster that has overtaken her so soon after her recognition by the Powers, but it is impossible, also, to avoid a feeling of satisfaction that Batoum should have returned to Turkish hands rather than have fallen into those of the Bolsheviks. For the moment Moscow has accepted the situation: it remains to be seen how long her present mood will last.

The Status of Egypt.

It is expected that the Egyptian Delegation which is to negotiate with the British Government regarding the future status of Egypt will be received in May. Meanwhile, in Cairo a good deal has to be done before the Delegation actually comes into being; for, we are told, a Coalition Cabinet has to be formed, from which most of the delegates will be selected, and the composition of this Cabinet is proving a delicate and somewhat difficult matter. The position and attitude of Zaghloul Pasha are just now not quite clear; but unless his friends and admirers are doing him very poor service, he would appear to have drifted back once more into the stage of unyielding obstinacy—not to mince words—from which we had hoped he had finally emerged last year. An interview which he accorded to a correspondent of the *Herald* concluded with the statement: "The English in Egypt are hated not as English, and not even as foreigners, but simply as oppressors." Such clap-trap oratory at this stage of affairs can do nothing but harm, and indulgence in it is calculated to make even warm supporters of the Milner proposals uneasy. A reference, in the same interview, to the "harsh and iniquitous sentences"

passed on Egyptian conspirators, and their inflammatory effect on "public opinion" in Egypt will only increase the feeling of uneasiness by showing how distorted a view of justice it is possible for a certain type of mind to take. The Pasha's talk of Egypt's inability even to discuss an amicable settlement under existing conditions suggests that he has a very poor grip upon realities, and the draft Treaty which he presented to Lord Milner last July, the full text of which is given with the interview, contains internal evidence to the same effect.

An Egyptian Prince's View.

The strongest possible contrast to these utterances of Zaghoul Pasha is afforded by a lengthy and closely reasoned article on the Egyptian situation contributed to *The Times* by Prince Ibrahim Hilmy, a brother of the present Sultan of Egypt. The Prince is assuredly no less patriotic than the most prominent, or most vociferous, of the Nationalists; and he looks forward to seeing Egypt enjoying real independence when she is ripe for it; but he would like to see her walking before she tried to run; and clearly, he wishes to save her from the demagogues. He does not believe that his country "has as yet attained the point when she could stand alone by herself," and what he would ask for her now is an autonomy similar to that of the Dominions, "with certain restrictions gradually to be eliminated along with the progress of the country." The Capitulations, of course, should go, and foreign officials other than inspectors and controllers should be weeded out; the military school should be reorganised so as to allow the officers educated therein to attain all ranks in the army; and, "democracy being the order of the day, let Egypt have her Constitutional Government, but let good care be taken to constitute an Upper Chamber of men of ability and experience such as would constitute a wise counterpoise to the Lower Chamber." The Prince holds that Lord Milner's scheme, if applied in its integrity, would be disastrous to Egypt, which, left to herself, would, he fears, make no progress, but would run the risk of retrogression. He pleads for delay and caution in coming to a decision on this vital question, and concludes by expressing the hope that his Majesty's Government will steadily bear in mind the "real interests of Egypt and of the great mass of Egyptian people, not limiting itself to the conclusion of a palliative agreement destined only to satisfy a turbulent minority." We must confess that the Prince's pronouncement seems to us far more statesmanlike than that of the Pasha.

The Sudan.

Friends and well-wishers of the Sudan will have read with peculiar satisfaction that section of the Milner Commission's Report which deals with the Sudan. The Commission put on record their opinion that "no change in the political status of Egypt should be allowed to disturb the further development of the Sudan on a system which has been productive of such good results," and their view is unlikely to be challenged seriously by anyone, save, perhaps, some Egyptian extremist agitators. As our Khartoum Correspondent told us lately, it is an unfortunate fact that Egyptian "Nationalist" propaganda has been very active in the Sudan for some little time past, and owing to the feeling of uncertainty that has been allowed to grow up in the native mind it has achieved some success; though the better instructed classes have not only turned a deaf ear to the northern charmers, but have even embarked on counter propaganda. It is indeed surprising that the Egyptian agitators have been able to obtain any hearing at all, for hitherto the Egyptian has always affected to regard the Sudani as a totally inferior being, and the Sudani has retaliated with a contempt which was not slight. Moreover, as the Milner Report reminds us, the antagonism between the two countries has not been lessened by "rankling memories of Egyptian misgovernment in the past." The Sudan to-day is well off, and it knows it. Now that the Milner Mission has made it clear that Egypt will not be allowed to disturb existing conditions, it is likely to cease from coquetting with the agitating gentlemen and to settle down contentedly to its own work in its own way.

The Defence of India.

The question of India's military strength was brought into prominence last week, first by a misleading cablegram which was quickly repudiated, and then by an authentic summary of Lord Rawlinson's grave speech on the recent reductions in the army. The difficulty of the position is really due to the absence of any historical sense among the bulk of Indian public men. The menace from the north-west has persisted for a thousand years, and memories of the long roll of conquerors from Mahmud to Nadir Shah ought to ensure a steadfast national purpose, such as underlies the naval policy of this country; but no such purpose can as yet be detected in Bengal, Bombay, or Madras, the provinces from which the pressure for short-sighted economy is maintained, and, until the lessons of history have been learned, there is a real danger that the frontier may be so weakened as to tempt yet another attack. Lord Rawlinson's speech appears to have put the situation clearly before the Legislature, but no isolated effort can suffice. Under the new régime military opinion must come forward and convince the public by steady insistence on hard facts; otherwise the complacency of Councils and Assemblies may be rudely disturbed.

A Debt of Honour.

In connection with the reductions in the Indian Army, there appears to be some anxiety in this country regarding the treatment of the officers and men who are being discharged. We have failed to find any official statement showing the terms which have been granted, and we think it would be wise for the authorities to make it quite clear that, allowing for differences in the standard of living, Indian soldiers are being treated as well as those who have been discharged from the Army in this country. The matter has, of course, a political aspect, for men who should go back to their homes smarting under a feeling of injustice would be potential centres of disaffection, and excellent material for the disloyal agitators who are known to be at work; but quite apart from such considerations, justice to the men who fought is a debt of honour.

Religious Differences in India.

"Unrest" is a standing headline just now in the daily Press, and it has proved sufficiently elastic to cover the long-threatened outbreak of the deep religious quarrel among the Sikhs. That community includes two parties—the Conservative, which controls very rich endowments, and the Reform, which, among other objects, desires to handle those endowments for the general welfare. In some ways the situation presents a curious analogy to that which arose some years ago among the churches in Scotland, when the endowments were eventually allocated by a statutory commission. But Sikhs are not quite so law-abiding as Scots, and apparently they decided to fight the matter out. What actually happened is obscure, but it looks as if the authorities had been caught napping, for a death-roll of 139 is a serious thing, and the official statement admits that no Government forces were in the locality at the time. The adjustment of the dispute will afford a severe test of the efficiency of the new institutions in the Punjab.

The Burma Constitution.

The Lords' debate on the Government of Burma Bill was interesting, if not altogether satisfactory for the India Office. Lord Lytton admitted that the Government of India are still opposed to the proposal to equip Burma with the institutions considered suitable for an Indian province, and the introduction of a Bill, which is legally superfluous, is an expedient for referring the dispute to Parliament. This constitutes, if we are not mistaken, a new departure: Whitehall no longer overrules Delhi, but appeals to Westminster, and the new Standing Joint Committee on Indian affairs will serve an important function in arbitrating on such differences of opinion. Apart from this, the most noteworthy feature of the debate was Lord Selborne's declaration in favour of "cutting the painter" at once, but we do not find grounds in his speech for altering the view we have previously expressed.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

The Germans Return Home.

The conclusion of the Allied negotiations with the Germans was inevitable. Dr. Simons can have expected nothing else. His offer was in fact a bid for the retention of Upper Silesia by Berlin, and apart from that it had no meaning. Opinion here is unanimous in approving Mr. Lloyd George's answer to this folly. The Allies' reply was debated in the House of Commons, but the discussion was perfunctory. Mr. Clynes criticised it formally, but it was easy to see that his heart was not in the job.

On the other hand, there is a great deal of doubt as to the best steps to take to secure payment of the indemnity. The Allies took the only course open, but it was a political remedy for an economic problem, and that is not always effective. Opinion here is reserved as to the results of an export tax of 50 per cent. on German goods, which is understood to have been one of Mr. Lloyd George's brilliant improvisations.

The effect of the indemnity on the course of the world's trade is very generally feared. That, however, is a matter for the future; for the present it has to be noted that the international crisis made practically no difference on the Stock Exchange last week. Business there has been so slack for some weeks past that things could hardly be worse.

The City at the moment is more interested in a possible reduction of the Bank rate than in anything else; this is now held to be the panacea for all our woes. A few weeks ago it was the abolition of the Excess Profits Duty; now that is dying or dead, one hears nothing but grumbles that the corporation tax (which a year ago was introduced almost without criticism) is as bad or worse than E.P.D.

The 1921 Budget.

The forthcoming Budget, of course, is causing a good deal of speculation in this connection. The figures of expenditure already known are the following:—

Civil Service	£460,900,585
Army	106,315,000
Air	18,411,000
National Debt Services	325,000,000
	£910,626,585

The Navy Estimates have still to be added. These are not yet published. Last year they were £84,000,000; this year they will be less by some millions. But it is clear that the total expenditure will be not much less than £1,000,000,000.

The main criticisms which Mr. Chamberlain will probably have to face will be over the very large total of the Civil Service expenditure, and the reduction of debt—this last a matter which some people think might be left to posterity to settle. But no great Chancellor of the Exchequer can take quite that easy view, and Mr. Austen Chamberlain is being increasingly recognised as a very considerable figure.

Supplementary Estimates.

A word should be added about the Supplementary Estimates, the small savouries which are produced from time to time after the *table d'hôte* of the Budget has been digested. The practice of introducing Supplementary Estimates has increased of recent years, and the House of Commons is showing itself growingly critical of this habit; it is always in a bad temper on such occasions, as last week's vote on an anti-typhus grant in Central Europe demonstrated. But this is mere conservatism. By the mercy of Providence I am not a Member of Parliament, and, therefore, have some logic left; and it is really quite easy to see that if Supplementary Estimates were abolished for sundry unexpected expenses, the heads of the spending departments would take care to include contingent expenses and a round sum for emergencies in their estimates. This would ruin the practice of close budgeting, and would lead to extravagance, since the money so voted would have to be spent.

The real trouble is that in the case of Supplementary Estimates the money is spent first and permission asked afterwards, which the House of Commons, as titular guardian of the public purse, objects to. But it cannot very well turn the Government out because some civil servant has spent a few thousand pounds without formal authority. Perhaps it would be an appropriate remedy to hang the civil servant; it would make for promotion in the service, reduce the national expenditure, and vindicate the authority of Parliament.

Brethren in Unity.

The National Liberal Club seems to be a cheery place in these days. Last week they held a meeting to denounce Mr. Lloyd George, once one of their most honoured members. (His life-size portrait in the club was then an object of reverence.) But Coalition Liberals as well as the other variety turned up, and very naturally objected to hear the Prime Minister denounced, by men who cannot get a seat in Parliament, in terms that would be considered low in the boxing ring and on the racecourse. There was an uproar, catcalls, and a good deal of confusion; the meeting finally broke up in disorder.

Mr. Pringle Passes By.

The Independent Liberals seem to be somewhat vexed by Mr. Pringle's defeat at Penistone. This young man, who did nothing in particular in the last Parliament except heckle his own leaders rather offensively, was ejected by the electors in 1918. He has since advised the party from outside, and the result of his advice seems to have been uniformly unfortunate.

However, the "Wee Frees" think a great deal of him, and made sure he would win at Penistone, which was one of the few Independent Liberal seats. He took his defeat in good part—in which he set an example to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald—but his comrades were exasperated. Liberals have not yet learned the lesson that hatred of the Prime Minister is not a sufficient policy to get them a majority in England. The Labour men look on and chuckle; they disagree with Mr. Lloyd George, but they have no personal feeling against him—indeed, they rather admire him—and the result is that they win seats, while Mr. Asquith's following will soon need a microscope before it can be seen.

Labour and Coalition.

Labour, in fact, is on the up-grade once more. It is on its best behaviour; it does not want to frighten the middle-classes again, so it repudiates "direct action," reproves revolutionary sentiments, and talks as nicely as a Sunday school teacher. Its text is unemployment, the cost of living, and the general depression; nationalisation when the audience will stand it, and the betterment of England when it won't.



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The public certainly prefers this to the acrid bitterness of the Independent Liberals, who remind one of a wasp in a glass bottle—they can't do any damage, but they make a terrible noise. The Labour candidates are not exciting, but, then, neither are the Coalition nominees as a rule; nor yet the Coalition policy. Mr. Bonar Law told his followers at the Constitutional Club the other day that their mission in life was to keep Labour out—not a very constructive programme, or one that will enthrall the country.

But the Coalition is not happy at the moment. In addition to disconcerting excursions and alarms without, there are strange noises and perturbations within the unwieldy monster, and dyspeptic tremblings that suggest internal growths and obstructions. Lord Derby has held a private meeting of North Country members, and is credited with more deep and dangerous designs than his bluff, open face suggests; the Unionists suspect that the Liberals within the flock are "thinking of the old 'un'" when they ought to be sound asleep and happy; and the Coalition Liberals are as querulous as an aged spinster who has married a widower with too many children—they have got a roof over their heads, but they sometimes wonder if it is improper to think about a divorce.

Mr. Smillie Resigns.

Mr. Robert Smillie, the stormy petrel of Labour, has resigned his office and retired into private life. He was always a melancholy figure—the result of a hard youth in Lanarkshire—and he is now a disappointed man. He has failed to carry out his project of Nationalisation; indeed, the tide has turned strongly against him. Nor has his policy in regard to miners' wages been successful; the coal trade is in a very bad way just now, and both owners and men are losing money.

But there was a touch of idealism and nobility in Mr. Smillie's character. He believed he was right, and he was quite ready to sacrifice himself for the cause he championed. His real interest was more in the human

than the economic side of life. Capital hated him on principle, but personally it rather liked him. Unfortunately he was a pacifist, and that has not been forgiven him.

A New Liberal Daily?

The *Saturday Review* is, I think, the first to mention in print a rumour that a new Liberal daily is to be started; the name of Mr. Runciman is connected with it, as he has had some experience of newspaper proprietorship, as owner of the *Queen* and the *Field*.

There should be room for such a venture, despite the failure of the ill-fated *Tribune*, which shut down just as it was beginning to be successful. In the last few years the number of London dailies has diminished, and a little more competition—and originality—would be a good thing in Fleet Street.

The Week's Books.

It is really not adequate to call "Wisden's Cricketer's Annual" a book of the week—it is so much more than that. The present issue, which has all the old features, contains a weighty discussion on the "leg-before" rule.

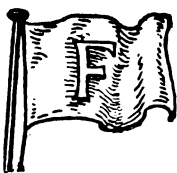
A new volume in the "Stories of the Nations" series is "Belgium" (T. Fisher Unwin), by M. Emil Cammaerts. His name alone is sufficient guarantee that the book is a good one. One had not thought of it before, but presumably the wretched publisher of this series will have to add volumes on Lithuania, Finland, and all the other new States of that part of the world.

"Instinct in Man," by Dr. James Drever (Cambridge University Press), is an extremely able discussion of some of the profoundest problems in psychology. The book, which is now issued in revised form, made its mark when the first edition was published; and its originality of thought and clarity of language—on a subject where not every distinguished professor succeeds in making himself intelligible—are likely to give it a permanent value.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, February 28.

The Milner Report.

There is little doubt that the Milner Report, which was published here last Sunday, has had an excellent reception. Indeed, it would have been surprising if such had not been the case, seeing that it is written throughout in such an impartial, sympathetic and moderate tone. The general opinion here among the British and foreign elements, and also the instructed portion of the Egyptian community, is that it is a masterpiece, unlike anything that has been written about Egypt since the late Lord Cromer penned his "Modern Egypt." Wherever I have been among Egyptian Extremists or Moderates, among foreign residents, or the British official and unofficial communities, I find exactly the same tribute paid to the faithfulness with which recent events have been recorded, to the sympathy with which the national aspirations of Egyptians have been handled, and to the patent sincerity with which the Mission has sought to make its proposals acceptable to both the British public and the Egyptians.

The Report has gone a long way to reassure the Moderates, and even to commend the recommendations, which were, of course, already known, to the less rabid of the Extremists, if one can use such an expression. The questions of the Protectorate, foreign representation, and the other reservations are still much debated, but in view of the tone of the Report the majority appear disposed to leave these points to be discussed in the course of the negotiations. The discussion in the House of Commons is anxiously awaited, and the one hope I hear expressed everywhere is that the British Government will not delay coming to a decision, so that a definite settlement may be made at the earliest opportunity, and the country may be able to settle down to the development and reorganisation work which confronts it, and which, in the circumstances, is not unnaturally being held up by the general uncertainty that reigns on every side.

An Unnecessary Storm in a Teacup.

We are wondering what Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Curzon, and Mr. Churchill thought when they received the avalanche of protests sent to them last week. These protests were based on a telegram which reported that Mr. Churchill had said at the farewell banquet to Lord Reading "that in a few years our present difficulties in Ireland and Egypt will be greatly diminished, and that the nations which are now a reproach and a stumbling-block to the supreme cause may be found to be managing their own affairs and unfolding their own destiny, peaceful and prosperous within the elastic circle of the British Empire"; and the protests were against the assertion that Egypt came within the British Empire. The London papers with the full report have now come to hand, and it appears that the new Colonial Secretary never mentioned Ireland and Egypt in this connection. The incident shows on the one hand how ill-advised it is to base action on telegraphic summaries of statements made in other places instead of waiting for the full report, and how exceedingly careful foreign correspondents and telegraphic agencies should be in their transmission of such summaries.

The Conspiracy Case.

The sentences in the "Vengeance Society" conspiracy trial, which was concluded last October, have at last been promulgated. Abdul Rahman Bey Fahmy and six others who were condemned to death have had their sentences commuted to fifteen years' penal servitude, and the remaining fifteen, who were sentenced to terms varying from twenty years' penal servitude—with lashes in some cases, and a fine—to three years hard labour, have had their sentences commuted to terms varying from twelve years' penal servitude to two years' hard labour. The relatives of the accused have peti-

tioned the authorities asking them to agree to treat the condemned men as political offenders, but as yet no official decision has been made. The sentences made somewhat of a sensation, owing probably to the fact that they had been so long delayed, and were promulgated at the present juncture.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, February 25 (delayed in transmission).

Political Manœuvring.

Raditch is still sulking in Zagreb, but most Serbs decline to take more than an academic interest in his proceedings. The Republican Party, however, which is neither strong nor numerous, is flirting with him. At a recent party meeting, M. Dragisha Vasitch reported on the results of a visit which he had paid to Zagreb, where he had been present at a meeting of Raditch's party, which is now referred to in the papers as the HRSS, that is to say, the *Hrvatska republikanska seljachka stranka*, or Croatian Republican Peasants' Party. M. Vasitch gave an emphatic denial to the widespread belief that Raditch and his party are opposed to the union, or hostile to the Serbs; he maintains, on the other hand, that Raditch desires most particularly to remain on brotherly terms with the Serbs, but objects in principle to the monarchical form of government. He was followed by Dr. Ikonitch, who also insisted that there was the very reverse of any feeling or tension between the Croatian Peasants and the Serbs, and that there was not the slightest reason to suppose that Raditch in any way supported the policy of the intriguers whose aim is to separate Croatia from Serbia. If that is all true, why does not Raditch make a definite declaration? His forty odd deputies would give the little Republican party a position in the Skupstina where at present they command but little influence.

M. Pashitch's conversations with the Serbian Peasants' Party are not looking very promising. The Premier, in fact, has not seen his way to fall in with the views definitely put forward by the party as the price of their support, and at the moment it does not look as though they will promise unconditional support to the Cabinet, much less accept a portfolio. Conversations are being continued with the Mohammedans, but these do not seem to be very promising either.

A Financial Trouble.

A peculiar danger is anticipated from the liberation of those parts of Dalmatia which have hitherto been occupied by the Italians, and that is the influx into Yugoslavia of unstamped *kruna* notes of the Austro-Hungarian Bank. As it is believed that about a milliard of *kruna* are held in the districts in question, the danger is obvious and considerable. To prevent the smuggling in of any such notes, however small in quantity of value, the Ministry of Finance has issued the most stringent regulations. The police will keep a very sharp look-out, and anyone caught trying to smuggle will be liable to a crushing fine, no less than 100,000 dinars, of which half will be paid to the captor of the offender or to anyone else who has contributed materially to his capture. At the same time, the Ministry appeals to all good citizens to do all in their power to prevent such smuggling.

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The Narodni Club.

The banship of Croatia, vacated by the resignation of Dr. Laginja, leader of the Narodni Club, which was referred to in a previous letter, has at last been filled. Many of the Ministers were in favour of still leaving the office open, owing to the uncertain state of politics in Croatia, especially as Raditch has stated that he proposed to come to Belgrade to have a talk with the Premier, and it was felt that this would contribute greatly to clearing the air. But eventually it was decided that it was undesirable to leave this important office open any longer, and Dr. Tomislav Tomljenovitch, a prominent Democrat, has now been nominated to the post.

The Triumphant Fox-Trot.

It may be remembered that a year or more ago there was a movement of protest in Belgrade against the introduction of such "immoral" dances as the one-step and the fox-trot, that there was quite a spirited correspondence about it in the press, and that these dances were banned at the Oficirski Dom. But progress will not be stayed; for now, in the very pages of the *Politika* itself, which fulminated against the innovation last year, there is an advertisement of the "First Serbian Up-to-date Dancing Institute," where lessons are given in the "fox-trott, two-step, boston, tango, jaze, Maxixe, brésilienne and One-step."

Miscellaneous.

The Ministry of Food and Reconstruction is being liquidated. Its functions, which will gradually expire, will be carried on by departments of the Ministries of Commerce, Social Policy, Finance, and Agriculture.

Very great inconvenience is caused by the stoppage of the Vienna-Maribor express in Austria, owing to shortage of coal, which involves the cancellation of the corresponding expresses Maribor-Trieste, Maribor-Zagreb, and the fast service between Vienna and Belgrade. It is to be hoped that this very useful service will be soon restored. The express Prague-Zagreb and Belgrade is fortunately not affected.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, February 23.

Political.

Reviewing the recent by-elections, one could hardly say that any marked change in the internal political situation has taken place, although the Government obtained only two seats out of six—one in Transylvania and the other in Jassy. The other four, however, were not won by one single party. The successful candidate for Ilfov (Bucharest), M. Dobrescu, was virtually backed by the combined Opposition as well as by the Socialists, who had no candidate of their own. In Romanati, the Liberal candidate obtained the majority of votes, but as several protests were raised in Parliament against this election a Committee has been appointed to investigate the proceedings. In Bessarabia M. Stere, an independent candidate, was elected on his personal merits, as a former leader of the Roumanian element in Bessarabia during the time of the Russian rule, despite his pro-German attitude during the war. In Husi, the success of the Federalist candidate was due to the great popularity of Dr. Lupu in this particular district.

Splitting-up of the Socialist Party.

Following on the example given by other countries, and as was expected after the fiasco of the last general strike, the leaders of the Roumanian Socialist Party have split up into three different groups, owing to difference of tactics in their political programme. These groups are: the Socialist-Democrats, who will be guided by the Amsterdam International Convention; the Centralists, who wish to keep the party together as before; and the Extremists or Communists, who are inspired by the Moscow Convention.

Roumania's Foreign Policy.

M. Také Jonescu, in reply to various interpellations made in the Senate with regard to Roumania's foreign policy, said that no one at the Peace Conference could have obtained the whole of the Banat, but had the first

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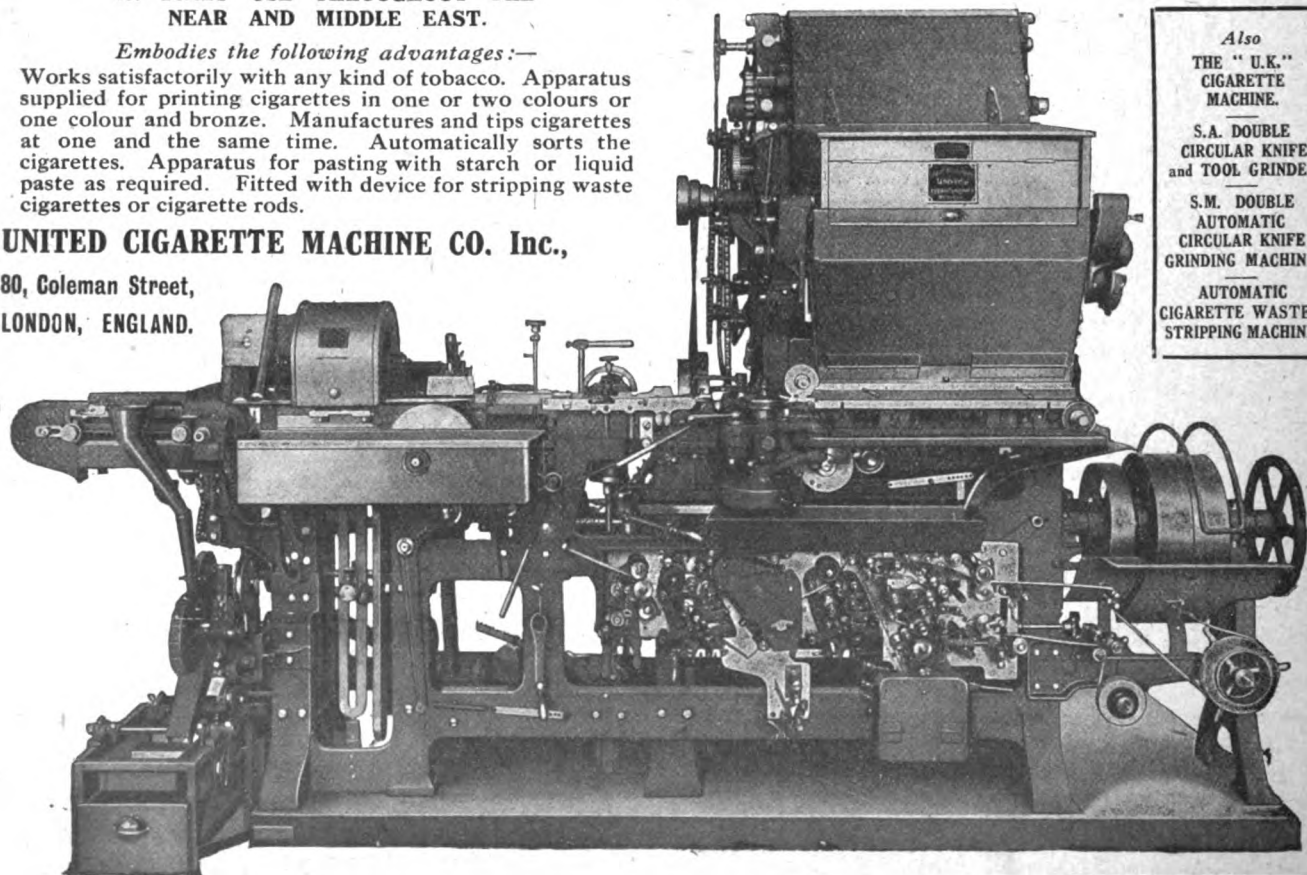
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Roumanian Peace delegates assumed a more conciliatory attitude, Roumania might have got Weisskirch and Vershetz; besides, Roumania had to sign the Peace Treaty after an ultimatum from the Allies. Now that they had attained the present boundaries, it would be childish to keep on heckling for what they ought to have got, the more so as the general result is satisfactory.

With reference to Roumania's relations with the Russian Soviet, M. Jönescu explained that, after an exchange of several wireless messages, the Soviet Government had at last acknowledged that they are not in a state of war with Roumania. He (M. Také Jönescu) then proposed that each State should send a delegate to Riga, in order to settle various questions between them. To this the Moscow Government replied that they preferred the town of Reval as a meeting-place, and that they had appointed M. Litvinov as their delegate. This proposal the Roumanian Government accepted, and it will shortly appoint a delegate. M. Jönescu further stated that he has received a protest from the Soviets to the effect that certain Petlurist gangs are being organised in Bessarabia, and that they are crossing the Dniester to attack the Red Army. To this the Roumanian Government has replied that this was an impossibility, and that Roumania has never undertaken a single act of hostility against the Soviets. With regard to treaties and understandings with other neighbouring States, the speaker declared that certain understandings have been arrived at with the object of safeguarding the territories awarded to them by the Peace Conference. In this connection he referred to France's point of view, which favours political and military understanding between Roumania and Poland and Ozecho-Slovakia.

M. Také Jönescu also took the opportunity of reading a letter which M. Sassonoff addressed to the Roumanian Minister at Petrograd in September, 1914, in which Russia recognised Roumania's right to annex the territories of Austria-Hungary inhabited by Roumanians—that is, Transylvania and the Banat. As to Bukovina, it was to be decided on the majority principle. The letter further recognised Roumania's right to occupy these territories when the opportune moment arrived.

Explaining the Maramuresh frontier question, M. Jönescu said that in this case also the Roumanian Peace Delegates would have obtained a better boundary if, at the time, they had not insisted so much on the Alliance Treaty of 1916. Now that the frontiers have been definitely fixed, it is not possible for Roumania to change the situation. Mention was also made of the possibility that Ruthenia might be given back to Hungary; but the Roumanian Government has already pointed out to the Allies that in case this province could not be held by the country that now holds it, it will be occupied by Roumania, and on no account will it be allowed to be taken by another State.

With reference to the New Dobruja, M. Také Jönescu, in concluding his speech, said that M. Stambolisky on the occasion of his visit to Bucharest made no allusion whatever to this district, and that if he had done so he (M. Jönescu) would not have even discussed this question.

The Wedding of Princess Elizabeth.

The Court Chamberlain has at last announced the programme of festivities in connection with the wedding of Princess Elizabeth with Prince George of Greece. The civil ceremony will take place in the Library of the Royal Palace, and the religious ceremony at the Cathedral, later. A hundred guests have been honoured with invitations to lunch at the Palace, and in the evening there will be a great reception. After the wedding the newly-married couple will go first to Sinaia, where they are expected to stay until the marriage of the Crown Prince, about the middle of March.

Roumania's War Claims.

The Government sent the other day by a special courier to Paris a statement showing Roumania's war claims, with a total of 31,099,440,182 French francs in gold. This figure comprises damages to private parties, towns, and districts, indemnities for prisoners and their families. State damages, expenditure to establish the

damages, supplementary salaries paid to Roumanian officer prisoners, and allowances to the families of mobilised men. The sum further covers the damages done to the oilfields, the banknotes issued by the Banca Generala, and the National Bank's deposit at the German Imperial Bank.

Miscellaneous.

Prince Sapieha, the Polish Minister for Foreign Affairs, is expected to arrive in Bucharest shortly.

The Government is preparing a Bill to encourage motor-agriculture, by which farmers will be granted various privileges for importing into the country tractors for agricultural purposes.

Instructions have been given to the Custom Houses on the Hungarian frontier that all luggage and parcels destined for Hungary should be scrupulously examined, because it has been found that many valuable objects have been stolen from the different museums in Transylvania and smuggled over the frontier.

TURKEY.

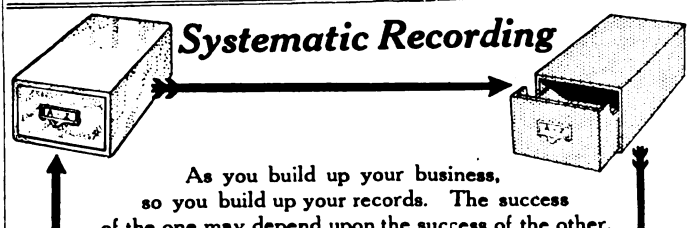
CONSTANTINOPLE, March 1.

Is it Peace?

The details of the proceedings of the Conference of London are the sole topic both of journalistic and of conversational interest in Constantinople at present. Marvellous are the deductions which are drawn from the various accounts and comments reaching here from each of the Allied capitals; and those deductions favour either Turks or Greeks according to the individual sympathy. It was exceedingly amusing to read the leading articles of the various organs of the polyglot press of Constantinople concerning the first day's proceedings when the Greek case was stated. One paper which is devoted to Italian interests declared that the Greeks had evidently made a very bad impression, whilst an organ which has always been a heated defender of the Hellenes insisted that Monsieur Kalogeropoulos had made a very fine show. So the game goes on day by day, until the impartial observer, uninformed from other sources, must become utterly dazed. The Turkish press is decidedly pleased with the results so far, although Ali Kemal Bey, the editor of the bitterly anti-Unionist *Peyam-Sabah*, betrays considerable nervousness with regard to the final result. Even he, however, cannot compromise on the main issue, as may be seen from the following extract from one of his leading articles:—

The majority of Turks approve neither of Mustapha Kemal, nor of the Angora Assembly, nor of the Independent Tribunals, nor of the mad escapades of those people. They do not approve, for they are profoundly attached to their traditions; but when they see the Greeks prepare to advance upon Angora, then patriotism obliges them to fall into line with those who are over there (in Anatolia). Under these circumstances, as General Gouraud so clearly pointed out, even if the Hellenes advance as far as Angora, they will have gained nothing, but will simply have excited the Turks still more, and will have driven the most moderate amongst them, even those who are most strongly opposed to the Nationalists, to make common cause with the latter.

It must be remembered that Ali Kemal Bey is probably more moderate in his political opinions than any other Turk living, except with regard to the Unionists, with whom he has always classed the Nationalists. He has been condemned to death by the Nationalists,



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and there is little doubt that the sentence would be carried out at once if it could be managed without undue trouble. When it is realised that the Greeks, so far from being ready to make the slightest effort to come to an agreement with the Turks, demand the integral application of the Sèvres Treaty, and refuse to consider the proposal to allow a Commission of Inquiry to settle the territorial question, it will be seen that the difficulties in the way of a peaceful settlement are enormous. The Nationalists have steadfastly clung to their determination not to consider any settlement until the Greek forces are withdrawn from Thrace and Smyrna. This the Greeks will almost certainly decline to carry out. If the Allied Prime Ministers can crack this nut, nothing else in the bag will give them much trouble. Meanwhile, everyone but the propagandists and the wire-pullers in Constantinople is asking anxiously: "Is it peace?" For the economic situation, owing to the severance of commercial relations with Anatolia and Russia, is lamentable. Bankruptcies and unemployment are the order of the day, and not only the Turk, but everyone, including the European, is affected.

The Caucasus.

The announcement of the defeat of the Bolshevik invaders of Georgia unfortunately proved to be false, and although it is said that if Georgia received immediate assistance in munitions and supplies, the final catastrophe might even now be averted, it is to be feared that such support would be no more efficacious than in the case of the various other attempts to bolster up anti-Bolshevik armies elsewhere. It should be clear to the whole world by now that the Soviet Government of Moscow is pursuing precisely the same policy as would have been pursued by any other Russian Government, and is making the re-establishment of Russia's pre-war frontiers its first consideration. Is it probable that the Russian nation as a whole would be opposed to such an object on the part of no matter what Government? The really interesting question that now arises is with regard to the manner in which the Turks will meet the Russians at Batoum. Here, again, everything depends upon Bolshevik plans for the future, and whether these plans necessitate the further utilisation of the Turks. When the Turks were permitted to stick to Kars and Alexandropol, in spite of Moscow's demands that the forces of Kiazim Karabekir should be withdrawn, it became clear that the Bolsheviks were ready to sacrifice Armenia, albeit temporarily, in the interests of a more ambitious object. Are the Turks still necessary to the success of that scheme? Or, rather, do the Bolsheviks still consider that the Turks are likely to lend themselves to the forwarding of that scheme? The manner in which the Batoum question is debated will throw considerable light upon the true state of affairs.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia, February 25.

The Enosis (Union) Movement.

At a meeting held at the residence of the Greek Archbishop on February 19 and 20 it was decided that, with a view to further organisation, a central committee of five should be established at Nicosia, to consist of the Abbot of Kykkou, Kleopas, M. Theodótou, and I Ekonomides (of Nicosia); Ph. Zannétos (Larnaca), and N. K. Laniti (Limassol). Committees are also to be formed in the six administrative districts, including the Greek Bishops of the division, the mayors, chairmen of school committees, and editors of local papers. Committees again are to be formed in the villages. Each body is to have its treasury and funds. A telegram was despatched to Mr. Lloyd George by the Archbishop and members of Council, on the occasion of the London Conference on Eastern affairs, begging that Cyprus might be included within the territorial boundaries of regenerated Hellas.

The Chief Secretary has conveyed the reply of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Archbishop's letter respecting the continuance of martial law, and the warning given to Mr. N. K. Laniti by the Limassol court-martial. The Minister considers that the former is necessary pending the final proclamation of peace, and that the latter was fully justified.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

March 7.—Colonel Amery informed Mr. Mosley that the present strength of the Royal Air Force in Mesopotamia is now: British officers 128, and other ranks 950.

March 8.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. James Brown that no British officers had at any time been in charge of or associated with the Persia Cossack Division.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Sir John Rees that the new Persian Government had issued a proclamation in Teheran in course of which the Anglo-Persian Agreement of August, 1919, was denounced by them.

March 9.—Mr. Montagu informed Lord Henry Bentinck that at present there are now 121,800 Indian troops serving outside the Indian Empire, but that it is anticipated that this number will be reduced to less than half by the end of the present month.

March 10.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that in view of the denunciation of the Anglo-Persian Agreement of 1919, the British Government will be free to denounce the customs tariff which was based on that agreement.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

March 8.—The motion of the second reading of the Government of Burma Bill was introduced by Lord Lytton. The rejection was moved by Lord Sydenham, who subsequently withdrew his motion to make way for a motion by Lord Amphil that the debate be adjourned till further correspondence and papers had been made available. Lord Amphil's motion was carried against the wishes of the Government spokesmen by 36 votes to 31.

March 7.—Lord Crawford informed Lord Newton that it was hoped that the entry into force of the Treaty of Trianon (Hungarian Peace Treaty) would take place in a few weeks' time. The deposit in Paris of the ratifications of Great Britain, France and Italy as well as of Hungary is necessary before the Treaty can come into legal force, and as far as Great Britain is concerned, it is considered that an Act of Parliament will be required before ratification can be made complete.

("Topics in Parliament" will be found on p. 326.)

MESOPOTAMIA AT THE R.I.B.A.

At a meeting of the Royal Institute of British Architects held on March 2, Major Edward P. Warren delivered an address entitled "Mesopotamia: Architectural Impressions of a Recent Tour." It may be stated that during the war Major Warren organised and commanded the great military hospital at Corfu, which did so much to rehabilitate the Serbian army after its retreat across the Albanian mountains. For this he was made Honorary Major in the Serbian army, and received the Order of Saint Sava. Since then he has become principal architect in Mesopotamia for the Imperial War Graves Commission, and the lecture at the R.I.B.A. was the result of a recent tour in that country. It was illustrated by a large number of lantern slides, reproduced from drawings and photographs, showing places of architectural or archaeological interest. Describing these, Major Warren mentioned, among other things, that the monument set up in Baghdad by the Turks to commemorate their victory at Kut, was already in a dilapidated condition, and was now being kept up by the British. The erection of a monument, to be designed by Sir Goscombe John, in memory of Sir Stanley Maude, was projected at Baghdad.

Following Major Warren's lecture, Mr. Money showed some lantern slides, principally relating to the Hindieh dam and other irrigation works. In connection with these he related many interesting incidents. Among other things he stated that the Hindieh barrage was completed just before the Turks entered into the war. Upon this event occurring all the English engineers were arrested and marched under escort to Aleppo. It was a long march, occupying three or more weeks, and one by one the Turkish soldiers grew weary and dropped out. At length the Englishmen marched into Aleppo with no escort at all.

Later in the war, said Mr. Money, as soon as the British had occupied Baghdad, enquiries were made as to whether the Hindieh barrage was safe; it then was found that the Turks had despatched a body of troops to destroy the barrage, but the local Arabs, realising what water meant to them, rose in a body in its defence and prevented the Turks from doing any damage to it. Thus the barrage had remained and had enabled such an area of land to be put under cultivation that we were able to raise on the spot all the forage and grain required for our army in Mesopotamia, and this at a time when the German submarines were at their greatest activity.

After Mr. Money's address, Mr. Lionel Muirhead, who was for a long time resident in Mesopotamia while the country was still under Turkish rule, gave an interesting description of a large number of water-colour drawings of Mesopotamian buildings and scenery that he had on exhibition in the hall.

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.

EXTREMIST POISON AND ITS ANTIDOTE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I was sitting last night in the lounge of a cosmopolitan hotel at Nice, an adjoining table being occupied by several Russians and Roumanians, whose animated conversation in French was overheard by many guests, myself included. A Russian refugee discoursed at considerable length on recent happenings at Odessa. Before the Revolution he had owned some extensive flour-mills in that city, which were a model of their kind. Everything possible was done for the workers' well-being. They had schools for the children, recreation-halls, cheap and sanitary dwellings, subsidised benefit-clubs, and a pension fund. The whole concern had been appropriated by the Bolsheviks, who substituted rations for the wage-roll. They kept the employees at heel by depriving recalcitrants of food, and rewarding delation by extra allowances. Terrible were the results of this vast system of espionage. No one's life was secure, and parents were compelled by hunger to inform against their children.

A lady then remarked that things were just as bad in India; that the English were equally cruel oppressors, who drained the country of its wealth and left the unfortunate natives to starve. Having some acquaintance with her, I interposed, and asked the authority on which her diatribe was based? She replied that all she had said, and much more, was to be found in a French translation of a book by Mrs. Annie Besant. Thereon I gave the company a little biography of that versatile lady; told them that she had boxed the compass in the matter of religion and was always at the mercy of the latest influence brought to bear on her; that, after becoming the mouth-piece of an extremist clique, she had recanted all her opinions, and was now a convinced champion of the British Government. I ended with a brief sketch of Indian history since the fall of the Mughal Empire, assuring my hearers that the British had brought order out of chaos, and conferred untold benefits on our great dependency. My audience listened with attention, but some, at least, were only half-convinced. We are all aware that the propaganda organised by Lord Northcliffe played a conspicuous part in ending the Great War. Is it not high time, Sir, that the India Office should follow his lead by furnishing an antidote to the poisonous literature circulated by doctrinaires and fanatics?—I am, etc.,

F. H. S.

Nice, February 28.

THE SHEREEF ALI HAIDER AND MESOPOTAMIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your correspondent "Champion" deals with my criticism of the case for Shereef Ali Haider in your issue of the 10th inst. This calls for a further reply from me, and I should appreciate your permission to make the following observations. The criticism of "Champion" is courteous to my view-point, but it in no way qualifies the major premise of my argument, and it is not therefore necessary for me to deal at length with the new points he raises. We have merely to choose between representatives of two families both honoured among their followers. But in the consideration of the records of the two, how long need we halt between two opinions?

To all students of Arab problems it must appear amazing that Ali Haider should consider himself a candidate for the Emirate of Mesopotamia and for the honour of British confidence. At the most critical time of the war in the East, the Germans placed at Constantinople as the head of a movement against King Hussein—the only Arab leader who raised an army to fight with the British, and whose merits and conduct have been so much appreciated by our leaders—this man, the Shereef Ali Haider. We know on "Champion's" own admission that he went to Medina. The Sultan of Turkey—acting on German pressure—proclaimed Jehad, which Hussein counteracted. Further, Ali Haider would have been made Shereef of Mecca, and all the family of Hussein (whom he hated) would probably have been killed had the scheme of Ali Haider succeeded. He failed because the Arabs in Hejaz did not support him, and not because he did not wish to advance. Our ally, Hussein was the stronger, and this influenced the future movements of Ali Haider, and caused him to pause and to abandon his advance.

The Turks were pro-British during the last century, but

joined our enemies during the World War. It is hardly logical to postulate the idea now that we should help the Turks reap the benefit of our successes and deprive our Allies of such advantage merely because the Turks were our friends fifty years ago!—I am, etc.,

W. URNOWSKI.

15, Endsleigh Street, London, March 14, 1921.

Sir,—Once again I crave space in your columns to advocate the claims of Ali Haider and show how his appointment would not only be advantageous to the peace of the Empire, but also to the peace of the Hejaz.

The real question for our consideration is: Under whose leadership will there be the greatest peace in Mesopotamia, and therefore the least expense to the British taxpayer? It might very well be said that we have entered into so many engagements with different Arab leaders, most of them rivals and even potential enemies of one another, that to introduce yet one more would only add to our many difficulties. In the words of one who has known Ali Haider for many years, "the aims of the Shereef have always been for the establishment of peace," and his introduction, therefore, into the arena of Arabian politics would exercise a pacificatory influence, not only in Mesopotamia but throughout the length and breadth of Arabia as well.

To-day the Emirs Ibn-Saud, Idrisi, the Imam of Yemen, and others show bitter resentment and hostility against the present King of the Hejaz and his family. If there is one man in this world who can control these Emirs, it is Ali Haider; and if he were given a position befitting his dignity we should soon see how his influence over them would be exerted to the advantage of the British Empire, of the Hejaz, and of the whole Moslem world. King Hussein, therefore, would be immune from the aggressions of his neighbours.

If, on the other hand, a member of King Hussein's family, however worthy he may be, were given the Emirate of Mesopotamia, it would only augment the personal feuds and jealousies between the above-mentioned Emirs and the House of Devi Aoun (Hussein's), whilst the seeds of future trouble from an incarcerated candidate's (Ali Haider's) supporters would germinate in the ground of discontent so caused.

Ali Haider's introduction, therefore, would not add to our many difficulties, but rather lessen them.

It is true that Ali Haider is less known in Mesopotamia than either Faisal or Abdullah, but perhaps this is to his and our advantage. If we look up our history we shall see that those nations that have suddenly gained their independence, or even semi-independence, are more content if they have a Prince who is not only superior in social standing to any member of the community, but also is not intimately known to the majority of the population.

Having said so much in favour of Ali Haider, we must pray for wisdom, foresight, and justice to guide the final decision.—I am, etc.,

CHAMPION.

The Egyptian Government has issued a statement pointing out the necessity of the strictest economy owing to an anticipated large Budget deficit. The 60 per cent. war bonus accorded to Government employees is being reduced by one-third as from May 16.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"LUNACY IN INDIA." By A. W. Overbeck-Wright, M.D., &c., &c., Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum, Agra. (London: Baillière, Tindal and Cox. 21s. net.)
- II.—"THE STRANGER." By Arthur Bullard. (London: Macmillan & Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

I.—THE TREATMENT OF INSANITY IN INDIA.

Professor Seely remarked that the public attitude towards prisoners had passed through three phases—the first characterised by barbarous insensibility, the second by a regard for strict law and justice, the third inspired by the truism that to deprive a man of his liberty was to incur grave responsibility towards the captive. The self-same evolution is seen in the management of lunatic asylums. Within living memory their wretched inmates were kept in chains—sometimes flogged and doused with ice-cold water. Bedlam was one of the recognised sights of eighteenth century London, and passengers by coach halting at Norwich could visit the local asylum for a fee of one shilling. A revolution was slowly wrought by the efforts of the Willises, the Tukes, and their collaborators in the task of reform. Great attention is now paid to the etiology of mental aberration; every case receives sympathetic study, and all the resources of science are enlisted to effect a cure. While the British alienist has a wealth of statistics at his disposal, enabling him to compare the results of empirical treatment, his Anglo-Indian colleague possesses no such advantage. According to the census of 1911, aments and dements in British India numbered only 27 per 100,000, the corresponding figures for England and Wales being 364. Owing to unfavourable climatic conditions and over-population the struggle for life in India—which is the main cause of insanity—must be at least as severe as in higher latitudes; and we may fairly assume that the proportion of mental weaklings in our Indian Empire is no lower than at home. On this basis there are probably about 1,000,000 insanies in British Indian territory, while the census revealed only 67,836, 11 per cent. of whom can receive treatment in asylums.

Dr. A. W. Overbeck-Wright has provided abundant data for reform in a monumental work, which is the fruit of many years' experience as superintendent of the Agra Asylum. It is too technical for extended notice in a non-professional publication, but deserves the closest study by medical practitioners. His opinion regarding the causation of mental troubles will come as a surprise to most people. During the crusade against opium, that drug was alleged to be the main cause of insanity; but, as a matter of fact, it was not responsible for a single admission at Agra. Its consumption in pills is a widespread habit, and, taken in moderation, opium is a restorative and stimulant, which gives a sense of well-being to millions of sufferers from disease. In only two cases out of 280 admitted during eighteen months was lunacy due to cocaine; but Dr. Overbeck-Wright admits that this abominable drug deprives its slaves of moral sense, leading them to commit any crime in order to satisfy their craving. Indian hemp, better known as *ganja*, plays a far more important part in filling Indian asylums, and alcohol, in the adulterated form sold in bazaars, is a fertile source of insanity in the Eurasian community. But the vast majority of mental cases may be ascribed to tainted heredity, and malaria in its myriad forms weakens the capacity to resist morbid impulse. Dr. Overbeck-Wright thinks that progress in dealing with insanity is hampered by excessive centralisation, and that the fact that all Indian asylums are supported by the State renders "such institutions antiquated and out of date." He adds that—

a knowledge of the true nature of insanity and its importance as an agent in the prosperity of a nation may be among the first fruits of the progress of Indian races, and lead to local sects and bodies forming institutions of their own for the proper care and treatment of such cases, as well as combining in a prophylactic campaign against their common enemy.

F. H. S.

II.—ORIENTAL MYSTICISM VERSUS WESTERN EFFICIENCY.

Mr. Bullard introduces us, without losing any time, to a circle of enthusiastic workers in New York, all devoted either to art or to social reform, full of zeal, of high ideals, and of the driving power of efficiency. The four whom we come to know best during the course of the story are Helen Cash, who was "financial secretary—which means money-raiser—of the National Association for Labour Legislation.

She was one of the most highly-paid women in social service. She had made good." Frank Lockwood, a painter who has brought misery on himself by marrying the beautiful Lillian von Lehnburg; all his inspiration in art and joy in life are gradually being killed by her vulgar mercenary spirit and unchangeable conviction that happiness is entirely dependent on a large income. Pete McGee, who, after some years of co-operation in work and good fellowship with Helen (which he "spoilt," as she calls it, from time to time by begging her to return his love), marries a pretty little nonentity, and Win Mathews, a novelist. Living with Helen is her friend, Eunice Bender, of whom the author has made a beautiful and touching study. She is hopelessly delicate, and cannot live long, and for the short time left to her she has to nurse her strength very carefully, and is just able to make her living by fashioning delightful little rhymes and pictures for children's magazines and books. But although the fact of Eunice's illness is firmly and relentlessly insisted on, it does not have the effect of producing a morbid or unpleasant atmosphere. Her character does really rise above her physical weakness, and her lovely spirit illuminates all mention of her.

All the members of the coterie love Eunice and find her wonderfully sympathetic. She herself lives, as it were, through them, and especially through Helen. She finds her greatest sense of reality in watching their doings and experiences and admiring their tireless energy.

Into this circle comes the Stranger, Donald Lane, carelessly introduced by Mathews. Lane is the son of a medical missionary in Morocco, who had become a Mohammedan that he might better help the people, and he has been brought up as a Mohammedan. He has had strange adventures from the time when, still a child, he lost his father until after many years he returned to his house and garden in Morocco. He has come to America to help in research work connected with an obscure Oriental dialect. Lane is filled with the deep spiritual sense and mysticism of the East, and it is quite a triumph for the author that, although many chapters practically consist of Lane's views on the attitude of young America and the superiority of the Oriental point of view and his own creed, he is still a human being and endowed with more than ordinary power and dignity. He succeeds in completely shaking Helen's robust self-confidence and conviction of the importance of her own efficiency, and she finds, to her dismay, that she has fallen in love with him. All through her powerful and protecting affection for Eunice there have been a great deal of pity and a suggestion of patronage towards her work; and when she finds that Eunice and Lane love one another her horrified amazement makes her so far forget her loyalty that she tells him of the condition of Eunice's health. She finds that he already knows, but that love has for him a deeply spiritual significance and is "the very voice of God," and that he considers "health" and "efficiency" are only "abstract, empty words" before which the Western world falls down and worships. The book ends with the death of Eunice and Lane's return to his Eastern home, accompanied by Frank Lockwood. Mr. Bullard makes the world of strenuous work into which he takes us seem very real, and there is true beauty in the story of the love of the Stranger and Eunice.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A Short History of the Saracens." By Ameer Ali Syed, P.C., C.I.E., LL.D., M.A. With maps, illustrations, and genealogical tables. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 12s. net.)

"La Question Macédonienne." With two coloured maps. By J. Ivanoff. (Paris: Librairie J. Gamber. 15 francs.)

TOPEE AND TURBAN: or, HERE & THERE IN INDIA.

By Lt.-Col. H. A. NEWELL, I.A.

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"Lieut.-Col. H. A. Newell has an exceptional knowledge of Indian history, tradition, and religious lore, and the numerous photographs of scenery and monuments which accompany the volume are a great enhancement of its attractions."—*Observer*.

JOHN LANE, The Bodley Head, Vigo Street, LONDON, W.1.

MUSICAL NOTES.

Two Reviews.

Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, and Co. have recently added two volumes to their very useful "Library of Music and Musicians"—"A Handbook of Orchestration," by Florence G. Fidler, and "The Spirit of French Music," by Pierre Lasserre, translated by Denis Turner. The first book, which is designed to make of its readers intelligent listeners to music, is more a collection of notes than anything else, but is probably of more value on account of this. For this brief method enables the authoress in short space to write down all the essential preliminary points about orchestral scores and instruments. Her book is divided into two main parts—"The Score" and "The Instruments"—of which the first (and more difficult) is the better done. The compass charts illustrating her remarks are lucidity itself, and the pages on rarely-used instruments and on old and foreign scores are interesting. There is also a well-chosen bibliography. This handbook should be certain of a welcome, even more from the general lover of music than from the student.

The second book, by M. Lasserre, is one of the most interesting and stimulating series of musical essays that we have read for a long time. It is French, very French, but though this stamps the book, it certainly does not vitiate it. Even to the non-musical person it must make good reading; and its merit loses nothing, apparently, in the beautiful translation which Mr. Denis Turner has made.

There are six essays in the book—on Grétry, the king of comic opera, on Rameau, whose virtues now are almost as universally recognised as M. Lasserre could wish, on the modern Italians, on Meyerbeer, on Wagner the Poet and on Wagner the Musician. M. Lasserre's fine scholarship is evident in the remarks upon Grétry and Rameau; his acute critical sense informs a very just estimate upon the value of Meyerbeer; and his analysis of Wagner's greatness is done with deadly Latin logic. The denial of any value external to music in Wagner's culture was, perhaps, inevitable after the European War, but it is nevertheless made very convincingly by the author. However, the finest critical work in the book is undoubtedly the essay upon Meyerbeer, "a cosmopolitan manipulator." Nowhere else is M. Lasserre's exquisite sense of the fitness and pregnancy of things seen to such vivid advantage. But the whole book is very worthy, and indeed is one of the most important of the whole series.

Folk-Song.

There are few singers who could so successfully devote a whole evening to the singing of folk and traditional songs as Miss Dorothea Webb and Mr. Plunket Greene, who together gave such a recital at the Æolian Hall on March 11. Miss Webb's sincerity and general artistry are too well known to need comment here, and within a range by no means small she gave some perfect interpretations. Among these we count the fifteenth-century "Lieblich hat sich gesellet," the Neapolitan "Fenesta che lucivi," the Norman "Le Sommeil de l'enfant," the Ulster "My Lagan Love" (which she sang unaccompanied), and "The Two Sisters of Binnorie." But there were, on the other hand, a few songs either too difficult for her voice (for example, a Provençal troubadour Song, the simple magnificence of which was forced), or to which the grave beauty of her voice could not easily be adapted (a folk-song from Smyrna arranged by Bourgault Ducoudray, or "The Twelve Days of Christmas," which as a solo is almost inevitably boring). In so wide a selection of song some blemishes (chiefly arising from breathing) were apparent, of course, but Miss Webb's virtues, beautifully pointed by Miss Ella Ivimey at the pianoforte, at all times outshone her deficiencies.

Mr. Plunket Greene was heard chiefly in French and Irish song, most of which he has sung before. In these things he is our foremost authority, so that there is no more to be said than that in songs the impulse of which is uninterrupted he is still inimitable.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Prince Paul of Serbia has left London for Paris.

Sir George Buchanan has returned to London from India.

The Archbishop of Athens left London last week for America.

Mr. Sokolow, chairman of the Executive of the Zionist Organisation, has left London for Egypt and Palestine.

M. Dashkaloff, Bulgarian Minister of Commerce, concluded his mission to this country on March 11, and left for Sofia.

Mr. Claud Alexander Barron, Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has been appointed a Companion of the Order of the Star of India.

M. Frederic Nano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, accompanied by Mme. Nano, returned to London on March 11 from Berlin.

Sir Ian Malcolm, the British representative on the Suez Canal Commission, has returned to Paris after his official visit to the Canal.

M. A. de Lens, Secretary at the French Embassy, left London last week for Paris on his way to take up his new post at Belgrade.

Dr. Volonakis, Delegate of the Dodecanesians to the Conference, has addressed memorials to Mr. Lloyd George and to Count Sforza urging the handing over of the twelve Ægean islands to Greece.

The Indian Moslem Delegation entertained both the Ottoman Delegations at luncheon at the Savoy Hotel on March 14. Mr. Chotani presided, and among those present was the Aga Khan.

The Earl and Countess of Reading, who are due to leave for India to-day, were received by the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on March 14, and were entertained by their Majesties at a farewell luncheon.

The Aga Khan arrived in London last week from India. He has come unofficially at great personal inconvenience, at the invitation of the British Government, in connection with the reconsideration of the Turkish Peace Treaty.

Sir Edward Boyle, together with Lady Boyle, has arrived in Belgrade in order to liquidate various institutions opened by the Serbian Relief Fund. Sir Edward and Lady Boyle were most cordially received by the Prince Regent and M. Pashitch.

The first course of English literature in Roumania was opened at the University of Bucharest by M. M. Beza, Roumanian Consul in London and lecturer at King's College, on Tuesday, February 22. The course will consist of twelve lectures.

Sir Alexander Baird, first baronet, of Urie House, near Stonehaven, Kincardine, and of Hope Street and West George Street, Glasgow, Lord Lieutenant of Kincardineshire, who died at Cairo on June 20, in his 71st year, has left personal estate of the value of £285,805, of which £58,000 is in War Loans.

"Hellenism in Egypt" is the subject of a lecture to be delivered by Mr. H. Idris Bell, M.A., in the Lecture Room of the Royal Society, Burlington House, on Thursday, March 17, at 8.30 p.m., before the members of the Egypt Exploration Society and their friends. Tickets can be obtained gratis on application to the Secretary, Egypt Exploration Society, 13, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

Mr. Edward Fothergill, author of "Five Years in the Sudan," is now lecturing in various parts of England on "The Sudan." A correspondent who heard him recently at the Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, writes that the lecture was most interesting and instructive. When the lecturer expressed the hope that, as we had made the Sudan what it is, we should keep it, there was much applause.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place on April 7, at Gunthorpe, between Major Frederick Marshman Bailey, C.I.E., Indian Political Department, elder son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel F. Bailey, R.E., and of Mrs. Bailey, of Edinburgh, and the Hon. Irma Cozens-Hardy, only daughter of Lord and Lady Cozens-Hardy, of Gunthorpe Hall, Melton Constable, Norfolk, and of 1, Halkin

Place, S.W.1, and granddaughter of the late Colonel Sir William Everett, K.C.M.G.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (February 25):—

Mr. W. A. Bowring (Receiver-General) will act till further notice as Principal Forest Officer.

Lieut.-Col. A. C. Tompkins has been appointed Commissioner of Famagusta.

Mr. M. T. Hassett has been appointed Assistant Engineer in the Public Works Department on probation.

A telegram from M. Venizelos from Monte Carlo thanks the Greeks of Cyprus for their good wishes on the occasion of the new year.

ATHENS ROYAL WEDDING.

The wedding of the Roumanian Crown Prince and Princess Helen of Greece was celebrated in Athens Cathedral on March 10 with great pomp, in the presence of all the Royal Family. Those present included the Queen of Roumania, the Roumanian Princesses, the members of the Cabinet, and the civil and military authorities.

SIR RICHARD BURTON: CENTENARY.

Saturday, March 19, will mark the centenary of the birth of Sir Richard Burton, traveller, explorer, author, and Orientalist of the first rank. He travelled extensively in many parts of the world, and some of his best work was done in Africa; but it is undoubtedly with his famous journey to Al Medina and Mecca that his name is most closely associated to-day; and his great translation of "The Thousand Nights and a Night" links his memory even more closely with the Arabs, whom he knew so well, and for whom he had such friendly regard. To travel in the character of *hajji*, or pilgrim, to the sacred cities of Islam, as he did, was an achievement to stir the imagination; and to be able to gather such detailed and valuable information as he secured, under the conditions of his journey, was an astonishing feat. Other Englishmen have since followed in his footsteps; Mecca and Medina are less mysterious now than they were in 1853-54; and the war produced several men who studied Arabian affairs in the way that Burton would have regarded as the only way—at first hand and on the spot. To them we owe much, and it is to be hoped that full weight will be given to their views in shaping our policy towards the Arabs to-day. But it is to be hoped also that the views of other men, who have studied the question from another angle and who are able perhaps to take a more impartial view of various claims advanced, will be at least as carefully considered. It is a thousand pities that Mr. Churchill cannot have the benefit of Sir Richard Burton's advice to-day, but we may hope that Sir Percy Cox and the other experts whom he has summoned to Cairo to meet him will prove worthy successors to Sir Richard.

In his biographers, as in most other things, Burton was unlucky, and we still look for an adequate and accurate picture of the man as he was. His reputation has suffered almost as much at the hands of his admirers as at those of his enemies. But nothing can conceal the fact of his greatness; his splendid fearlessness, his energy and vitality, and his great, if unostentatious, loyalty to his Queen and his country. Those Englishmen who are interested in Arabia and the Arabs revere his memory and feel towards him an affection almost personal.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Tchenkeli has been appointed Georgian Minister to the Court of St. James.

Mr. Lewis Charles Crump has been appointed a Judge of the Bombay High Court.

Prince Anowshiravan Mirza Salon has been appointed an Honorary Attaché at the Persian Legation.

Rear-Admiral Grandclément has been appointed to the command of the French Syrian Naval Division.

OBITUARY.

A Reuter message states that M. Pyrame Naville, the Yugoslav Consul-General in Paris, died last week.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (February 28):—

The British community has suffered a serious loss by the death of Dr. David M. Beddoe, which took place yesterday.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

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

day after a relatively short illness. Dr. Beddoe, who was an ear, throat, and nose specialist, came out to Egypt during the South African War, and ever since then had worked as a general practitioner in Cairo. He had a very large practice among both the British and Egyptian communities, and gained not only the respect but also the affection of all who came to him for treatment. A skilful surgeon and clever doctor, he was of an intensely sympathetic nature, and there are to-day not a few in Egypt who owe an unpayable debt to his ability, devotion, and consideration. His ready wit and fund of good stories, born of his extensive knowledge of the world, made him, moreover, an excellent companion, and his loss will be very much felt by the wide circle of friends he had formed in every class of the community. On leave in England—or more strictly speaking, perhaps, in Wales—Dr. Beddoe was an enthusiastic angler; while in the few moments of leisure which his large practice permitted him in Egypt, he gave himself up to literary pursuits. He published many short stories and several novels, in which he gave full play to his power of observation and description and his keen sense of humour. Among the latter, perhaps the best known to Anglo-Egyptians are "Henri de Valois" and "The Last of the Mamelukes," which deal with the interesting and fascinating period of Egypt under the great Mohammed Ali.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Two Bulgarian passport offices have been opened at Varna and Rustchuk.

Cable rates from India to Europe will be increased as from April 1 from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per word.

The police have recovered Rs. 34,000 (£2,266) of the Rs. 95,000 (£6,333) in notes, which were stolen 10 days ago from an escort party that was taking the notes in a box from the Chartered Bank to the Currency Office in Calcutta.

It is announced in Rome that an aeroplane service is about to be started between Brindisi, Corfu, Crete, Derna, and Alexandria. The service will be carried on by Italian sea-planes, which will carry passengers and mails.

The island of Castellorizzo, eighty miles east of Rhodes, which was ceded to Italy under the Treaty of Sévres, was handed over to the Italian Admiral Gallieni by Admiral Mornet, commanding the French Mediterranean Squadron, on March 2.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1921.

THE REVISED SETTLEMENT FOR THE NEAR EAST.

As the trouble with the Treaty of Sèvres was that it was not accepted by the great majority of the Turks and could not be imposed upon them, it follows that any arrangement which is accepted by both Turks and Greeks and which, consequently, promises to introduce peace in the Near East is to be welcomed. A revised scheme, which it is hoped, will prove acceptable to both parties, has now been evolved as a result of the conferences in London. The Turkish Delegates, unfortunately, feel obliged to consult the Angora authorities before a definite reply can be given to the Allied proposal, and it will not be safe to count upon an unequivocal acceptance until it has been accorded. The stumbling-block, in the opinion of the Nationalists, is likely to be the refusal of the Allied Powers to modify the existing arrangement in regard to Thrace. There was much to commend the proposal to restore that province to the status in which it was left by the terms of the Armistice before the Allies handed it over to Greece. Whether the term "internationalisation" be applied or not to the provision then made, the effect would be the same: to impose an administration in which the three nationalities concerned—Greeks, Bulgarians, and Turks—would acquiesce readily, and against which there would be no inducement to intrigue. As things are, it can hardly have escaped the notice of the Allied Governments that constant protests are being made, by Bulgarians and Turks against the Greeks, and by the Greeks against both. The state of affairs is inseparable from any attempt to impose the jurisdiction of one Balkan nation upon the people of another, and must continue, despite the good intentions of the Government concerned. No orders from the distant capital or from the provincial governorate will ever prevent the local official or the village policeman from applying his own interpretation of his patriotic duty towards the traditional enemy. Accordingly, while the Greeks complain of unrest among their Bulgarian subjects and incursions of Bulgarian bands, the Bulgarians, with equal conviction, declare that the protest is either the stereotyped preliminary to further violation of the rights of minorities, or that, if the movements complained of have taken place, they are the outcome of fresh oppression of Bulgarian nationals. Where these conditions exist—and so long as the present arrangements in regard to Thrace lasts they will continue to exist—it is hopeless to attempt to apportion blame; the only thing to do is to impose an impartial government until the present bitternesses have had time to abate, and it is possible to introduce a national solution which does not entail continual friction, or worse. For this reason we regret the refusal to reopen the question of Thrace, even if the Turks acquiesced. The Minorities Treaty reads well on paper, but there is no ground for supposing that, as yet, it has been applied in any one Balkan country.

The proposals now made by the Allied Powers to Turkey and Greece should go a long way towards meeting the more reasoned of the Turkish objections to the Treaty of Sèvres. In the first place, the eastern shores of the Sea of Marmora are excluded from the demilitarized zone, or territory to which neither Turks nor Greeks, but only the Allies, may send troops. Turkey is offered representation both on the Straits Commission and on the Financial Commission, with the presidency of

the former. The Allied troops in Constantinople will be withdrawn as soon as the Powers have satisfied themselves of the good faith of the Turks. The decision in regard to Smyrna follows in part the lines advocated in these pages. The vilayet will remain under the sovereignty of the Sultan, with an autonomous régime. It is proposed that a Christian Governor should be appointed by the League of Nations, but it is to be hoped for the benefit of all concerned that as a Turkish Governor is excluded Greece will also agree to a self-denying ordinance in this particular. M. Sterghiades, the present Greek High Commissioner, has reaped golden opinions on all sides, but sooner or later the post is bound to become a party matter in Greece, and there can be no guarantee that future holders would invariably maintain the high standard of efficiency which M. Sterghiades has set. It will be better to allow the inhabitants of Smyrna to indicate the nationality—neither Turk nor Greek—from which they wish their Governor to be appointed, and to leave the nomination in the hands of the League of Nations. As soon as the Turks ratify the Treaty of Peace the Greek Army is to be withdrawn from Asia Minor, but some Greek troops, it is suggested, should be left in the town of Smyrna. In the remainder of the vilayet the Gendarmerie would be under Allied officers. By a separate agreement between France and Turkey it has been arranged that Cilicia is to be evacuated by French troops, and to revert to Turkish administration, provision being made for the adequate security of persons and property, not only of Armenians, but of all the minorities in the evacuated territories.

The modified terms now offered to the Turks suggest that the Allied Powers, having been brought into personal touch with the Turkish Delegates, have decided to give some consideration to the logical results of the Allies' victory. As was explained in these pages last week, the Turks, in common with other nations, have learned much from the late war. Whether they are capable of applying their experience remains to be seen, but it is certainly in the interests of the Allies that they should be given an opportunity of doing so. Both in their dealings with Greece of the Restoration and in the Treaty of Sèvres the Allied Governments adopted a policy which might have been reasonable if the war had ended in a draw and if all the machinery of German intrigue and military aggression remained in working order. No one, we may be sure, understands the lessons of the war more thoroughly than Germany's dupes among the nations, and it would be the height of folly on the Allies' part to ignore this fact. A Turkey regenerate of her own volition would repay them for much disappointment in regard to reparations by Germany; the next best thing, although costly, would be a Turkey reformed by Allied effort. The realisation of the official Greek view of a Turkey as unregenerate as ever would mean that the war had been fought in vain, as far as the Near East is concerned. In these circumstances it must surely be worth while to give Turkey the chance she asks for, even if we keep an open mind on the subject of her capacity to reform, until she has either made good or failed completely. Certain safeguards are essential; for the war period, which may have brought the will to reform, will not have taught the Turks the whole art of efficient government, any more than it has taught it to neighbouring States. The Treaty of Sèvres was a purely Balkan product, and as such it might be regarded as both natural and defensible. Only the Allies could introduce a new atmosphere into the Balkans, and we are glad to think that Great Britain has taken the lead in this matter. The interests of the Near East as a whole and the future peace of Europe require that the attempt should be made. It might have been made more wholeheartedly than is implied in the modified terms offered to Turkey, but a big step has been taken in the right direction. If the Turks accept these terms, it will rest with the Allies to see that they are given a fair field for the experiment. In the past all efforts on the part of Turkey to reform—never very seriously undertaken, perhaps—have at once been stultified by the intrigues of one or other of the Great Powers and by the actions of the subject populations. This time the Turks must be

protected from encouragement to intrigue in Europe and from the provocative tactics of those who look upon them as their traditional enemies. The first move, it is obvious, must come from Angora. The Delegation headed by Bekir Sami Bey will, we may hope, have been brought into close enough touch with realities in London to appreciate the opportunity that is now afforded Turkey. Of the sincerity of the Allies' intentions there can be no doubt. The question that has yet to be answered is whether the Turkish authorities will respond with equal sincerity.

CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM.

(CONCLUDED.)

A paper read by the Rev. L. J. Egerton Smith, Senior Chaplain to the Forces, at a meeting of Christian workers in Constantinople held in 1920.

The Widening Breach.

Mohammed II. proved conciliatory in his treatment of the Christians of this city in 1453. Upon the election of a new Patriarch to the Greek Orthodox Church he summoned him to his presence, and presented him with a valuable pastoral cross, saying, "Be Patriarch and be at peace. Depend upon my friendship as long as thou desirest it, and thou shalt enjoy all the privileges of thy predecessors." Christians were admitted to the highest offices of State in the Moslem world. If there were instances of intolerance on the part of the Moslem conquerors, it has to be sadly admitted there was an equal intolerance on the part of those who adopted the sign of the Cross. We can hardly disguise the fact that it was the Crusades which widened the breach between the Cross and the Crescent, and armed Islam with the sword against Christianity.

It is of importance to the understanding of the development of Islam to remember that Christians accepted the fanatically proclaimed faith in large numbers, and that these apostates brought with them an intellectual ability and culture far superior to that of the original Arabs. So we find that modifications were introduced, patently Christian in origin. Theoretically the Holy Day was accepted, though Sunday was rejected in favour of Friday; congregational worship was recognised; and eventually an order of priesthood was established, based rather upon Jewish models. The priests approximated to the character of Scribes and Pharisees, occupying the position of moral leaders and exponents, guardians of religious thought and practice. In the first days of Islam it was the custom to plant a lance in the ground, and prayer was offered behind it. With the creation of a priestly class definite forms of worship were elaborated and sacred buildings were erected.

Influence of Christianity.

The influence of mediæval Christianity is distinctly seen in the teaching of the Koran as to the pilgrimage of man upon earth. Luxurious living is condemned, though Mohammed was no ascetic. Elaborate architecture was confined to mosques:—

"The worst use a believer can make of his money is to build."

"Every building except a mosque will stand to the discredit of its architect on the Day of Resurrection."

On the other hand, the attitude of Mohammed towards woman was controlled entirely by his local environment. Mediæval Christianity condemned marriage, with certain exceptions. Islam commended matrimony:—

"Two prayers of a married man are more precious in the sight of God than seventy of a bachelor."

One naturally concludes that the petitions of Mohammed himself in his later and more indulgent days must have availed much. Yet with it all, because of it all perhaps, the menace of the sexual relationship was greatly feared:—

"But for women, men might enter Paradise."

On this account women were held in very low esteem, though the popular belief that, according to the Islamic creed, women are supposed not to possess a soul rests upon no basis of fact. To quote Professor Becker on this point: "The idea of woman as a creature of no account is cer-

tainly rooted in the ancient East, but it reached Islam in Christian dress and with the authority of Christian hostility to marriage."

In the realm of dogmatic theology it might be thought there is little convergence between Christian and Mohammedan ideas. Yet it is here that the interaction is most clearly indicated. If we call to mind the great dogmatic controversies of Mediæval Christianity, we shall find that these have left an indelible mark upon Islam. What were these historic disputes which divided Christendom but the Problem of Free Will, the Being and Attributes of God, and the Nature of God's Word? These questions precipitated themselves in the Mohammedan creed. The first produced Fatalism, the second a strict monotheism, and the third a dogma of plenary inspiration of the most absolute type. The part taken by the Christians of this city [Constantinople] in the iconoclastic controversy of the eighth and ninth centuries will be well remembered, but perhaps it is not so readily recognised that the Mohammedan prohibition of images marks the stage when Islam cut across that historic struggle.

I have not the special knowledge to show that the theories of the State, of the individual, of the economics and morality of Islam were largely, if not wholly, controlled by the form of Christianity existing in the mediæval period; but this has all been established by competent investigators. In every department we encounter that particular type of Christian practice and belief which existed in the East during the seventh and eighth centuries, with accretions from Jewish, Gnostic, and Arabian sources. In a sense Islam is a perverted form of Christianity.

Mutual Indebtedness.

We are not unmindful of the fact that the Koran inspired a new movement which lifted the whole civilised world on to a higher level of thought and achievement. Although Islam itself became retrograde, it is true that because of it Greek philosophy, mathematics, science, including medicine, architecture, and astronomy, won recognition in the West; as in a later day the capture of Constantinople scattered Greek learning among the Latin and Teutonic races, and in particular compelled the conveyance of Greek MSS. of the Bible to Western Europe, and so contributed one of the principal causes of the revival of learning. It is surely a great gain to recognise the mutual indebtedness of these rival faiths. There are vast and irreconcilable differences; centuries of bitter hatred and fierce fanaticism have created impassable barriers; yet it is clear to the historical student that Islam borrowed heavily from Christian sources. Unhappily for the race, they were to a large extent contaminated sources. And it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that had Mohammed known the pure Evangel of the Nazarene he would have flung himself with impassioned zeal into the advocacy of the Christian truth.

Going into S. Sophia one instinctively feels that the medallions of the Khalifs, the eccentric Mihrab, the Mimbar flanked by green banners of conquest, and the other accessories of Mohammedan worship have no place in that sacred edifice. In their very blatancy they declare themselves as intrusions. The eternal majesty of Justinian's creation stands unaffected by these excrescences, and through the daub and the glitter the Cross emerges as the true glory of the Eternal Wisdom. So with Islam itself: great and noble conceptions lie behind it; eternal truth is enshrined within its teaching; superstition and falsehood are there, and gross materialism; but these things are a mere daubing, an accretion of ignorance. Islam has survived because of its truth, not because of its falsehood. One thing is sure: that the Moslem world cannot live for ever within the shadowland of mediævalism. The light that Islam was indirectly the means of diffusing in the West must return to illumine the Western lands. And it will come the more surely and rapidly because the old barriers of race have been broken down. East is East, and West is West, but despite our modern prophet the twain have met, for the nations have been summoned to God's judgment seat during these past tragic years. Do we, then, speak of the possibility of a renaissance which shall liberate Islam? Are there any signs of such a new birth? Close observers who are qualified to judge speak of significant changes. "The changing East"



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has become a mere platitude. I quote from Professor Milligan's monumental work:—

"Colonel White, writing in 1844 in his interesting book, 'Three Years in Constantinople,' said that if a certain policy were pursued fifty years cannot elapse ere travellers will flock to Constantinople in search for relics of Moslem institutions with as much eagerness as they now seek for vestiges of Christian or Pagan antiquities. It would be an exaggeration to say that this prophecy has been literally fulfilled. But events have verified its forecast to such an extent that one is tempted to assume the prophet's mantle and predict that Colonel White's words will come to pass in the next half-century."

Our authority goes on to show the enormous changes that have taken place in the political situation in matters of education, means of communication, in customs, dress, and architecture. The palaces of the Sultans vie in magnificence with the royal houses of the West, a fact which has to be considered in the light of the prohibitions of the Koran. When we remember the slow and laborious process of evolution by which the West found its way into larger freedom, we dare not say that the hope of renaissance is the mere dream of a visionary. There are three hundred million Moslems, and the British Empire is the greatest Mohammedan power. The gain to the Christian world would be immense if the devotion, loyalty, and missionary zeal of Islam could be won for Christ.

Islam and the Turk.

I have said that the religious question is at the heart of the Near East problem. Morley sums it up in a sentence:—"It is the presence of the Ottoman Turks in Europe, their possession of Constantinople, and their sovereignty as Mohammedan conquerors over Christian races."

Whether we shall see the Turkish executive power transferred from Yildiz Kiosk to Brusa does not come within the scope of our present discussion. Whether or no there is a possibility of reform within the Turkish Empire I cannot say. History does not encourage such a hope. But Islam and the Turkish Empire are not synonymous terms. Indeed, so far from being the "bulwark of Islam," Turkey has proved herself to be the vanguard of Asiatic barbarism. The claim to the Khalifate of the Sultans rests upon the argument that Selim I. purchased the title from the last of the Egyptian Fatimites in 1517. Dr. Charles Vamvacas, a member of the Turkish Parliament till 1912, says, in the *Balkan Review*:—"The Arab chiefs of Mecca, Medina, Yemen, Baghdad, Assir, and Syria never recognised the religious supremacy of the Sultan." Mr. T. P. Hughes, in his "Dictionary of Islam," writes:—"We have not seen a single work of authority nor met with a single man of learning attempting to prove that the Sultans of Turkey are the rightful Khalifahs, for the assumption of the latter by anyone who is not of the Koraish tribe is undoubtedly illegal and heretical."

The first step toward liberty would obviously be for Islam to declare herself independent of the Sublime Porte. But I may be told that this is nothing short of dismemberment of the Empire: Turkey no longer held together by theocratic ideals cannot exist. I admit the relentless logic of the situation. Not for the first time in history would it be true that the very policy by which a nation rose to power and maintained its supremacy has proved ultimately the means by which were forged the very instruments of its ruin.

As for Islam herself, is not salvation to be found in fuller contact with the light and leading of the West? And no more blessed consummation of our hopes and prayers could be desired than that one day the Cross may again rise to the ascendancy in this city of the New Rome, and that not because of a subjugated people and a recaptured shrine, but because Christian and Moslem find their common ground of worship and praise under the spacious dome of the Church of the Holy Wisdom.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

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

SERBIANS (ENGLISH EDUCATION). MESOPOTAMIA. (March 7.)
 PERSIA: British Loan.—Persian, Cossack Division. ASIA MINOR RAILWAY CONCESSIONS. MIDDLE EAST, ARAB AREAS. MESOPOTAMIA. MESOPOTAMIA (SHAHRAB ON FIGHTING). INDIA: Regimental Bands. PERSIA. CEYLON SERVICE. (SALARIES.) (March 8.)
 RUSSIA: Tiflis. ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY. INDIA: War Expenditure.—Railway and Inland Steamer Traffic (Surcharge). MESOPOTAMIA (RAILWAY WORKERS' WAGES). PERSIA. TRADE AND COMMERCE: Exports, Turkey.—Exports, Smyrna.—Anglo-Persian Oil Company. (March 10.)

A resolution has been adopted in the Indian Council of State favouring the immediate withdrawal of control from the export of foodstuffs.

Cotton spinners from the North of France have received an order from the Roumanian Government for £800,000 worth of cotton thread.

THE SHEIKH OF KOWEIT.

A telegram received by *The Times* from Baghdad announces the death of the Sheikh of Koweit, Salim ibn Mubarak. He was the second son of the well-known Sheikh Mubarak, who had been on terms of close friendship with



THE KOWEIT FLAG.

It has a red ground, with "Koweit," in Arabic lettering upon it. (Photo by E. E. Calverley, Koweit.)

Great Britain ever since the German attempt to secure Koweit as a terminus for the "Baghdad" railway; and he succeeded his brother in 1917. The telegram referred to states that the new ruler of Koweit will probably be Ahmed ibn Jobar, nephew of Sheikh Salim.

On March 14 Earl Curzon, in the House of Lords, said Parliament would have an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the Eastern Mandates after they had been before the Council of the League of Nations.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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India and Lancashire.

A deputation from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce placed Lancashire's case—forcibly may we assume in view of the telegram from which I quoted last week?—before Mr. Montagu, and this protest has been reinforced by a strongly worded letter from the Federation of British Industries. Mr. Montagu postponed replying to the deputation until he has received the representatives of the Manchester Cotton Spinners' Association, and we shall, therefore, have to wait for a few days for an official pronouncement on the position. Mr. Montagu's position is extremely difficult, and without wishing to discourage Lancashire it is really hard to see how he can usefully intervene in present conditions. The most hopeful development during the week was the suggestion—emanating, I believe, from the Lancashire members of Parliament—that a delegation should be sent out at once to India to discuss the situation. That, at any rate, contains the germ of a compromise, and it is on that basis alone, so far as can be seen, that a settlement more or less satisfactory to both sides can be reached.

Export Credits.

At last we have the Government's new proposals for assisting the export trade. In explaining them to the House last week Sir Robert Horne first dealt at some length with the original export credits scheme, which, he stoutly maintained, had not been a failure. On that point the business world will not be able to see eye to eye with him, for there is no question that judging by results it has fallen far short of its objective. Admittedly, as he said, it was launched at a time when trade was brisk, and manufacturers and exporters were not under the necessity of having to look for markets, but when a rapid change came over the position, and an unprecedented "slump" set in, there was no tendency on the part of traders to take advantage of the scheme until an alteration in the conditions made it rather more favourable, since when there has been an improvement in the inquiries for advances, but the applications granted for an amount of £2,000,000 and the actual advances of £400,000 suggest very forcibly whether or no the scheme has really been successful.

The New Scheme.

The new proposals *prima facie* would appear to go far to meet the needs of the situation. Advances will not be made to manufacturers or exporters as before, but instead it is proposed to guarantee up to 85 per cent. of the selling or invoice price of goods. In short, exporters will be in the position of carrying their transactions through by means of the banks as in normal conditions. Further, in the case of a transaction carried out entirely through the banks the Government proposes to guarantee 70 per cent. of any loss. That sums up the position as regards exporters. Then regarding importers the Government proposes that instead of, as now, having to put up the whole cost of a transaction the importer should put up 50 per cent., and of the uncovered risk the Government would guarantee half, leaving the remainder to the exporter. The scheme, Sir Robert Horne pointed out, had been before a committee of bankers, who supported the main principles while not expressing approval of every detail.

British Fair at Bucharest?

While it is possible to overdo the fair as a medium for the promotion of trade, the outstanding success which attended the Athens Exhibition of the Federation of British Industries clearly suggested that at a suitable time another fair might with advantage be held at a suitable centre in the Near East. It now appears that the authorities here have approached the Roumanian Government with a view to holding a fair at Bucharest, at which goods from Great Britain and the Dominions would be exhibited. The idea is excellent, and has everything to commend it, and I only trust that it will be found possible to carry it out, for I can conceive nothing better calculated to further the growth of trade relations between this country and South-Eastern Europe

than a well-planned exhibition of the staple products of British industry.

The B.I.F.

I find that an impression prevails in some business circles in the City that this year's British Industries Fair has not been far removed from being a failure. It is certainly true that the remarkable results achieved in 1920 were not attained, but it is also certainly incorrect to say that the Fair has not been a success—relatively, that is, in view of the present world-wide trade depression. No one expected in the circumstances that foreign buyers would descend upon the White City and other centres in swarms, or that merchants in specially favoured lines would be placed in the embarrassing predicament of having to refuse orders. But it was expected that a fair amount of business would be done in anticipation of the early end of the "slump," and, while actual figures are not yet available, I gather that this expectation has been amply fulfilled, and that, speaking generally, exhibitors have had no reason to regret their participation in the Fair. After all, numbers talk, and the facts that some 65,000 people visited the White City and that 50 countries were represented among the buyers speak for themselves.

Smyrna-Aidin Railway Report.

A much more hopeful report is forthcoming from the Council of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year ended December 31, and one which gains special interest since it has been possible, for the first time since 1914, to present the accounts in a fairly complete form. The traffic receipts for the six months amounted to £334,414, as compared with £249,940 for the previous year and the highest pre-war total of £282,140, military traffic, from which the receipts were £98,365, being mainly responsible for this result, though the receipts from passenger and goods traffic both showed increases. There was a large increase on the expenditure side, due to the higher cost of material and higher wages, the total being £205,510, as compared with £189,995 for 1919. Claims for war damages have been sent in, but it is difficult to find much grounds for optimism as to the prospect of an early settlement, in view of Turkey's financial predicament.

Egypt's Industrial Expansion.

The progress of Egypt's industrial development has been watched with the greatest sympathy by THE NEAR EAST, and it is a source of peculiar satisfaction to us that, as recorded elsewhere in this issue, our efforts to encourage it have not lacked appreciation, and that a suggestion made by our Cairo Correspondent with a view to increasing the utility of the Egyptian Industries Exhibition has been adopted by the authorities concerned.

The Anglo-Persian Issue.

With its new issue of 3,500,000 nine per cent. cumulative second preference shares of £1 each, the prospectus of which appeared in these columns last week, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company brings its issued capital up to £20,875,000, including £4,875,000 of 5 per cent. First Debenture Stock. In recent years, and especially in the last few months, the

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

Anglo-Persian has been greatly extending the sphere of its operations, and the oilfields which give it its name now represent only one of its many interests. This great expansion has naturally opened the way for the employment of further capital, hence the present offer. The terms of the present issue are remarkably generous, and while nothing can be accounted certain in these remarkable times I shall be greatly surprised if the public have not shown a whole-hearted readiness to take advantage of the offer, for the investor is not blind to the fact that normal conditions must ultimately develop, and that when that happens a nine per cent. preference share in a company of the standing of the Anglo-Persian will obviously go to a handsome premium.

COMMENTATOR.

TRADE DEPRESSION AT SMYRNA.

The British High Commissioner at Constantinople, in a report on the commerce of Smyrna during the last quarter of 1920, states that in that period trade in general did not come up to expectations. Owing to the political conditions caused by the Greek military occupation, the port of Smyrna was deprived of the greater portion of its hinterland, and exports and imports were consequently restricted to Smyrna town and its immediate surroundings under Greek military occupation. The situation has led to considerable depression among merchants. Goods imported could not easily be disposed of, and exports on the other hand, did not rise to their usual limit. The uneasiness prevailing on all the European markets during the latter part of the year has further increased local difficulties. Many instances have occurred of consignees in Smyrna refusing to take delivery of goods. In view of the instability of the exchange market, and the wide fluctuations of the value of the pound sterling relative to the piastre, merchants should be scrupulously exact in the execution of orders as regards quality, time of delivery, etc. So long as the pound sterling is falling, consignees will make less difficulties over accepting goods, but in a rising market the smallest pretext will be seized upon for refusing consignments. The commercial situation has not been improved by the import restrictions imposed on goods entering Smyrna from the interior.

PAPER-MAKING FROM BAMBOO.

The current number of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute contains a comprehensive and valuable article on the utilisation of bamboo for paper-making. Bamboo has come much to the front in this connection during the last year or two, and it seems likely that in the near future the manufacture of paper from this material will be undertaken on a large scale in several countries. A British firm have been granted a concession for cutting bamboo in the Government forests in Trinidad and have also established a bamboo plantation there of 1,000 acres. Leases have been granted, or applied for, for working bamboo forests in Burma, Madras, and other parts of India. In Indo-China two factories, equipped on up-to-date lines, are actually manufacturing paper chiefly from bamboo. Paper made entirely from bamboo pulp is of high-class quality. On the whole it is too good for the manufacture of ordinary newspaper, and is more suitable for the better grades of printing paper.

The article gives an account of the general characters and distribution of bamboos, and a detailed statement as to their occurrence and utilisation in various countries. The technical side of the subject is fully dealt with, particulars being given of the various methods which have been employed for the conversion of bamboo into paper-pulp.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 8:—During the week ending February 26 standing crops fair to good generally, except in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, where rain badly wanted. Bombay cotton market easy. Fine M.G. Oomra March Rs.206, May Rs.223. Piecegoods market lifeless. Calcutta jute market quiet, with prices steady. Hessians and heavy goods very quiet, with prices weaker. Construction of three sections of Bashokharo-Ramgarh Railway (coal fields), being an extension of thirteen miles by the Bengal Nagpur Railway Co., sanctioned. Bank rate is 6 per cent.

The profits of the Bulgarian grain Consortium during 1920 are stated to amount to 140,000,000 leva, 10 per cent. of which will be given to the three State banks and 90 per cent. will be used for the construction of silos, elevators, sheds, etc., to facilitate the export of cereals in the ports of Varna and Bourgas and on the Danube.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

PROBABLE INFLUENCE ON EXCHANGE.

By "Gold Mohur."

The Indian Budget which has just been presented possesses some features which call for more than usual criticism. Increased taxation is never popular, and it is not to be wondered at that the Manchester shippers have protested against the additional duty imposed upon their manufactured goods. This will benefit the Indian cotton mills at the expense of Lancashire. At the moment, however, it will raise the value of the heavy stocks already stored in India, and will probably help the liquidation of outstandings which are being carried in the hope that exchange would be raised.

Those who had been looking forward to an announcement that Government would propose definite measures to maintain rates have been doomed to disappointment. The slump in exchange which has followed the ineffectual efforts of Government to hold the rupee at two shillings might surely be taken as a warning that any attempt to forecast the future should be eschewed. Yet we find in the Finance Minister's speech the opinion expressed that a low exchange would prevail for the first half of the year. We are led to infer, therefore, that thereafter a recovery will take place. It is sincerely to be hoped that this desired improvement will come along, but so much depends entirely on the monsoon that it is extremely imprudent to play the part of prophet.

One result of this publication of the official view is being shown in applications from Indian importers for a further six months' delay in meeting bills, which have already been extended by many months, so that Lancashire shippers see little prospect of a return of their money for a considerable time. It is perhaps unfortunate that their hopes of a higher exchange six months ahead should receive such official confirmation, because signs were becoming apparent in India that the importers' opposition to fulfil their obligations was weakening. Since they repudiated their contracts, the attitude of many of them has undergone a change, due chiefly to the knowledge that suppliers refuse to book further orders or ship any goods unless existing stocks are cleared.

We do not seem to be any nearer a solution of the currency problem now. For the past six months and more, Indian importers have been penalised by the low exchange, and in another six months or more the exporters will have their turn. That is the only reasonable deduction to be made from the Finance Minister's remarks.

It has been given out that funds in London will probably be sufficient to meet Government disbursements for about two years, which will relieve them from the necessity of selling Council bills on India. In the present stagnation in exports from India, this announcement is of no interest, but granted a normal year with a sufficient rainfall there is every reason to expect a return of prosperity.

In an ordinary season the volume of exports can only be financed by a considerable influx of funds from other markets. We have seen ample evidence during a busy season of the great demand for money all over India, in high bank rates and the keen demand in London for remittances of Council bills. Sales by the banks of sterling transfers on London were quite inadequate to supply funds sufficient to pay for export bills, and recourse had then to be made to Council bills here. In busy times the Indian Council has met the market by increased allotments weekly up to a crore of rupees, and even higher.

If this support should not be forthcoming, the only channels by which money can be laid down in India by the banks are, therefore, sales of bank transfers on London, and imports of silver and gold. Past experience has proved that the demand for bank transfers cannot possibly meet the export requirements of India by a very large margin, and if, therefore, banks and merchants have recourse to imports of the precious metals, not only should rupee exchange re-act, but the value of silver would also appreciate.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, February 23.

Commercial Relations With Germany.

The question of the resumption of commercial relations with Germany is now being studied at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. In view of this, meetings are taking place here between the representatives of this Ministry and M. Freitag, the German envoy.

More Locomotives From Canada.

The Ministry of Communications have closed a contract with the Canadian General, Brutinel, for the supply of 300 locomotives. Sixty of these locomotives will be delivered from Europe within three months. This will save the time lost in mounting the locomotives at Constantza, as was the case with the first consignment that arrived direct from Canada. In comparison with offers from Germany, this contract is considered to be much more advantageous.

Financial Reform.

M. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance, took the opportunity the other day to explain in the Lower House the activities of his department in connection with the coming Budget. He said that the new financial reform Bill is ready, and that he is now preparing the new Budget based on the new fiscal reform. He recognised that it was the duty of the Government to increase the revenues of the State by imposing new taxes, but, above all, it had first the moral duty of proving to the taxpayers that the heavy sums they would be obliged to pay would not be squandered. He has therefore written to all his colleagues of the other departments asking them to prepare a Budget for a period of five years which should show a reduction of 20 per cent. from the last one. In his circular letter to the other Ministers M. Titulescu impressed upon them the vital question of economy to the utmost limit by abolishing useless expenditure, and especially expenditure which, in view of the high taxes he intends to levy, offends public opinion. He particularly referred to the various superfluous Missions that had been sent abroad on the slightest pretext, to the sinecures in State departments, and last, but not least, to the numerous motor-cars which were used by officials of the various departments, not to mention the general tendency to waste.

The attitude of M. Titulescu has met with great approval in Parliament, and is highly commended by the people, who see in him the first Minister of Finance after the war who has understood the situation and intends to grapple with it.

Trade Depression.

The general depression still prevails. With the exception of a small drop in prices for cloth and sugar, merchants are fighting hard to keep up the old inflated prices, and the consumers, after hearing of the great collapse of prices abroad, are rather disappointed that no marked reduction has yet taken place here. The rate of exchange is naturally still the principal cause of it.

Miscellaneous.

The long-expected payment of the quota of 40 per cent. for the exchanged Austro-Hungarian crowns has now begun throughout the country, and that for the Bessarabian roubles is to follow immediately after, and although this fact has not yet made itself felt on the market as a buying power, it is nevertheless a factor that is going to count in the near future.

The Braila grain market is undergoing a period of pronounced stagnation. Loading for export has greatly decreased, owing to there being very few transactions.

According to the report of the Ministry of Agriculture the autumn sowings are very satisfactory, and promise good prospects, thanks to the abundance of snow which has fallen lately.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, February 25.

The Paper Money Nuisance.

The Ministry of Finance has opened a new department which will deal exclusively with the issue and recall of

paper money, especially of low denominations. It is hoped by this means to prevent the circulation of some of the tattered and disfigured half-dinar and one-dinar notes, which are so troublesome—though, to be truthful, less so in Yugoslavia than in some other countries. Before long it is hoped that the new low-value metal currency will definitely replace the low-value krone notes, which are still a public nuisance in the released provinces.

SYRIA.

BEYROUT, February 16.

Settlement of Pre-War and War Debts.

The public mind has for some time been exercised over the question of the impending decision regarding the settlement of pre-war and war debts. This matter has been under study by the authorities for several months past, and formed the subject of an exchange of opinion between them and a mixed commission composed of merchants, bankers, and proprietors, and the decision taken in this connection, after consultation with Paris, which has just been published in the form of an *arreté*, has fallen like a thunderbolt on the creditors.

All debts contracted prior to November 26, 1918, whether the bills, drafts, etc., stipulate payment in foreign money or in Turkish money, without any distinction being made between gold and paper currency, are to be settled in Syrian currency based on the value of 1.50 dollars at the current rate of exchange ruling on the date of the *arreté*—viz., at 112 Syrian piastres to the Turkish pound.

The authorities in the preamble of the *arreté* seek to justify their decision by the fact that, in all other belligerent countries, including Turkey, where the exigencies of war and economic necessity have determined the issue of paper money as legal tender, all debts and financial obligations since the cessation of hostilities have been met in the same currency, without any account being taken of its depreciation. The determination of the value of the Turkish pound at the above-mentioned rate has been based on its average depreciation in the latter part of the war, when it reached about two-thirds of its nominal value.

Article 14 of the *arreté* has special interest in that it aims at the protection of the small landholder by withholding from the creditor the right of forced sale of such property as is necessary for the peasant's dwelling, or of such agricultural implements, cattle, seed, etc., as are indispensable for keeping under cultivation the land he owns. The courts, however, may arbitrate on that part of the annual income which might be set aside towards the amortisation of the debt, provided the balance left is sufficient to enable the peasant and his family to live.

Article 15 aims at the protection of the landowners and landlords who were the victims of usurers, and who were forced to agree to fictitious sales, known as *vente à réméré* during the period between October 23, 1914, and November 16, 1918. This clause gives the right to the sellers of such property or their heirs of regaining it by the repayment of the price received on the monetary basis fixed by the present *arreté*. A supplement to this *arreté* is said to be

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on the point of being published wherein this measure is made applicable to definitive sales also. This measure will be particularly welcome to the large number of Lebanese owners of land and property who have had to part with it at any price during the war, in order to save themselves from starvation.

The *arreté* has been the subject of strong criticism, especially from the creditors. The following mode of settlement has been suggested by some as the fairest one—viz., the division of debts into two categories—(1) those contracted before the war and during the early part of the war, when the issue of Turkish paper currency had not yet been made. As all payments were then made in gold, it is contended that mere justice requires repayment to be made in gold or its equivalent in paper currency, more especially as gold is still in circulation in Syria, unlike European countries, where it is prohibited, and paper is the sole authorised currency; (2) debts contracted during that period of the war when the Turkish paper currency started at its full face value and depreciated steadily until it reached at the end less than 25 per cent. of its nominal value. The opponents of the *arreté* allege that it has not even served the end for which it was framed, because in many instances the people it affects received the value of their property in Turkish currency, when it stood at much below the rate fixed by the *arreté*.

But the question is so complicated that no one solution can be the ideal one and satisfy all parties. One thing is certain, and that is that Syria cannot well be assimilated with European countries, because its monetary basis is not fixed, and until recently—i.e., until the fiduciary issue of the *Banque de Syrie*, the Egyptian currency was the basis, and values even now continue to be established on this basis. The existence of gold in circulation further complicates matters.

The wisdom of the measure will be judged by the manner of its reception by the population in general. The present outburst of criticism from those who are perhaps not the most representative section cannot be taken as a safe criterion, and it will be some time before the real effect on the population at large is gauged.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, February 25.

The Budget.

The Legislative Council has been summoned to meet on March 7. The Budget estimate for the current year's service provides for an expenditure of £535,679, including the following heads:—Public Works, £101,000; Police and Prisons, £101,000; Land Registry, £45,000; Forests, £44,000; Medical, £32,000; Customs, £25,000; Treasury, £24,000; Education, £24,000; Agriculture, £17,000; and Post Office, £16,000. A Supplementary Estimate provides £55,000, with extraordinary votes, for Afforestation and Forest Roads £10,000; Building and Purchase of Government Houses, £9,000; Road for Motor Traffic, £7,000; and Repair of Roads and Bridges damaged by floods, £5,000. Allowing for the grant-in-aid of £50,000 by the Imperial Government, and the Cyprus contribution to the Ottoman debt of £92,800, the Budget contemplates a surplus of about £19,000. There is very little difference between the Estimates of the present and the last financial year.

The 1920 production of Algerian wine is placed at 186,088,239 gallons, being a decrease of 19,605,336 gallons as compared with 1919, but an increase of 18,442,240 gallons compared with 1918.

ROUMANIAN TREASURY BILLS.

The Roumanian Legation in London notifies holders of Roumanian Treasury bills payable in sterling and due in 1921 that the following instructions have been issued by the Roumanian Minister of Finance to his delegate in Paris concerning the renewal of these bonds:—Holders of Treasury bonds payable in sterling and falling due during 1921 (on or after March 20) must notify the *Bureau de la Dette Extérieure Roumaine*, *Légation de Roumanie*, 51, Rue François I^{er} Paris, as to the bonds held on or before the date the bonds are due.

The *Bureau de la Dette* will renew bonds for one year. Interest at 8½ per cent. per annum for one year will be paid in advance on the new bonds, and a cheque in sterling on London will be delivered with the new bonds. Holders are required to notify the *Bureau de la Dette* as to the serial numbers of bonds held, due date and the amount of each bond. Should holders of bonds desire it, arrangements will be made for the exchange of bonds in London (at the Bank of Roumania), but holders will have to notify the *Bureau de la Dette* as to this when furnishing serial numbers and due date. Holders will be notified by the *Bureau de la Dette* when the new bonds are ready for delivery.

A SUGGESTION ADOPTED.

Commenting on the Egyptian Industries Exhibition in THE NEAR EAST of January 27, our Cairo Correspondent advocated the opening of an office where orders for articles produced in the provinces could be taken and transmitted to the manufacturers, or through which it would be possible for the consumer to get into touch with the provincial producer. We have received a letter from the Controller of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry in Egypt, thanking us for the suggestion, and stating that it has been adopted and that goods may now be ordered at the exhibition.

REFUSAL OF ACCEPTANCES IN BULGARIA

The British Commercial Commissioner in Sofia reports that, owing to the long period of commercial stress in Bulgaria, refusal of acceptances is becoming more frequent amongst importing merchants in that country, some of whom are still loaded with stocks purchased when prices were still high. The commercial community is also suffering from the depreciated exchange. Refusals of acceptances are in the majority of cases, if not in all, due simply to the inability of the firms to withstand the long-continued strain to which they have been subjected by the abnormal conditions prevailing. British firms should therefore safeguard themselves by taking due precautions.

CATALOGUES FOR PALESTINE.

The Director of the Department of Commerce and Industry of the Government of Palestine, writing in connection with the institution of a Catalogue, Reading, and Pattern Room in Jerusalem, states that it is hoped to obtain a fully representative and up-to-date collection of catalogues and trade journals. The Director will accordingly be glad to receive any additional catalogues from United Kingdom firms or trade journals from publishers interested. Catalogues, etc., should be addressed direct to:—The Director, Department of Commerce and Industry, Government of Palestine, P.O. B.590, Jerusalem.

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THE EXTENSION OF COTTON-GROWING.

MR. McCONNEL'S VIEWS.

We give below some further extracts from Mr. McConnell's lecture before the Royal Colonial Institute on "Cotton Cultivation Within the Empire," in which he discusses the best means of promoting the extension of the crop.

It was possible and, indeed, it was in some cases inevitable, said Mr. McConnell, to proceed by forming companies with ample capital and to make earning of dividends the principal objective. It was also possible, at any rate in some cases, to try to combine the development of new or improved forms of agriculture together with the benefiting and raising of the resident population. For purposes of brevity he might call the first the capitalist system, and the second the system for the benefit of the community or the community system, or sometimes it was appropriate to call it the individual system.

Now he would confess that personally he approached this matter originally as a believer in the capitalist system. He had been engaged in commerce all his life, and while, of course, self-interest had its temptations and might have its excesses, yet he honestly believed that the people who had gone about their own business primarily for the sake of profit had done more to extend the Empire and more to benefit and advance the human race than had the idealists and philanthropists. He was bound, however, to state that in this matter of Empire cotton growing he had come to be a whole-hearted believer that the immediate and pressing necessity was to concentrate their efforts on developing the growing of cotton on such lines as would benefit the residents of the cotton-growing countries. He held that belief not merely on altruistic grounds, but because he thought it was also the course that was more immediately practical.

Cotton being an annual did not require years of waiting while the plant was growing. It did not ordinarily require expensive preparation, making a large capital expenditure necessary before it was begun. On the other hand, so long as their knowledge of how to enlarge the yield of the cotton field and to improve the quality of the product was so limited as it was as yet, the margin of profit to the grower was narrow and cotton was in most cases a precarious crop for a capitalist company to handle. A capitalist company must, from the nature of the case, have an expensive staff, who must be expensively housed. The men for these staffs were not at present available. If it wanted quick results, it must by some means quickly improve the methods of agriculture. That meant buying expensive implements and working either by means of expensive animals or still more expensive motors.

Nothing could be more fatal to the prospects of ultimate success in Empire cotton growing than for British capitalists to rush blindly into the flotation of large companies for the purposes of growing cotton for profit. The time for this kind of thing might come later when there was more knowledge. It would not be eventually incompatible with the well-being of native races that their work should be made more effective by the activities of British brains and by the using of modern appliances. But neither the knowledge nor the men were yet available to make this practicable in cotton growing on a large scale. He was speaking in general terms, and he naturally had in view those parts of the Empire which the Empire Cotton Growing Committee had more particularly studied—Nigeria, Uganda, and so on. There were, however, special places where

things were different. Already in the Sudanese Gezira, development, which would otherwise have been impossible, was being carried out by a combination of Government expenditure on the storage of water and the main canals, capitalist expenditure on subsidiary works necessary for irrigation, and native labour. The proceeds of the resultant cotton and other crops were being distributed on equitable terms between these three agencies, which had thus combined to create the result. There was an immediate opportunity for doing the same kind of thing at Tokar and Kassala, both also in the Sudan. Possibilities for irrigation schemes existed also in Nigeria, some in districts near the rivers, others in the confines of Lake Chad.

Broadly speaking, opportunities for the investment of British capital by means of cotton-growing companies would most likely present themselves in places where preliminary expense of a special character was necessary. Such expense might be in irrigation as above named, or in drainage, as in the case of the Aboukir Company in Northern Egypt, in clearing, or in providing special transport facilities in places which did not commend themselves to the local Government as being suitable on general grounds for development by railways. Apart, however, from big schemes of the character just referred to, it was probable that as individual cotton growing was developed, there would be many occasions in which British capital might be welcomed for subsidiary purposes.

This whole question of capitalist growing, as distinguished from community or individual growing, was practically put on one side by the Empire Cotton Growing Committee in their principal report. Nothing that had been since said in public had caused the committee to alter their view, viz., that the immediate necessity was to concentrate on developing cotton growing by and for the benefit of the residents in the cotton-growing countries. It was true that the scheme of work which the committee recommended might have the indirect advantage of making it eventually much easier and much safer to grow cotton on the capitalist system, but the direct objective before them for the present was to assist and promote growing of cotton by individuals and communities. Starting from this point, there was one condition that was obviously essential to success. Cotton growing must be commercially profitable. Now this was a double-edged proposition. It would not suffice merely that cotton growing paid the grower at least as well as any other product to which he could devote his soil. It was also necessary that his cottons must be grown at a cost and also marketed at a cost which would make them value for value as cheap as cottons grown in other parts of the world. There were three things for the cotton-growing community to aim at—First, to increase the amount of cotton grown per unit of land or per unit of labour; that would reduce the cost of growing. Second, to improve the quality of the cotton grown; that would raise its value and its price. Third, to give all possible facilities for transport; that would reduce the cost of marketing. There were two things for the spinning community to do—First, to support even beyond the strict rules of commerce a promising infant industry; second, to make arrangements to secure that the growers of better cotton should really get a better price to reward their efforts.

During 1919, 488,900 electric bulbs were imported into Egypt, of the value of £41,680.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin railway for the week ended February 26 amounted to £9,547.

The Guaranty Trust Company of New York opened their new Kingsway Office, 29, Kingsway, W.C.2, on March 14.

Sir Herbert Samuel stated recently that six Chambers of Commerce and three trades associations now existed in Palestine.

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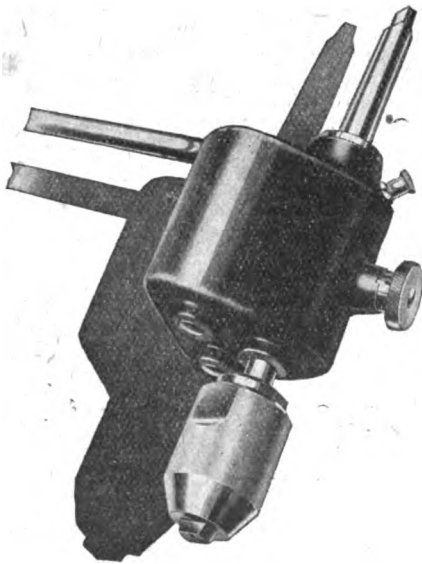
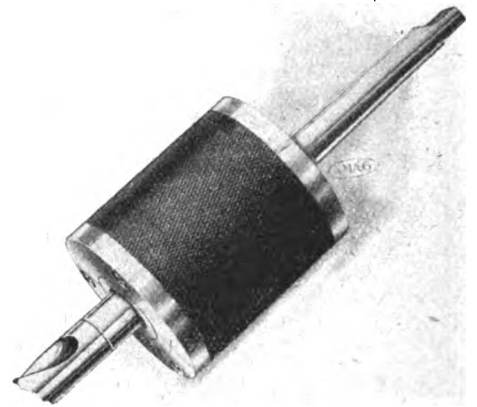
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ENGINEERING.

Copper Alloys.

The subject of the copper-tin alloys has not received so much attention as has been given recently to that of aluminium-copper and aluminium-magnesium. Nevertheless, it is one on which much yet remains to be discovered, and the paper which was read recently before the Institute of Metals was not only timely but valuable. In it Mr. Haughton described the constitution of the copper tin alloys containing from 40 to 100 per cent. of tin below a temperature of 400° C. The constitution was investigated by means of thermal curves, electrical conductivity measurements, and microscopic examination of annealed and quenched specimens. It has been shown that there is a transformation in one of the constituents at a temperature of about 180° C., and in a few of the alloys a further transformation occurs at 210° C., which so far cannot be explained. The limits of solubility of tin in copper have also been investigated, and it is found that not more than 0.2 per cent. of copper dissolves in solid tin.

Searching Tests for Locomotives.

The new locomotives in operation on the Port Sudan-Atbara section of the S.G.R. are said to be proving a great success. The engines have been specially designed to meet the particular conditions encountered in that section, and they are able to haul heavy loads up steep gradients at more than average speed. Recently certain tests were carried out with a view to ascertaining their capabilities under actual working conditions, and it was found that one of these engines was able to haul a load of 600 tons up an incline of one in one hundred with the greatest ease. In fact, the time occupied in pulling this load up an incline in the Obo-Sullum section was quite fifteen minutes less than the time taken by the older types of engines, on the same section, in hauling a load of only 380 tons. Information just to hand shows that five engines of the new class are to work along the section between Atbara and Gebeit, the remaining number being employed on the Gebeit-Port Sudan section. It is stated that this latter portion of the line is one of the most difficult to negotiate of any railways in the Near, Middle, or Far East, as in a distance of only sixty miles a rise from sea level to 3,000 feet takes place. The new engines are said to effect a saving of about 50 per cent. in coal consumption, in relation to the load hauled.

Gas-filled Lamps.

The past few months have seen the introduction of a new kind of electric lamp to the British market. Known as the gas-filled type, the filament, instead of being raised to incandescence in a vacuum, as in the case of the ordinary lamps, is in an atmosphere of nitrogen or other inert gas. Certain peculiarities attending the process of manufacture and the composition and size of the filament result in a great saving of energy for a given light production, in comparison with the older forms of electric lamp, and, as a matter of fact, it may be taken that, on a useful light basis, they effect a saving of about one-half in the electricity used. As consumption of electrical energy is measured in watts and the ordinary metal lamps consume one watt per candle-power or thereabouts, the new lamps take only about one-half watt per candle-power, and in consequence are known as the "gas-filled, half-watt" lamp. All this is fairly common knowledge, and is merely mentioned as a prelude.

Now, the German lamp manufacturers do not appear to have realised fully the immense saving effected by the new type of lamp until their British and American competitors had largely overcome the difficulties of manufacture and were producing on a fairly big scale. During this time the German lamp-makers were busy making metal filament lamps of the ordinary type and—in accordance with their curious trade policy—were stocking these rather than selling them in order that they could represent to the Allies that they were in so serious a trade position that they were doing no business. The idea was that as soon as necessary they could unload vast stocks on the European, U.S., and overseas markets and by dumping and price-cutting drive British and other lamp-making firms out of the trade.

Unfortunately for themselves they neglected to take the rapidly increasing popularity of the gas-filled lamp into account. This popularity, as a matter of fact, grew at an amazing rate, and the German plan seemed in danger of being rendered useless merely because no one would want to buy ordinary lamps when Germany wished to unload.

A piece of astounding trickery was then resorted to by the German makers. They began to turn out imitation gas-filled lamps, of comparatively low efficiency, and made in a rough fashion. In appearance they were an exact facsimile of the lamp, and these were rushed into France, Italy, and Great Britain, and, in larger numbers, into the overseas markets, and sold as "gas-filled, half-watt lamps."

The ordinary individual might wonder what good purpose could be served by placing these inefficient lamps on the market. The answer is that the purpose served was two-fold. In the first place the advertised efficiency of the genuine gas-filled lamp was such that purchasers were quite ready to buy as many of the type as they could obtain. They felt that the German lamps were quite in order, and they bought them as quickly as they could be offered for sale. The first part of the purpose was thus effected: rubbishy lamps were sold in quantities at a price which carried an enormous profit. The second part of the purpose was far more wily, and was this: Users of the new lamps, of the German type, would meet with every disappointment. Not only would the light be poor and the current consumption high, but the lamps would fail, blacken prematurely or otherwise go out of commission. Now the average buyer of electric lamps is not too familiar with the ins and outs of that business; he would not differentiate between the German rubbish and the British high-grade lamps. On the contrary, he would, after a little experience with the German product, cheerfully condemn any and every gas-filled lamp on the market. In this the German thought he could see his opportunity. He argued that British capital and energy would be sunk to such an extent in the new lamps that the manufacture of the older type of metal filament lamps would be more or less neglected, so that, when the expected revulsion of public feeling from the gas-filled lamp occurred, the British maker would be quite unable to fill the demand for lamps of the ordinary kind, in which event German manufacturers would be able to unload their vast stocks on a waiting, eager market that would be ready to buy at almost any reasonable price.

Factory Lighting.

The subject of electric lamps brings up that of electric lighting generally, and it is interesting to note that the question of the scientific illumination of factories and workshops has recently been very carefully studied, in view of the diverse factors in modern production, by electrical engineers in order that the owners of such premises may be made aware as to the best and most efficient methods. Hitherto, perhaps, the chief consideration has been that of hygiene, studied in the interests of the workpeople employed. Now very little remains to be done in that direction, and the question of production, which is one of almost equal importance, may be taken in hand. To some extent these two aspects of scientific electric lighting go hand in hand; it is a well-known fact that where lighting is good production increases and the general health of the workmen is better. But scientific lighting has a direct bearing on the economy of production. The chance arrangement, possibly on ill-considered or haphazard lines, in any premises devoted to manufacturing operations, of electric lamps may lead on the one hand to a serious waste of electricity by reason of overlighting, or may, on the other hand, decrease production by giving a poor result. In either case the financial results are poor, and the inefficiency is readily translatable into terms of pounds, shillings, and pence. Some little time before the war a particularly close examination was made into the results obtained in a large textile mill, in which scientific illuminating engineers had been allowed a free hand, and it was found that the saving effected in lighting and the increased production was such as would have turned an annual loss into a substantial profit. Not only was the general output increased, but the quality of the output was improved, the proportion of "seconds" being considerably reduced. There is a further aspect, however, which has sprung up during the war, and that is the general increase in wages. It is no unusual thing now for an employee to be receiving 2s. 6d. or 3s. per hour, and in view of the comparatively low cost of electrical energy for lighting purposes when used in one of the new British-made gas-filled lamps, it will be evident that the loss of a few minutes time per hour by such a workman altogether overbalances any saving which might be effected by cutting down light and so causing him to be slower at his work. It is to-day an utterly impossible matter to arrange the lighting of factories and workshops, equipped with the most modern plant and machinery, and employing men earning high wages, except on a thoroughly well-considered and scientific basis.

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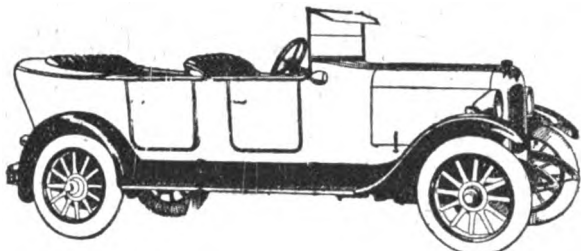
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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruits.—Business has been fairly brisk. Currants have moved off freely, and as supplies of the better grades are short it is to be anticipated that prices will rise. Sultanias have continued in good demand, while figs are now in strong request.

Sugar.—There has been a rise in prices. West Indian crystallised has been done at 60s. to 62s. 6d., while American granulated has come to business at 67s. Home refined has been active and firm.

Coffee.—A weaker tone has characterised the futures market. Quotations are: March 38s., May 39s., July 40s., September 40s. 6d., December 42s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—A variable tendency has prevailed. Indian linseed has been done at 17s. 6d., while La Plata at 16s. is 3d. lower. Rapeseed has been weak, with Toria 9d. down at 17s. 3d., and bold Ferozepore a like amount down at 16s. Brown Cawnore has come to business at 14s., a decline of 9d. Cottonseed has been firm, with Egyptian black at 11s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed oil has been quiet at 29s. 6d., a decline of 1s. Rape oil at 47s. is 2s. lower. Refined cotton oil is unchanged at 40s., while the Egyptian crude variety is 1s. down at 30s. Turpentine is unchanged at 55s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 170s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 298s. 8d. cwt.; cheese, 161s. cwt.; chillies, 125s. cwt.; eggs, 26s. 3d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 93d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 81s. 3d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 115s. cwt.; East Indian bold, 112s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 101s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 37s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 160s. cwt.; lard, 107s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 1s. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 120s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 108s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 89s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 67s. 6d. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 72s. cwt.; Mauritius, 65s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 22s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 14s. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 13s. 9d. cwt.; rice (Bran Rangoon), £5 ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; tea (Ceylon), 6½d. lb.; tea (Java), 3½d. lb.; wheat (Austrian), 86s. 3d. qr.; wheat (English white), 77s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 79s. 6d. qr.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer: first, 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 5½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4d. lb.; cows: first, 60 lbs. and up, 3d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 3½d. lb.; cows: second, 60 lbs. and up, 2½d. lb.; bulls (first), 2½d. lb.; bulls (second), 1½d. lb.; kips (first), 3½d. lb.; kips (second), 2½d. lb.; kips (third), 2d. lb. Calcutta Market.—Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides, cows: Agras, 6 to 13; Durbhangas, 5 to 6; Patnas, 4 to 5. Salted cows, 2.8 to 5.8. Arsenic hides, buffalo, 2.8 to 6.8. Skins: Calf, 6 to 8 per 20 lb.; goat, 130 to 160 per 100 pieces.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulus), £39 12s. 6d. ton; copper (standard), £67 13s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £74 ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; gold bars, 105s. 8d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 150s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 180s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £18 2s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 7d. unit; molybdenite, 55s. unit; nickel, £202 10s. ton; platinum, 320s. oz.; plumbago, £35 ton; quicksilver, £12 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 32d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £22 12s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £156 5s. ton; wolfram, 14s. 3d. unit; zinc sheets, £37 ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 28s. 3d. box.

Chemicals.—Acids: boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 10½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 9½d. lb.; ammonia sulphate, £24 6s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £47 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. 2½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 145s. cwt.; Potassium: bi-chromate, 11½d. lb.; chlorate, 6½d. lb.; caustic, £52 5s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 7½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £34 10s. ton; Sodium: crystals, 150s. ton; bi-carbonate, £10 15s. ton; bi-chromate, 8½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 17s. 6d. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £20 10s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £106 ton; glycerine (industrial 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £35 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 7½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 6½d. oz.; red lead, £38 5s. ton; white dry lead, £42 10s. ton; white ground lead, £52 12s. 6d. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 7.25d.; cotton (Egyptian, Sakellaris), 15.00d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £17 5s. ton; rape (Toria), £18 2s. 6d. ton; soya beans, £12 5s. ton; palm kernels, £19 15s. ton. Oils: Linseed, £31 10s. ton; soya, £33 ton; cotton (crude), £31 10s. ton; olive, 11s. 6d. gallon; ground nuts, £40 10s. ton; palm, £37 5s. ton; rape (crude), £49 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3½d. gallon; turpentine, 57s. 6d. cwt. Rubber: Plantation No. 1 crêpe, 1s. 0½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 10½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11½d. lb.

The Federation of British Industries have received a cable from its Athens offices stating that the moratorium existing in Greece has been extended until September 13, 1921.

The Agricultural Bank of Bulgaria has commenced to publish a kind of review entitled *Bankovi Naredbi* (Banking Regulations), which will contain various articles on bank administration.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Rather More Inquiry.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

Sellers have experienced another unsatisfactory week, and no improvement can be registered in the tone of the market. Although there has been a fair amount of inquiry about, business has been very slow in developing. Buyers as a body have held aloof, which is only natural when there are possibilities of a reduction in values. The principal feature of interest during the week has been the firmer feeling which has prevailed in raw cotton circles, and as the value of the staple is tending to harden, though it may only be extremely slight, the probability of a general increase in trade is not altogether absent. But the market is far from healthy, and one prominent shipper has expressed the opinion that there will be no improvement until towards the autumn. With regard to cloth, inquiry for Egypt has been about, but buyers for that outlet report an abundance of Lancashire cloths. Stocks of dear goods out there are heavy, and it will be some time before they can be cleared, and, of course, in the circumstances the goods being bought are of a sorting-up variety. Buyers for the Levant and Constantinople have not been prominent, and only occasional sales have gone through. The shipments to China during the past four or five weeks have been very small, and at the moment there are no immediate prospects of a revival of demand for that outlet. The financial stringency in Shanghai is causing some anxiety in Manchester houses. With regard to India, Calcutta has been the most prominent outlet, but sales have only been of moderate dimensions and then at cut prices. Java has taken small lots of splits.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended March 10:—A rather better inquiry has been witnessed during the past week, mainly for Sakellaris and Upper, and for the first time for many months we have to report an all-round advance in quotations. Unfortunately, only a retail business has resulted, and we are inclined to think that the feeling of optimism, which seems to have percolated over here from Egypt, is not entirely justified by events. The feature of the week has been, of course, the confirmation of last week's rumours concerning the possibility of Government assistance for the Egyptian grower. It is still too early to give details, but the immediate effect has been to turn the only-too-willing Egyptian shipper into "bull" paths once more, and in many cases unreasonable limits have been received on cotton offering here. . . . Manchester reports have been rather brighter during the last two days, but the improvement so far has not been reflected in the Egyptian section. C.i.f. business remains at a very low ebb. We close with a note of caution to would-be buyers against a premature optimism not warranted by the actual situation at the moment. Sales, 2,000 bales (1,200 bales being last week's business). Quotations all round are raised 2d. per lb., the exceptions being fine and extra fine Sakellaris, which show an improvement of 1½d. per lb. Fully good fair Sakellaris 15.00d. per lb.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICE

NEAR EAST.

HE

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

MAMOURET-UL-AZIZ.
The report for January states:—Imports are slow, despite the fact that the mildness of the winter favours the means of communication and transport. Sowings have been good, and the surface sown is larger than that of last year; but the little snow and rain that have fallen cause uneasiness in regard to the forthcoming crops.

ALEPPO.
The report for January states:—There have been no changes worthy of note in the commercial and financial position here since last month. Weather conditions remain unfavourable. The market in cotton is very quiet, and the demand insignificant. The quotation is Ps.19 per kilo. There are no supplies of gum.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

Voting Control.

On March 14 in the House of Commons Colonel Wedgwood asked the Prime Minister whether His Majesty's Government held voting control over the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, what proportion of the ordinary shares stood in the name of His Majesty's Government, and what proportion of the preference shares with voting power stood in their name, including the share of the present issue, and if they were at present in voting control would they see that that control was not allowed to lapse.

Mr. Chamberlain: The answer to the first and last parts of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part of the question, His Majesty's Government hold two-thirds of the ordinary shares and 1,000 preference shares out of a total of 8,500,000. The ordinary shares carry two votes each, the preference shares carry one vote to five shares.

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ON 'CHANGE.

All-Round Improvement.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

Considering what has happened in recent weeks the tone of the markets last week can only be regarded as remarkably good. While buoyancy would be too strong a word to use, an unmistakably cheerful atmosphere prevailed, and in a number of directions fairly substantial advances were made.

Gilt-edged securities have been very firm, notably Victory Bonds, which are closing at 77½, and War Loan, which has risen to 86 9-16. Consols have been a better feature, and are 46½. Foreign issues have not shared in the general improvement, though there are some firm spots in these descriptions. The Sudan Loan, by the way, is quoted at a discount of 2.

The Industrial group has had a good week, and prices have, generally speaking, advanced. Iron and steel shares have been specially strong, while there has been a good demand for shipping shares. Oils have been rather better, while the tone of the Rubber market has also improved.

In Near Eastern securities Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. are ¼ down at 62½. Greek Guaranteed 2½ per Cent. 1898 are 1½ up at 60, but Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. 1855 are unchanged at 68.

Greeks Buoyant.

Greek securities have been strong. The 5 per Cent. 1881 and the 5 per Cent. 1884 Loans are both 2 up at 42, at which there are buyers. The 5 per Cent. 1890 and Fundings are also 2 up at 42, with unsatisfied buyers. The 1910 Loan is 1 up at 32, but the 5 per Cent. 1914 is unchanged at 40. The 1902 Loan is ½ up at 35.

Banks have been firm. Agricultural 3½ per Cent. Bonds and 3½ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unaltered at 53 and 55. Imperial Ottoman Banks are ½ up at 8, and National Bank of Egypt are the same up at 17½. Land Banks are ½ up at 4½.

Land shares are stronger. Beheras are ½ up at 8½, while the preference shares have risen ½ to 3. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are unchanged at 3½, but Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1½d. up at 1s. 1½d. Delta Lands are unaltered at 8s. 9d., but Gharbich are ½ up at 1½. New Egyptians are 1½d. up at 21s. 7½d., but Union Foncières are unchanged at 2½. Sudan Plantations are ½ up at 3 7-16.

Oils have been strong. Anglo-Egyptians are 3-16 up at 2 1-16, while Phoenix have gained 3s. 9d. at 13s. Roumanian Consolidated are 3d. down at 14s. 3d., but Steaua Romana are 6d. up at 15s. 6d.

Among miscellaneous descriptions, Abyssinian Corporations are unaltered at 3s. Alexandria Waters are ¼ down at 6½, while Morums are 6d. lower at 13s. Egyptian Salt and Sodas are also 6d. down at 27s.

BULGARIAN DEBT NEGOTIATIONS.

A further conference of the holders of the Bulgarian Loans of 1892, 1902, 1907, and 1909 was held last week at the offices of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, when a statement was made by the director of the Public Debt of Bulgaria. It was decided to appoint a Committee of Bondholders to confer further with the representatives of Bulgaria.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian (week ended March 10).—Gemsah, nil (previous week nil); Hurgada, 3,085 tons (against 3,245 tons).

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Bulgaria.

Rolling Stock.—The Bulgarian State Direction Générale des Chemins de fer et des Ports invites tenders for the following rolling stock for the Bulgarian narrow gauge railways:—760 m.m. gauge.—10 locomotives, 75 goods wagons, 75 wagons for transport of oil. 600 m.m. gauge.—15 locomotives, 100 wagons for transport of oil, 20 double load trucks (40 in all) specially constructed for transport of long pieces of timber. Manufacturing and engineering firms who may desire to quote for the supply of the above-named materials are requested to submit their tenders in sealed envelopes to the Secretary of the Bulgarian Legation, 3, Queensberry Place, S.W.7 (marked on the corner:—*Bulgarian Railways Tender*), stating exactly the terms of payment under which they propose to execute the order, also the period of time within which the delivery could be made. All particulars (in French) and drawings in detail of the above-required materials may be inspected at the Secretary's Office any day between 12 and 1 p.m., on appointment.

Roumania.

Supplies for the Roumanian Ministry of War.—The Roumanian Ministry of War desires to receive quotations from United Kingdom manufacturers and merchants for the supply of various qualities of the following articles which are required in large quantities:—Sugar, rice, coffee, olive oil, tea, soap, canned meat (1920 manufacture), khaki cloth, army boots, uniforms (tunic, trousers, and mantle). The specification of the khaki cloth is as follows:—440 grammes weight per metre, 25 kilogrammes resistance, 25-30 divisions elasticity, to be well carded, sheared, prepared and shrunk. It is proposed that payment will be made by Roumanian Government Treasury Bonds bearing 6 per cent. interest, and repayable in two years' time. All quotations, together with full particulars and samples, should be addressed to Ministère de la Guerre, 7-me Direction Intendance, Strada Jules Michlet Nr. 28, Bucharest, Roumania.

Morocco (Spanish Zone).

Telegraph Posts and Wire.—Tenders are invited by the Development Commission (Delegacion de Fomento) for the supply of 150 creosote posts, 7 metres in length; 2,500 kilos of galvanised iron wire, 4 millimetres in diameter. Tenders are to be delivered by March 22 at the "Negociado de Telegrafos de la Delegacion de Fomento," Tetuan, or at the Ministerio de Estado, Madrid, accompanied by a certificate to the effect that the sum of 500 pesetas has been deposited in the Banco de Espana, Madrid, or in the Moroccan State Bank, Tetuan, as a preliminary deposit. Particulars may be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade.

Egypt.

Blankets.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 2,500 woollen blankets, grey G.S. (L).

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £	25'22½	51'25-51'75
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25'22½	138-143
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1'3½-1'3¾
Bucharest.....	Lei to £	25'22½	280-290
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee.....	24d.	1'3½-1'3¾
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	565-585
New York.....	Dollars to £.....	4'86½	3'90½-3'91½
Paris	Francs to £.....	25'22½	55'20-55'78
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24'02	290-300
Rome	Lire to £	25'22½	105½-106½
Sofia	Levas to £	25'22½	327
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24'02	1,650-1,850
Warsaw	Marks to £	20'43	3,300-3,500

In some cases quotations are nominal.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

THE PORT OF KYRENIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NICOSIA, February 25.

Torrents of rain fell last week, with hail and snow in the hills. At Kyrenia a storm caused considerable damage in the port, which the Cypriots call a "parody" of a harbour, that can only be given that name by way of "Paradoxical euphemism." Kyrenia shipping was safer before its construction than since. On this occasion one sailing vessel was sunk in the "harbour" and one much damaged. The people of Kyrenia will hail the day when its reconstruction and enlargement will be taken in hand.

PORT DEVELOPMENT IN MOROCCO.

The following programme of port development for the year 1921 in the French Zone of Morocco was given in a recent issue of the *Bulletin Officiel*:—The continuation at Casablanca of works at the large mole and landing stage adjoining, and the extension of the terrepleins of the port; preliminary works of the extension of the port of Safi; the reorganisation of port works at Agadir and the adjudication for their completion; port improvements at Mazagan and Mogador from funds of the "Caisse Speciale"; continuation of works at Rabat and Kenitra by the Société des Ports.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia, for Bombay (Glasgow, March 19, and Liverpool, March 24).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Manipur, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 21); s.s. Shadwell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (leaves London, March 24); s.s. Maidan, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 30); s.s. Magdapur, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 11); s.s. Holywell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 16).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 16); s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 30); s.s. Yorkshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 13).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Kennedy, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, March 24).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Sea Victory, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, and Galatz (London, March 22); s.s. Antigone, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Liverpool, March 24, and Swansea, April 1); s.s. Pavia, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Glasgow, April 7).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. City of Oxford for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, April 1); s.s. Maronian, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Liverpool, April 7).

Ellerman City Line.—S.s. City of Poona, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, March 19); s.s. City of Milan, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 1); s.s. City of Cairo, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, April 20).

Ellerman's Hall Line.—S.s. City of Genoa, for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, April 1).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Eden Hall, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (London, March 19).

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenogle, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, March 24); s.s. Glenavy, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 7); s.s. Glenshane, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 21); s.s. Glenade, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 5); s.s. Glenluce, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 19).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Dramatist, for Calcutta (Liverpool, March 18); s.s. Architect, for Calcutta (Liverpool, April 5).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Mandalay, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 23).

Holt Line.—S.s. Demodocus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, March 19); s.s. Euryades, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, March 23); s.s. Hector, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, March 23); s.s. Bellerophon, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 1); s.s. Deucalion, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 26).

Moss Line.—S.s. Assiout, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, March 19); s.s. Sitra, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (accepting through to Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports) (Liverpool, March 19).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Trentino, for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, March 26).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Sicilia, for Bombay (London, March 24); s.s. Padua, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 24); s.s. Naldera, for Bombay (London, April 8); s.s. Sardinia, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 8); s.s. Plassy, for Bombay (London, April 15); s.s. Nore, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 22); s.s. Dongola, for Bombay (London, May 6).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Hatarang, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, March 19); s.s. Mandala, for Bombay and Karachi (London, March 19); s.s. Nardana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 2); s.s. Warfield, for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 2); s.s. Hatipara, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 16).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince, for Malta, Alexandria, and Syrian coast ports (Middlesbrough, March 18; Antwerp, March 26; London, April 5); s.s. Black Prince, for Malta and Alexandria (London, March 20); s.s. Scottish Prince for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria (Manchester, March 31).

OFFICIAL NOTICES.

ROUMANIAN TREASURY BILLS payable in sterling and due in the year 1921.

The Roumanian Legation in London hereby notifies Holders of the above-named Bonds that the following instructions have been issued by the Roumanian Minister of Finance to his Delegate in Paris concerning the renewal of these Bonds:—

1. Holders of Roumanian Treasury Bonds payable in sterling and falling due during the year 1921 (on or after 20th March) must notify the

Bureau de la Dette Extérieure Roumaine,
Legation de Roumaine,

51, Rue François Ier, Paris,
as to the Bonds held, on or before the date the Bonds are due for payment.

2. The Bureau de la Dette Extérieure Roumaine will renew such Bonds for one year, by issuing new Bonds of the same value due in one year from the due date of the existing Bonds.

3. Interest at 8½ per cent. per annum for one year will be paid in advance on the new Bonds and a cheque in Sterling on London for such Interest will be delivered with the new Bonds.

4. Holders are required to notify the Bureau of the Dette Extérieure Roumaine, 51, Rue François Ier, Paris, as to the serial numbers of the Bonds held, due date and the amount of each Bond.

5. Should the holders of the Bonds desire it, arrangements will be made for the exchange of Bonds in London (at the Bank of Roumania, Ltd.), but Holders will require to notify the Bureau de la Dette Extérieure Roumaine as to this when furnishing particulars as indicated in Clause No. 4, mentioned above.

Holders will be notified by the Bureau de la Dette Extérieure Roumaine when the new Bonds are ready for delivery.
London, 14th March, 1921

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 515.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The End of the Conference.

With the departure of the Greek and Turkish Delegations from London the Inter-Allied Conference for the revision of the Treaty of Sèvres passes into history. The next word in the settlement of the Near Eastern question rests with the Turkish authorities, of Angora rather than of Constantinople, and their answer is expected in a month's time. Although an unequivocal acceptance of the Allied proposal is hardly to be anticipated, we may still hope that the Turks will not altogether eradicate by their reply the good impression created by the reasoned arguments of their representatives. In the meantime the Greeks, who have taken the proposed modification of the Treaty of Sèvres very much to heart, will perhaps have opportunity to realise that the blow to their hopes is not as serious as it seemed at first. Even in the most favourable circumstances Smyrna would always have remained an overseas province, strongly individualistic and resolutely opposed to any kind of subordination to Athens. As things are now, it is promised autonomy, which will give full play to Hellenic influence, without the risk of the offence to Greek pride that must have followed any attempt to govern the town from Athens or for the benefit of Athenian politicians.

The Smyrna Problem.

A fresh mobilisation in Greece at this stage will not strike the world at first sight as a particularly wise measure. The Greek point of view is clear enough: no reliance can be placed on the Turks, who are capable of trying to force the Allies' hands by presenting them with a *fait accompli* in Smyrna, and for this reason Greece must be prepared to hold the ground she occupies. This argument, however, is likely to be turned against Greece, for it can be cited as conclusive proof that the decision in the Treaty of Sèvres in regard to Smyrna offered no hope of permanent peace in Asia Minor. On the other hand, any warlike action on the part of the Turks now would effectually put them out of court with the Allies, and must make the latter look to the Greeks for the military enforcement of the terms of peace. The verdict of London was in favour of a peaceful settlement of the Smyrna question, provided that the Turks accepted the other clauses of the Treaty. A settlement on the lines indicated still gave Greece her due position in Smyrna. That position is based on something stronger and more permanent than military force, and

she would do better to rely on this factor rather than to attempt to force an issue which must leave her permanently at a disadvantage against Turkey.

Southern Slav Union.

The announcement made last week that all Montenegrin Consular appointments with His Majesty's Dominions are regarded as terminated may be taken as marking the final step in the recognition by this country of the union of Montenegro with Yugoslavia. That union has been for some time past inevitable, and though it may cause heartburnings in some Montenegrin circles, it is such a perfectly natural development that there can be little doubt that it will work out to the advantage of the people of the Black Mountain, no less than to that of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes—the mistake made was that the union was not allowed to develop naturally, but was forced with the inevitable accompaniment of bitterness and excesses. The reports that Prince Danilo had no wish to ascend the Montenegrin Throne are shown to have been correct by his abdication of his rights, but it is unfortunate that he should have renounced them only in favour of his nephew Prince Michael, the twelve-year-old son of the late Prince Mirko.

Looking to the Future.

Queen Milena, who has been proclaimed Regent by the Montenegrins now residing in Italy, has issued a proclamation announcing that "Montenegro's rights" will be claimed, with the support of the Great Powers. As far as France and Great Britain are concerned they have already made it clear that they recognise the union, which has also been accepted by the majority of Montenegrins. It would seem, therefore, that the best service that can be rendered both to Montenegro and to the peace of Europe to-day in this matter is to accept the accomplished fact, and while keeping alive the many memories of which Montenegro may justly feel proud, to put aside others less happy, which might do harm and can do no good. On the other hand, Belgrade will probably be well advised not to forget too quickly the opposition that was offered to the forcible absorption, to deal very gently with any manifestation of local feeling that may occur in the immediate future, and to overcome lingering opposition to the new order by tact and patience rather than by the heavy hand.

A New Egyptian Cabinet.

Egypt has now its new Cabinet, Adly Yeghen Pasha having successfully undertaken the task of forming one, after Mazlum Pasha had spent a week in vain attempts

to do so. The new Cabinet is certainly a strong one, all its principal members having had considerable experience of office before; while the Prime Minister, who has played a most creditable part in bringing about the present comparatively hopeful situation, and who was already heartily respected in this country, appears now to have won the confidence of his countrymen by the declaration of policy which he made on taking office. Briefly, he declared that his Government will collaborate with the Delegation in endeavouring to reach an agreement with Great Britain that shall satisfy Egyptian aspirations; and that the National Assembly will in the last resort pronounce on the agreement, and will act as a Constituent Assembly. The Government recognises the country's need of great reforms, but will not seek to bring about any radical changes pending the establishment of the new parliamentary system; and it is of opinion that the removal of martial law and of the censorship should be possible at a very early date. These promises have given such satisfaction that Ministers no longer have to be guarded by armed police cyclists, who have actually been supplanted by Nationalist students; and crowds have paraded the Cairo streets shouting "Long Live England!"

The Delegation.

Such demonstrations of popularity, while unimportant in themselves, may be welcomed as evidencing a change of spirit that should make the task of the new Cabinet much easier than it would otherwise have been. It is to be hoped that nothing will occur to bring about any reaction in this respect; but it is to be observed that Zaghoul Pasha has announced his imminent return to Egypt, and he has in the past shown a strong dislike to others enjoying popular favour. It is possible, however, that the past may not repeat itself, and that the Delegation may succeed in presenting a united front to the world at this highly important stage of the negotiations. At the time of writing it seems that Adly Yeghen and Rushdi Pashas will come to London, but whether other members of the Cabinet will accompany them is not known. Of the late Cabinet little or nothing is heard, but it is satisfactory to note that several of the newspaper correspondents pay tribute to Tewfik Nessim Pasha and his colleagues for the way in which they "carried on" through a difficult period.

Talaat Pasha.

Talaat Pasha, a former Turkish Grand Vizier, and one of the most influential and best known leaders of the ill-omened Committee of Union and Progress, was shot in the streets of Berlin on March 15 by a young Armenian. The crime was one of revenge, the assassin having lost both his parents in one of the massacres for which Talaat was held largely responsible. The victim was a man of great force of character, and, so far from owing anything to the advantages of birth, was actually hampered by the fact that his mother was a gipsy—and therefore held in low esteem in Turkey. He rose to power by very dubious methods, and occasionally, even in his early days, he used his power very ill; but it was not until the late war that he sank to depths of infamy from which it is unlikely indeed that history will ever raise him. We refer, of course, to his treatment of the Armenians. Beside that his other offences pale into insignificance; but it is probably in connection with those terrible events that he will be best remembered outside Turkey. It must be recognised, however, that with all his faults he was a genuine patriot, and that, in a country notorious for the corruptness of its politicians, he was remarkably honest until the last few years of his life.

Lord Reading's Departure.

Lord Reading started last Thursday on his journey to India, having passed unscathed through an ordeal of entertainments for which it would be hard to find a precedent. The outstanding feature of the public, or quasi-public, functions was the suave reticence of the guest. He was dined, but not drawn, and probably not one of his hearers knows more of his intentions than when his appointment was first announced. This is, of course, entirely as it should be, but the occasion calls

for a protest against the methods adopted by some of the entertainers. The new constitution involves a gradual change in the position of Viceroys and provincial Governors, a slow transition from executive responsibility to adequate representation of the Sovereign and the Empire, and they should not be tempted to make declarations of policy such as were expected in the days of Lord Ripon or Lord Curzon. If similar attempts are continued, the only possible result is that Viceroys-designate will be compelled to decline all invitations of the kind.

The Indian Legislatures.

It is unfortunate, though perhaps inevitable, that the public in this country should have no opportunity of watching the development of the new institutions now actively at work in India. The cable may occasionally bring news of the passing of an Act or a resolution, but the point of interest just now is not what is done but how it is achieved, and in this respect the proceedings of the Central Legislature brought by recent mails are, to our mind, distinctly encouraging. Neither Chamber has had time to shake down, representatives from Madras and Assam and the Punjab have still to get to know each other, and the traditions of the old debating-society councils are not yet extinct; but, at the same time, there are signs that business is being grappled with in a workmanlike way. It is no longer considered etiquette for every member to speak at length on every motion; the frequent application of the closure is clearly telling, and even the flood of questions may eventually yield to the time-limit which has been copied from the procedure of the House of Commons. Routine business is being transacted efficiently, and if some of the resolutions proposed have been theoretical, or even fantastic, the division lists show on balance a definite preponderance of common sense.

Parties in the Provinces.

There has not yet been time for parties to crystallise out of the somewhat heterogeneous fluid of the central legislature, but in the provincial Councils lines of cleavage are beginning to appear. In Madras the elements of a party system exist in the sharp difference between Brahmins and non-Brahmins; the latter are stronger in votes, and also, perhaps, in practical common sense, but the Brahmins will form an effective opposition, and at present it looks as if this Council at least will develop on normal lines. Elsewhere the most interesting features are the signs that a country party is coming into existence. This will be slow work at first, for hitherto the towns have almost monopolised politics, but the influence of the rural electorate will be felt as time goes on, and already we notice that speakers on both sides are quick to claim that they are voicing the convictions of the peasants. They are free to do so, for naturally the first elections were fought mainly on personal questions, and the peasants have not yet spoken, but as the time for "going to the country" draws near, it is probable that issues will become more definite, and members will have to build up a "record" on which they can appeal for votes. As we have said before, the second elections are likely to be much more interesting than the first.

Extremist Poison.

The letter from "F. H. S." which we published last week raises the important question of counteracting the flood of lies regarding British work in India. There is no doubt that most of these lies are deliberate; the lie-factory near Madras has not been much in evidence of late, but the output of the Pacific Slope continues, and we have even heard it hinted that a small but active concern is at work in the S.W. postal district. Our correspondent suggests that the India Office should engage in active counter-propaganda, and the suggestion deserves careful consideration, but we hope Mr. Montagu will remember to enlist exact scholarship in the service before he faces the public. Most of the lies in circulation can be traced to an origin in British ignorance, to a hot-headed enthusiast, a tired official, a text-book compiler who has missed the important

"sources," and the like. It is important that the facts should be presented in the right way, but it is equally important that what is presented should be historically true; by all means brief persuasive advocates on the side of truth, but the brief must be prepared under the eye of the scholars—perhaps there may be a dozen all told—who really know the history of the British period.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

Mr. Bonar Law's Breakdown.

The sudden and complete breakdown in health of Mr. Bonar Law and his enforced resignation of all political and other activity has been the one topic of the week. The announcement made by Mr. Lloyd George on Thursday afternoon was utterly unexpected, for only a week before Mr. Bonar Law had attended the Conference with the Germans, addressed a meeting of his supporters at the Constitutional Club, and gone to Glasgow to deliver his rectorial address at the University there. But a sudden chill revealed the extent of the mischief that had been going on unseen. We shall hardly see him back this year, but since Mr. Law is still a relatively young man as politicians go, it is hoped that next session he may be fully restored to his old vigour.

It is obvious that the war has told heavily on him, apart from the loss of two sons. He bore the loss with proud stoicism, and tried to forget private sorrow in public work. He has held office since May, 1916, has been a member of the War Cabinet, and, in addition, has led the House of Commons. The House has always liked him. He is a good speaker, although not a great orator; he cannot, or at least does not, appeal to passion, but to reason, and therefore he is one of those men who count for more in the House than on the platform. As a party leader he is not in the front rank, but the Unionists for some years before his headship had to take what they could get in the way of leadership and be thankful. What he would have been as Prime Minister nobody can say—the opportunity came his way in December, 1916, and he is one of the few men who have refused the post—but as a second-in-command, first under Mr. Asquith and then under Mr. Lloyd George, he was ideal. When he was first elected head of the Unionists some discontented peer is said to have referred to him as "a d—d scrap-iron merchant"—he was connected with some ironworks in Glasgow—but the party itself was little better than scrap-iron at that time, and it is now the strongest party in the Coalition and the State. That is not exactly a witness of failure.

The New Unionist Leader.

There was practically no doubt as to the succession to the leadership. Sir Edward Carson had his supporters, but he has reverted to his first love, the law, and the greatest of advocates will probably become a Lord of Appeal shortly. A few voices were raised for Lord Birkenhead, but the vacancy is in the Commons, not the Lords. Sir Robert Horne had his supporters—the prophets declare that in less than ten years he will be Prime Minister—but he is a mere babe in politics, for he only entered the House in 1918. Mr. Walter Long, who is universally popular, is *hors de combat*.

By a process of elimination, therefore, as well as by the general choice of the party, Mr. Austen Chamberlain is the new leader. His only real enemy is Lord Northcliffe, who has never loved him since he once so far forgot himself as to speak his mind about the Press, instead of letting the Press speak its mind about him. Mr. Chamberlain is really a Conservative, not a Liberal Unionist like his father; and, like Mr. Bonar Law, all his faults are on the surface. Mr. Law often made verbal mistakes, particularly in repartee on the floor of the House, but his real strength was the sterling honesty of his character. Mr. Chamberlain is rather stiff in manner—at least in public, for in private he is charming—and his speeches, one must admit, are dull; one would describe his eloquence as painstaking. Once,

to my astonishment, I heard him attempt a light bantering tone; it was like an elephant dancing.

But, like Mr. Law, he is perfectly straightforward. When he makes a statement you do not have to look out for loopholes and concealed evasions; if he says a thing it is true, and if by any chance it should turn out that he has been misinformed, he would say so at once. I should say that he is incapable of intrigue, not from dullness, but simply because he is a clean and wholesome character. These are no mean assets in politics.

As a Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr. Chamberlain has been a success. Except on one point he has been strong—he has not ventured to tackle the Civil Service; and his one mistake has been in putting the luxury taxes on wine and cigars too high. He has simply killed the trade in those two articles. For the rest, he has been cursed night and morning by the City for E.P.D., but he kept the duty going while it brought money in, and dropped it as soon as the tide turned. By this means he has made a substantial reduction in the National Debt, and kept our credit high.

His successor at the Exchequer will probably be Sir Robert Horne, but we shall not be able to test his qualities as a Chancellor this year, for whoever introduces the Budget, it will, in effect, be Mr. Chamberlain's Budget.

The Coalition and the Upheaval.

A great deal is being said as to the effect of Mr. Bonar Law's retirement on the Coalition. Those who wish it to be disastrous predict speedy disintegration; they draw a gloomy picture of Mr. Lloyd George deserted by the Conservatives, derided by the Independent Liberals, and cast into the wilderness with the Coalition Liberals. Like the futurist compositions, this may be a very pretty design, but it is not in the least like what one sees. A large party among the Conservatives would like Mr. Lloyd George to be their permanent and recognised leader; the Dukes have forgotten Limehouse, the Church has forgiven "the fat of sacrilege," the farmers have buried the memory of the land campaign; and the respectable suburbanite, who joins the Primrose League, and worships the peerage from Streatham Hill, is convinced that the Prime Minister is the only man who can save us from revolution. (Ten years ago he was said to be heading straight for revolution himself). Mr. Lloyd George does not discourage this belief. In his public speeches he now studiously ignores the Independent Liberals—who hate him the more for it—and he drops dark hints of the dangerous paths into which Labour would lead the country. Wimbledon shudders and Watford groans at the dreadful prospect, and resolves to vote Coalition again at any price.

My impression is that the Press does not reflect the real feeling of the country in this matter. The Coalition has a number of organs, but they are dull, as everything defensive must be. The anti-Coalition papers have no real policy, but their pin-pricks are amusing, and they are widely read. Their attacks, however, do not cut much ice, for the simple reason that the Opposition does not count in Parliament or the country, and a Government can survive any amount of abuse so long as there is nothing to put in its place. In fact, as with the domestic servant of our homes (now rapidly becoming an extinct species), we dare not complain lest a worse thing befall.

It is said that Labour has made up its mind there will be a General Election this year, and is preparing to contest four hundred seats. If that is true—and the report of the five hundred candidates is not very much exaggerated—it puts an end to the idea that Labour would make a concordat with the Independent Liberals.

Finance and the Commons.

The House of Commons is now in the thick of the debates on the estimates—a topic on which it usually acquits itself reasonably well. The War Office got its figures through quite easily, thanks partly to the general popularity of Sir L. Worthington Evans, the new War Minister, and partly to the fact that there was nothing to quarrel about—the real bone of contention, the War

Office expenditure in Palestine and Mesopotamia, being now shifted to the Colonial Office vote, which awaits Mr. Churchill's return. There was lamentation over the suppression of four cavalry regiments, and one or two members of the old school also regretted the continuance of the Tank. But it was certain that reductions of the establishment would have to be made, and, that being agreed, the cavalry was marked out for the economist. It is the most expensive arm per head, and it was also the arm that was least used in the last war. From those arguments there could be no real appeal.

The Next Tests.

Armstrong, the Australian cricket captain, is reported to have said that he is bringing a team to England that will defeat us on our own ground as easily as his men defeated us in the Antipodes. There is evidently no superstition in his nature; a remark like that is simply asking the English climate to do its worst. No predictions are being made on this side, but some of our men hope to make a few runs from time to time.

The Boat Race.

The Oxford and Cambridge crews have now come down to Putney for the final stages of their training. Cambridge still impress one as by far the better team—their stroke is cleaner and not so heavy, and they have far more speed.

The crowd watching the practices is as great as ever, and one cannot help noticing the number of parsons who spare an hour or so from their Lenten duties to have a look at the crews. Boating seems to have a peculiar attraction for the cloth; I hope they contrive to shut their ears to the ordinary language of the towing-path, which, as the babu said, is extremely vernacular.

Scientific Research Postponed.

Very great regret will be felt that the British Association has been compelled to abandon for the present the oceanographic expedition which was proposed last year. Estimates have now been made of the cost of the work, but it is held that "in view of the present demand for economy in all national expenditure, no further action shall be taken until circumstances seem more favourable."

Oceanography is still in its infancy as a science. But equipment and methods of investigating the depths of the ocean have enormously advanced since the voyage of the "Challenger"; and the time seems ripe for enlarging our knowledge of the abyssal regions. There can be very little doubt that the vast array of additional facts which such an expedition would bring to light would solve a number of biological problems, and no doubt bring us face to face with many more whose existence we do not at present suspect. The sheer utilitarian may laugh, and conjure up a mental picture of professors fishing with a tin can in the middle of the Pacific; but common-sense would be wrong, as usual. Practically all scientific research more than pays for itself, not merely by additions to academic knowledge but by its discovery of new products and methods that have an economic value; the careers of Pasteur, and Hooker, and many others sufficiently prove this.

It is a pity that some wealthy man—there are still a few left in England—does not see this, and come to the rescue. As a man of science put it a few days ago, "If we could find another Lord Northcliffe, who would do for the ocean depths what he has already done for the air, we could assure him of stupendous results at relatively small cost in ten years." One never knows; the man may be found yet.

Stonehenge.

A good deal of interesting work has been done recently at Stonehenge. It is suggested that the date of construction is more recent than was supposed, and an examination has proved that some of the stones could only have been lowered into position from above. It is clear, therefore, that the architects of Stonehenge were equal to the task of raising stones weighing five or six tons or more, into the air, and setting them on the uprights with perfect precision. It does not seem to have been possible to do this by means of levers, or inclined planes of earth; the monument, therefore,

argues much greater mechanical efficiency than had been hitherto supposed.

The Week's Books.

"Arthur Coleridge: Reminiscences" (Constable) contains some very pleasant recollections of Thackeray, Browning, and the great men of the last century. It is interesting to learn that Tennyson only took five minutes to compose "Crossing the Bar." That is so far as the actual composition is concerned, of course; another way of putting it would be to say that in those five minutes the whole thought of the poet's previous life was summarised.

It is hardly necessary to do more than mention the volume of plays in the complete edition of "William Ernest Henley" which Macmillan's are publishing. Henley as a playwright was not the equal of Henley the poet, but many have found his dramas—or more correctly melodramas—well worth reading.

Collectors of war books will be glad to add "In the Blue" (John Lane), by Major S. H. Long, to their list. It is a story of aircraft in the war and after—in France, Egypt, and Palestine.

It happens that I opened "Beauty and the Beast" (Cambridge University Press), by Mr. Stewart A. McDowall, without noticing the sub-title, and was therefore rather amazed to find myself in the thick of a discussion on the evolution of aesthetics. On these matters I am a child, indeed. Mr. McDowall, on the whole, follows Croce, but he derives all personality from a transcendental source. Love is relationship, and beauty its expression, but there must be reciprocity. If I understand him rightly, beauty in evolution is the continuous purification of that which traces its temporal foundations to the impulse of sex. If I had any claim to speak on this matter, or to criticise an authority on aesthetics, I should very much doubt if this was a sufficient diagnosis; but silence in these grave matters is becoming in the ignorant. Only I must confess that I have never yet read a book on aesthetics which did not leave me with a haunting sense of unreality and insufficiency.

"The Great Munition Feat, 1914-18" (Constable), by Mr. G. A. B. Dewar, tells the story of the growth in munition output during the war. It is an astonishing record of industrial adaptation, and while it is too much to expect that many will read these details of the home front, it is well to have the facts placed on record.

Lawyers' books are generally as dull as law books, but an exception must be made for the late Judge Rentoul's "Stray Thoughts and Memories" (Parsons), which is full of good stories. I quote one at random: A Catholic schoolboy in Ireland had written on a slate "To hell with King William," and was to be rebuked by his master. "Rub out that disgraceful sentence, sir." It was done. "And now, Joseph, I regret that I shall have to cane you soundly. But first I must tell you how hurt and pained I am to find you writing such a sentence on your slate. It's unmannerly, and unchristian—and unnecessary."

"Kipling's Sussex" (Simpkin, Marshall), by R. Thurston Hopkins, is a very jolly little book about a county which has produced much good literature. It is so well written, and Sussex has so many lovers, that it will certainly find many readers.

Many people will remember the pother caused by Purcell's "Life of Manning." It was a good thing to restore frankness to biography, after the excessive adulation of some of the two-volume portraits, but it was generally agreed that Purcell rather overdid it. Mr. Shane Leslie's "Henry Edward Manning" is an attempt, and on the whole a successful one, to give a truer picture of the Cardinal Archbishop. Manning had many and grave faults, and it is quite useless to pretend that his actions were always perfect. But he was a great man for all that, and a strong man. Mr. Leslie conveys the strength of his character a good deal more effectively than his predecessor did, and if he does not quite convince me that Manning was right or generous in his treatment of Newman, he does at any rate put a better interpretation on it than Purcell. His book is something much better than a piece of whitewashing, and it deserves to be widely read. OCELLUS.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 6.

The Protectorate.

Yesterday week the High Commissioner handed to the Sultan a letter in which he informed his Highness that the British Government had arrived at the conclusion that the status of a Protectorate was not a satisfactory relation in which Egypt should continue to stand to Great Britain and that, while they had not reached a final decision with regard to Lord Milner's recommendations, they desired to confer regarding them with a delegation nominated by the Sultan with a view, if possible, to substituting for the Protectorate a relationship which, while securing the special interests of Great Britain and enabling her to offer adequate guarantees to the foreign Powers, would meet the legitimate aspirations of Egypt and the Egyptian people.

Although it was common knowledge that his Highness was consulting with leading Egyptians with a view to nominating an official delegation to confer with the British Government, the fact that this letter had been delivered to him was kept a dead secret, and it was only late last evening that the news and the text were published. It is, therefore, too soon as yet to be able to give an opinion as to the manner in which this new concession on the part of the British Government has been received; but it seems certain, as Lord Allenby said in his letter to the Sultan conveying the decision of the British Government, that it will materially facilitate the task of forming an official delegation.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the British Government should so speedily have announced its decision, and it should not now be long before representatives of the two Governments are able to meet and the Egyptian question enters on its penultimate stage, the last being, of course, the ratification by the British Parliament and the Egyptian Constituent Assembly of the Treaty, which it is hoped will be the result of the proposed conference between the British and Egyptian plenipotentiaries.

The Irrigation Libel Action.

The Willcocks libel action still occupies the Supreme Consular Court, and it is not likely to be brought to a conclusion for at least another ten days. Sir William Willcocks is at present in the box, and his cross-examination has just started. He is standing the ordeal well, and at the last sittings enlivened the proceedings with his humorous replies. The whole affair continues, however, to be somewhat wearying owing to the technicalities inseparable from the case. Col. Kennedy is still laid up in hospital, and all connected with the case have had to pay several visits there in order to obtain his evidence, which was required by counsel defending Sir William Willcocks.

A Charity Aerial Display.

The Royal Air Force gave a very successful aerial display at Heliopolis last Thursday and Friday, when the public were shown what can be done nowadays in the air, and were afforded some very telling illustrations of what aerial combat really means. The display attracted large crowds on both days, and a good many availed themselves of the opportunity of making their first flight. The Sultan and the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby were among the interested spectators on the first day. His Highness made a very generous donation of £E250 to the Royal Air Force Memorial Fund.

GREECE.

ATHENS, March 5.

The London Conference.

The decisions arrived at by the Allied Conference in London with regard to Smyrna and Thrace have cast a

gloom over the whole country. Although the never-failing optimism of the Greek has in no way abandoned him, one cannot help noticing that the bad turn which the national questions have quite suddenly taken has been a heavy blow to his patriotic feelings. The possibility of losing Smyrna and Thrace never seriously occurred to the Hellene, who, now noticing for the first time the sword of Damocles hanging over his head, wonders how long it has been there. Had his optimism permitted him to see things more clearly, he would have probably noticed that the unwelcome sword had appeared simultaneously with the handing to M. Ralli of the official Allied Note a few days prior to the plebiscite for King Constantine.

Immediately on receipt of the alarming news from London a Council of Ministers was hurriedly held under the presidency of the Minister of War, M. Gounaris. After a long debate on the situation, it was decided that it should be left to the National Assembly to say whether Greece would accept or reject the measures proposed by the Conference.

There were no parties in the Chamber at the sitting of Monday last. Royalists, Venizelists, and Independents had all forgotten their political enmities and dissensions, and for once remembered that they were all Greeks and that the honour of the nation was at stake. Long speeches explaining the position were delivered by M. Gounaris, M. Baltajis, M. Stratos, and the leader of the Opposition, General Danglis. Subsequently M. Constantopoulos, a member for Thrace, in a very eloquent and touching speech gave a vivid description of the hardships and sufferings of the Christian populations in Thrace at the time these were still under the Turkish yoke. He concluded his speech by saying that a plebiscite in Thrace would be nothing less than a mockery to the memory of the dead, who can no longer have a say in the matter.

The Chamber then rejected unanimously the proposal of the Conference, refusing to accept any solution which would in any way weaken the national rights of the country. The decision of the National Assembly was communicated to M. Kalogeropoulos on the same evening.

Meetings and Demonstrations.

A monster meeting to protest against the decision of the London Conference was held here on Sunday afternoon. Thousands of people, representing all classes, and among whom were many Greeks from Asia Minor, Thrace, and the Dodecanese, concentrated from the early hours of the afternoon at Omonoia Square, whence they proceeded to the British, French, and Italian Legations, where the protest was handed in. The demonstration was conducted in a very orderly manner, and the crowds were practically silent throughout the meeting. Before leaving Omonoia Square, however, and after the President of the Popular Syllogues had delivered a speech from a balcony, cries of "Long live the war" were heard.

On Monday another demonstration was held by the students of Athens University, while at the same time

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meetings of protest have taken place in nearly every town, both in Old and New Greece, as well as in Smyrna.

A Bill from the L.O.N.

The League of Nations has notified the Hellenic Government that the share of Greece in the expenses of the League amounts to 309,000 golden francs.

A special department will shortly be created at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for the purpose of dealing exclusively with matters relating to the L.O.N.

ATHENS, March 12.

The Royal Wedding.

The wedding of Princess Helena with the Crown Prince of Roumania was celebrated here last Thursday. During the whole of Wednesday night gangs of workmen were busy putting the last touches to the decorations of Hermes Street and the Cathedral Square. From early morning thousands of people took up positions along the streets by which the Royal cortège would proceed to the cathedral, and many of these were seen taking with them chairs, tables, and even ladders to enable them to get a better view of the procession. The whole distance from the Royal Palace to the cathedral was lined with Evzones, Cadets of the School of Gendarmerie, and Marines. The hour fixed for the nuptial ceremony was eleven, but the various high State officials and others commenced arriving at the Cathedral soon after 9.30. The Diplomatic Corps was represented only by the Ministers of Roumania and Spain, none of the Ambassadors of the Allied Powers being present. The British Naval Mission to Greece was represented by Vice-Admiral Kelly, and the British Police Mission by Col. Sir Frederick Halliday. The civil marriage was performed in the Royal Palace at 10 o'clock by the Roumanian Minister of Justice, M. Antonesco.

The Royal cortège left the Palace a few minutes before 11, preceded by a cavalry squadron. The first seven carriages were occupied by the "Aides-de-Camp," the Ladies-in-Waiting, and the Greek and Roumanian Princes and Princesses. King Constantine and the

Dowager Queen Olga, were in the eighth carriage, and the Queen of Roumania, with Prince Carol, in the ninth. Queen Sophie and the bride came last in a magnificent closed carriage drawn by four horses. An escort of honour formed by superior cavalry officers closed the procession. Through Kiphissia Street, Constitution Square, and Hermes Street, and amidst the deafening cheers of the enthusiastic crowds, the Royal carriages arrived at the cathedral while the military band struck up first the Greek and then the Roumanian National Anthem. The ecclesiastical ceremony was performed by the Metropolitan of Athens, Monseigneur Theoclitos, and the Greek Patriarch of Alexandria, assisted by a Roumanian Archimandrite.

Arrival of the Crown Prince and His Wife.

The Roumanian mail-boat King Charles, bringing the Duke of Sparta and his wife, Princess Elisabeth of Roumania, and Queen Marie of Roumania, was expected in Piræus on Wednesday morning, but she was delayed by the bad weather prevailing in the Ægean, and did not arrive until 1.30 in the afternoon. The newly married couple and Queen Marie, accompanied by the entire Greek Royal Family, which had boarded the "King Charles" immediately on her arrival, proceeded by special train to Athens. In spite of the bitterly cold weather, in addition to the Athenians who were up and about very early that morning, thousands of people from the neighbouring towns and villages had journeyed to the capital and for many hours waited patiently in Stadium Street and outside the Royal Palace in order to catch a glimpse of their future Queen.

The appearance of the first carriage with the Crown Prince of Greece and his young wife was hailed with loud enthusiastic cheers and cries of "Long live our bride" and "Long live Roumania." Flowers were rained upon the Royal carriage from the windows and balconies, while at the beginning of Stadium Street two white doves tied together with the Greek and Roumanian colours were thrown to the Princess. One could say with confidence that the grace of the young Princess and

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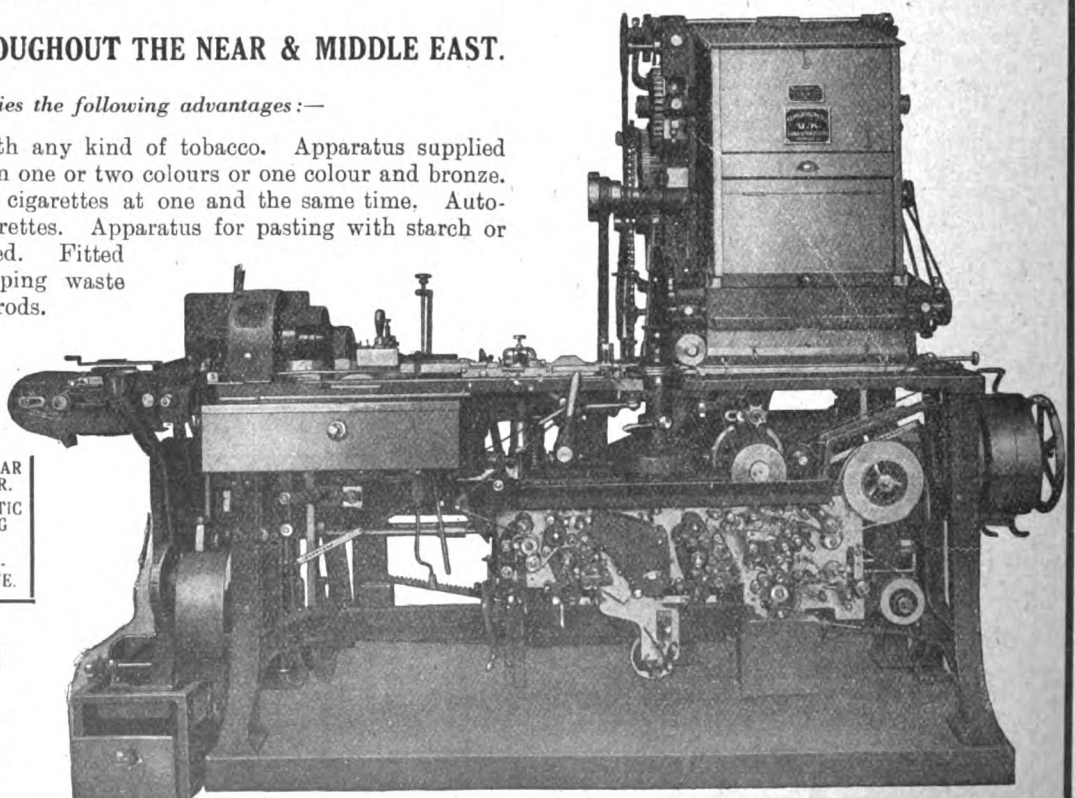
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her charming smile immediately won the hearts of the Athenians. A family dinner was given in the evening at the Crown Prince's Palace.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, March 3.

Political.

Now that the Government has begun to bring into Parliament the New Reform Bills it feels that it will need all the support that it can get. Collaboration with the Federalists (a *bloc* of several small parties in the Opposition), which up to now has been desired only by the Opposition, is now almost sought by the Government. Unfortunately, however, the conditions stipulated by the two sides are still so divergent—more in form than in principle—that one hardly sees how an understanding can be brought about. The Federalists demand that their programme should be adopted and, in addition, that the present Cabinet, with the exception of General Averescu, should resign—which would be equal to suicide for the newly-formed People's Party. The Government, on the other hand, would only accept certain elements of the Federalists that would agree to collaborate on the basis of its programme, which would mean the breaking-up of the Opposition *bloc*. A failure to bring about this collaboration would greatly benefit the Liberals, who despite their small number in Parliament, are still very powerful and well-organised.

M. Bratianu's Withdrawal from Parliament.

A very unusual incident occurred the other day in the Lower House. M. Bratianu, the former Prime Minister, since the election of the present Parliament has deliberately abstained from attending the sittings, despite repeated invitations from the Speaker. The Chamber, regarding M. Bratianu's demeanour as a mark of contempt, proposed and voted, almost unanimously, his exclusion from Parliament, declaring his seat vacant. M. Bratianu, previously, in response to the final invitation from the Speaker, had declared in a letter that he considered the present Parliament unworthy of him. The strange thing about his attitude is that although he, the leader of his party, ignores this Parliament, his partisans continue to attend it.

The Senate is now occupied in discussing the New Agrarian Reform Bill, which is to transfer the land from the big landowners to the peasants. Although every one is quite reconciled to the principle of this Bill, two main points now under debate are still: first, the price at which the land should be paid for by the peasants; and secondly, the maximum portion of land which the landowners should be allowed to retain.

The Royal Wedding.

During the whole of last week Bucharest has worn a festive aspect. Roumanian and Greek flags were to be seen everywhere; arches and colonnades of flowers decorated the streets from the Royal Palace to the Cathedral. The streets were crowded with visitors from the provinces, and from the varied dialects and costumes one could tell that the delegations from the different districts of the country had arrived to pay homage to the bridal pair. The wedding presents which they brought ranged from a motor-car, carriage and horses, to carpets and embroidered national costumes.

On Sunday, the wedding day, from the early hours of the day crowds of enthusiasts streamed towards the centre of the town to get a glimpse of the procession, which left the Royal Palace at 11.30, after the civil wedding had been celebrated. The bridal pair and the other members of the Royal family drove to the Cath-

edral in closed landaus, escorted by the Royal Horse Guards. Princess Elisabeth wore round her head, according to the custom of the country, threads of gold, which hung down to the train of her dress.

After the religious ceremony, conducted by the Primate of the Roumanian Orthodox Church, in the presence of a limited number of distinguished guests, consisting of the Royal family, foreign Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, and high dignitaries of State, the procession returned to the Palace. In the evening a gala reception took place at the Palace.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 8.

Fundamental Issues.

From the mass of comments and opinions expressed on all sides in Turkey with regard to the negotiations now proceeding in London, two points seem to be perfectly established. In the first place, the Turks attach as much importance to the modification of the economic and financial clauses of the Sèvres Treaty as to the territorial clauses; and in the next place, from the Turkish point of view, the complete evacuation of the contested territories by the Hellenic forces is the *sine qua non* preliminary to any agreement. So far as can be judged the Turkish delegates, whilst putting their case forward in moderate language, have nevertheless left the Allied Premiers in no doubt as regards the two points above-mentioned. As the discussions are being continued, it may be supposed that an agreement with regard to the first point is not considered impossible; but what are the prospects of an agreement in regard to the second point? If the debates in the Angora Assembly, the tone of the Nationalist Press, and the expression of private opinion are any index of Turkish policy, there can be no compromise on this point. Conversely, both Constantinists and Venizelists seem to be determined to resort to any measures rather than abandon the territories that have been wrested from the Turks. Both parties express the completest confidence in the efficiency of their military resources: the Greeks are certain that the Hellenic army could sweep away the Nationalist forces like chaff, and the Turks are equally certain that sooner or later they could force the Greeks to leave Anatolia. Without casting the least aspersion upon the proved courage of the Turks, it is permissible to doubt whether they could make much impression upon a fortified line defended by the Hellenic army. On the other hand, when the lessons of the Boer War are remembered, very considerable doubts arise as to the advisability of accepting the Greek point of view. The truth of the matter is, as has been pointed out so often in previous letters, there can never be peace between Greek and Turk, other things being equal, so long as there is no effective barrier between them. The events of the past eighteen months, and the present situation are the direct result of the removal of such a barrier. There is some talk in the Press of a direct understanding between the Greeks and the Turks, but no one who is in touch with the true temper of each nation can believe for a moment that such an agreement is possible.

The Caucasus.

At the moment of writing it would appear that final disaster is inevitable for the Georgians, and the Turks are standing at the gates of Batoum for the purpose of anticipating a Bolshevist occupation of that port, which is the key of Transcaucasia. There is very little information upon which one may base a judgment of the exact state of Turko-Bolshevist relations; but from the meagre information at our disposal it seems probable that the Bolshevists even yet do not intend to quarrel openly with the Nationalists, and will agree, for the time being at least, to an occupation of Batoum by the forces of Kiazim Karabekir. How far the Bolshevists will persist in this policy in the event of peace being definitely concluded with the Allies is a matter for speculation, but that they have any intention of allowing the Turks to remain in permanent possession of one inch of the territory belonging to the former Russian Empire is a consideration that cannot be entertained for a moment.

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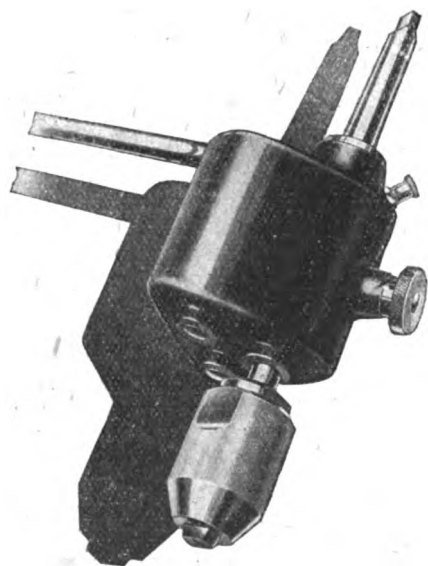
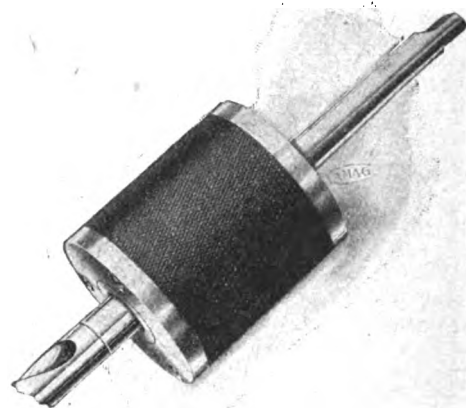
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CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE SHEREEF ALI HAIDER AND MESOPOTAMIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I shall esteem it a great favour if, in view of Mr. Urinowski's letter in your issue of the 17th inst., you will accept a further exposition of the claims of Ali Haider.

The contention of your correspondent is that Ali Haider did his best to oppose the Allied cause during the war, and is therefore unfitted to lay any claim to British confidence. I have stated elsewhere that the influence exerted by Ali Haider in Arabia was purely pacificatory, and so of much value to the Allies. It is perhaps necessary for me to bring more evidence to bear regarding this statement. With my own eyes I have seen the deeds of loyalty to Ali Haider of fifty-four Sheikhs, who represent by far the majority of the population of the Hejaz. These Sheikhs, together with the Emirs Ibn-Saud and Ibn-Rashid, urged Ali Haider to advance against King Hussein, while the leaders of the Turko-German armies brought their influence to bear as well. In the face of all this, Ali Haider controlled the aforementioned Sheikhs, and if your correspondent can quote any occasion on which the Shereef's supporters were in active opposition against King Hussein during this period, I shall indeed be grateful. It was not Ali Haider's place to create more trouble; for had he not come to Arabia for the sole purpose of alleviating it? Even one of the Emir Faisal's most eminent Arab generals has told me that Ali Haider's supporters were of far greater magnitude than their own.

I note your correspondent passes over Ali Haider's conduct before the war, merely saying that, the Turks were pro-British during the last century. To those who have studied Turkish politics during the latter part of the last century, and the career of the notorious Committee of Union and Progress since the declaration of the Constitution, such a statement is ridiculous. I need only refer to Professor Sir W. M. Ramsay's "Impressions of Turkey":—

"The Sultan Abdul-Hamid fondly imagined that the Crescent would be renewed, and with this ideal in view he sought, helped by German intrigues, to destroy all English influence in the Ottoman Empire, for England was the arch-enemy of all that he believed in and desired. From the first day when his influence began to be felt, he worked and watched, prayed and waited, intrigued and chose his allies, with the view of destroying English influence in Turkey. . . . It is no recent theory of my own that is here stated; it is what has been said to me many a time in the years 1880-1884, when I was residing almost continually in Turkey, by men of great experience in the country, men of many nationalities. Some spoke with regret, some with indifference, some with satisfaction, but all with conviction: "Your Government seems never to recognise that the Sultan is its great and bitter enemy, and so it is always playing into his hands."

The fact that Ali Haider was kept by Abdul Hamid at Constantinople under the closest supervision, and that later on he became intensely unpopular with the Committee of Union and Progress, shows in which direction his sympathies lay. Perhaps Mr. Urinowski will endeavour to prove that the Committee of Union and Progress was prompted by Anglophile motives!

In conclusion, it might be of interest to draw your attention to the reply given by King Hussein to a mission lately sent by the Turkish Government to inquire why he did not sign the Peace Treaty. The excuse given to the Porte was the bad way in which the Turks had been treated by the Allies, whilst to the Moslem world he stated that it was in atonement for his fighting against the Turks during the Great War.—I am, etc.,

CHAMPION.

MOSLEMS AND KING HUSSEIN OF THE HEJAZ.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—If the Kaaba, the mosque around it, and the city of Mecca are still honoured by the cultured and worshipped by the uncultured Moslem of every land; if the Kaaba itself, cynosure of Islam, *kibla* of every daily prayer, has been broken by Ottoman shells, where stands any claim to Khalifship by the Aga Khan, Mohammed VI., or the Ulama?

If Hussein's custody of the Holy of Holies and his hereditary Shereefship have been undisputed for generations, what boots the challenge or defiance of authorities in Constantinople and Calcutta, or in Shiah Persia? Mecca is their spiritual home. Hussein maintained his custody and defended his trust, and, all Arabia helping him, beat back the Turkish traitor.

Let the Government of India and the Moslem Princes stimulate

the Pilgrimage to the utmost, so that the pilgrims may learn how Mecca was defended. Selections from the Allenby-Lawrence travelogue shown at Delhi and Hyderabad should do great service, and divert loyalty from Constantinople to the apex of Islam.—I am, etc.,

EDWIN RANSOM.

Bedford, March 14, 1921.

THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE DODECANESE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Under the 122nd article of the Turkish Treaty, now under revision, the Ottoman Empire renounced all its rights over the Dodecanese in favour of Italy, who has occupied these islands since 1912, and the second article of the Tittoni-Venizelos Scialoja agreement, signed between Italy and Greece at the same time as the Treaty of Sévres, gave to Rhodes the adjoining islets and Kastellorizo a large autonomy. A proclamation issued to that effect by Governor Cavaliere Felice Maissa on October 8 last granted the promised autonomy and undertook to respect the national feelings of the islanders; also full liberty was given to the religious and educational authorities of the two islands, and a larger share of self-government was assigned to local elements. This proclamation found the Rhodians more or less apathetic. The Rhodian Greeks have been zealous Nationalists since 1912, and, in spite of a draconian martial law, they, along with the other Dodecanesians, have more than once voiced their desire to be united with Greece.

The commercial aspect in Rhodes is very gloomy. Although restrictions on export are getting tighter every day, "the import" into the island of Turks from the opposite Anatolian coast is allowed in the most scandalous manner. These Turks come and go as they please, and they alone have the privilege of trading with Anatolia. In this country we have heard much about famine in Austria and elsewhere, but we know little or nothing of what has happened during the war in these twelve small islands. The distribution of food was far from being perfect, and this state of things continued even after the Armistice and until recently, when the Greek Government took up the food supply in the Dodecanese. After the signing of the Sévres Treaty the Italians good-humouredly allowed the Greek flag to be displayed throughout the Dodecanese, with the exception of Rhodes, which remains for another fifteen years under the foreigner. The Italians allowed also patriotic meetings and doxologies to take place in view of the forthcoming Union of the Dodecanese with Greece. The joy of the Dodecanesians was so great at the approaching Nirvana that a semi-official statement made by Italy early in September last passed quite unnoticed; by which it was announced that the Dodecanese would be evacuated by Italy "only in case of the election of a Greek Government possessing the confidence of the Hellenic people" (*sic*). M. Venizelos fell, the Greek flag became immediately taboo, a popular Government is now in Greece, and the Dodecanese has not yet been evacuated, although, as you stated in your to-day's issue, Kastellorizo, a borough of the Greek prefecture of Samos, occupied by the French during the war, was evacuated by the French on the 2nd inst. and given to Italy, before the ratification or any other rectification of the Sévres Treaty takes place.

The further retention or any other bartering of the Dodecanese by Italy is not only contrary to the doctrine of nationalities, but also contrary to the interests of the Italians themselves, who derive no profit from islands where they are acting the policeman.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONA.

Dodecanesian Delegation, 32, Oxford Street, Manchester,
March 17, 1921.

Cunard Line

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Palestine Mandate.

The *Morning Post* of March 18 disapproves strongly of the system of mandates, and states that the recent decision of Lord Curzon amounts to the transference by the Government of the power of Parliament to a foreign and cosmopolitan body, the League of Nations. On the Palestine mandate in particular it says:—

Now let us see to what the nation is committed by the League of Nations in respect of Palestine. It is committed, in the first place, to exercise all the rights of a sovereign Power in Palestine, upon the condition that those rights are exercised under the supervision of the League of Nations, to whom an annual report is to be submitted. What will happen when, or if, such report be meekly rendered, no one—not even Lord Curzon—can tell. But in the meantime the British Government virtually acknowledge the League of Nations as suzerain. When the people of this country thoroughly understand that humiliating position we doubt very much if they will approve of it. Great Britain is to secure the integrity of Palestine; a clause which involves the necessity of maintaining an armed force in that country, at an expense, so far, of seven millions a year, which is paid by the British taxpayer, and not a penny of which will be ever seen again. In practice, the control of finance, which is the charter and the boast of the House of Commons, is in this matter removed to the League of Nations.

Britain and the East.

In an article called "The Obsession of Strategy," *The Nation* and the *Athenæum* of February 26 explains why it does not expect any big resettlement from the latest meeting of the Supreme Council. Upon our policy in the East it says:—

We cannot discover that British policy has any constructive plans whatever for the East. Its interests are concentrated and local, partly strategic and partly economic. It perceives the importance of the two naval keys to world-power, the Suez Canal and the Straits. It has, therefore, set up a predominantly British occupation at Constantinople, and secured itself in Palestine and Cyprus, as well as in Egypt. Its relations with Greece are evidently unaffected by any sympathy or antipathy which it may feel for M. Venizelos and King Constantine. The solid fact about the Greeks is that they possess many islands and harbours useful to a sea-power. Provided their territorial ambitions are gratified, they can be employed as a serviceable auxiliary force on land, a sort of marine light infantry, attached to our Navy. In Mesopotamia and Persia the strategic and economic motives unite. Both have oil wells, and both are regarded by large strategic thinkers as stations on the road to India. Our policy is comparatively positive and luminous, wherever it touches an island, a strait, a canal, a coast-line, or an oil-field. It takes full account of the Greeks, a maritime people. The moment one quits the sea and advances inland our policy becomes hazy, negative, uncertain. It seems to ignore the Turkish interior altogether. Whether the Treaty of Sévres can be enforced, whether Anatolia remains a derelict and outlawed land, whether Mustafa Kemal rebels or submits, is from this point of view a matter of indifference. Whether any Armenians survive, and, if so, how and under what régime, is equally indifferent. As for the Bulgarians, they are not a maritime people, and consequently seem less useful than the Greeks. That is the logic of the new strategic-economic Imperialism. It believes in ships, and in oil to run the ships. Nothing else exists for it. One can in this way assure power to oneself. But to what end? As we ignore the rights, the needs, the interests of other peoples, as we forget the mission of civilisation in these dim interiors, as we close our ears to the cry of wronged and martyred peoples, the justification for the possession of power disappears. We are sapping Empire, while we fortify it.

This strategical thinking, by narrowing our concerns and excluding any constructive view of the needs of Turkey as a whole, has given us the impossible Treaty of Sévres, which we cannot impose and will not revise.

Articles to Note.

"Mesopotamia," by Traveller; and "Constantinople After the War," by H. Charles Woods in the *Fortnightly Review* (March).

"Contemporary Greek Poets," by E. C. Davies, in the *Contemporary Review* (March).

"M. Take Jonsescu and the Small Entente." By Philéas Lebesque in the *New World* (March).

The Indian Legislative Assembly has agreed to the abolition of the Andaman Islands penal settlement.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

Violinists.

It is not often that three such dull sonatas as Brahms' in E flat major (Op. 120), Vreuls' in B major, and Ireland's in D minor are found together in one programme. but this misfortune occurred at Miss Gladys Clark's recital at the Wigmore Hall on March 14. The Brahms sonata was originally written for clarinet and pianoforte, and the arrangement of it for violin is uninteresting. And why Miss Clark, who manifestly is an ambitious fiddler, chose to introduce to London the new Vreuls sonata is hard to imagine, for each of its three movements contained but about one and a-half ideas, and these commonplace ones. The writing for the pianoforte only echoed the facile impotence of the violin part.

I was disappointed not to hear a new sonata by W. Wolstenholme which Mr. Adolphe Kagan played at his recital at the Steinway Hall on March 15; but it was not all my fault that I had retreated ere it was performed. For Mr. Kagan's intonation in César Franck's sonata was a little more than I could endure, and matters were no better in Vieuxtemps's concerto in D minor. With all the goodwill in the world one could find little justification for the appearance in public of this violinist.

Pianists.

Of both Mr. Leonard Borwick and M. Léon Pouishnoff, who gave recitals on March 17 at the Æolian Hall and the Wigmore Hall respectively, I have written so much recently that I can add but little now. Evidence again was given of Mr. Borwick's remarkable power of transcription, not only in Debussy's "Fêtes," but in Bach's "Wohl mir dass ich Jesum habe," which lovely melody he weaved most gracefully. His fine intellectuality was apparent in the magnificent last sonata of Beethoven, the whole reading being informed by an intense and penetrating reserve. With some of his *tempi* and *rubato* in Chopin (particularly in the fantasia in F minor and the impromptu in A flat) one simply could not agree, but no minor differences could obscure the fact that Mr. Borwick is a very beautiful artist.

What a wonderful thing is the English public! Here was M. Pouishnoff playing a whole programme of modern Russian music, and the only thing encored for its own sake was a slight, if pleasing, "Musical Box" of his own composition, a thing which musically was (excepting that dreadful first movement of Tchaikowsky's sonata in G major) the least interesting thing of the evening. His audience passed over some most noble and notable playing of Glazounoff's "Theme and Variations"; they did not seem to realise that in Moussorgsky's "Hopak" we had unravelled for us the very genius of the wild Russian (this reading, indeed, was the most realistic I have ever heard); and why a most exquisite interpretation of Scriabin's "Poème" (Op. 52) was allowed to go unrepeatd I cannot understand. In small things M. Pouishnoff is so marvellously finished a player that I should have thought all London would have flocked to hear and to applaud him.

The Music Society.

The external changes that have been made in the composition of music since the outbreak of the European War were strikingly exemplified in the quintet for pianoforte and strings by Mistowski, which was given its first London performance on March 18 at the meeting-place of the Music Society, St. John's Institute, Westminster. This work, which was written in 1913, has many passages of banal respectability; in the first two movements there is much verbiage but little said; and out of the four movements the "finale" is the only one containing evidence of personality.

At this concert Miss Kathleen Long, a pianist of very fluent technique, played several pieces of Frank Bridge, of picturesque or descriptive nature. Bridge is a fine writer in many forms, but he is by no means at his happiest on the pianoforte; and it would be difficult to prophesy immortality for any of the things played by Miss Long.

Miss Nancy Morgan.

As I said a week or two ago, there seems to be very little of value written for the harp as a solo instrument, and it was certainly not any shortcomings in Miss Nancy Morgan, who gave a recital at the Wigmore Hall on March 16, that made her work lack interest. She herself appears to be a harpist of very considerable promise, with a vivid, even exaggerated, sense of colour. Of the pieces she played Bantock's "Sapphic Dance" was the best to hear.

Fortunately, she was assisted by Mr. John Coates, who was in his most jovial, though not his most musical, mood. His old French songs were, I think, overdone, but his singing of English songs was as admirable as ever. Of two songs by Dorothy Owen I thought little, but Ivor Gurney's "Spring," Malcolm Davidson's "At Night," and Armstrong Gibbs' "As I Lay in the Early Sun," all have considerable, if varying, degrees of merit.

ANDANTE.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"TOPEE AND TURBAN; OR, HERE AND THERE IN INDIA." By Lt. Colonel Newell, F.R.G.S. (London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. 21s. net.)
- II.—"HOW TO IDENTIFY PERSIAN RUGS." By C. J. Delabère May. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 6s. net.)
- III.—"FROM ANOTHER ANGLE." By Margaret Lockyer. (London: Duckworth and Co. 8s. 6d. net.)

I.—INDIAN TRAVEL-PICTURES.

There was a time when European exiles devoted their leisure to studying the religions, customs, and legends of India. In those remote days furlough was hard to come by, and the homeward journey occupied six months. The British capacity for making the best of things led our predecessors to consider themselves settlers rather than sojourners throughout the eighteenth century—indeed, every Presidency capital was officially styled a "settlement." The revolution in the means of transit, which brings Calcutta nearer London than was Bombay a century ago, has lessened the interest felt by Anglo-Indians in their temporary environment, and books which deal with the less obvious features of Indian life are very rare. Colonel H. A. Newell belongs to the scholarly school represented by Colonel Tod, who travelled through Rajputana, gathering materials for a work which has given him a permanent niche in the Temple of Fame. He has done well to publish several contributions to local newspapers recording his wanderings in India by house-boat and motor-car. Before setting out on these expeditions he seems to have saturated himself with the history of the country which he was about to traverse. He is a trained observer, mixed freely with the people, and lost no opportunity of mastering their folk-lore. The method adopted by our author has resulted in a series of thumbnail sketches, which give the Western reader some insight into the civilisations imposed on India, and the transformation which each has wrought in the ever-changing East.

Students of Mutiny literature will remember that the tomb of General John Nicholson, who fell gloriously at the storming of Delhi, became a place of pilgrimage, and that a sect of worshippers arose styling themselves "Nikalsani Fakirs." Colonel Newell discovered a similar shrine near the abandoned cantonment of Sirun. A gallant soldier named Colonel W. Wallace died there in 1809, after making an annual provision of Rs.9 for the upkeep of his tomb, and appointing his groom as its guardian. It came to be regarded as the burial-place of a "sat purush," or holy man; pilgrims flocked thither, marvellous cures were effected, and the ex-groom waxed fat on their offerings.

Colonel Newell's style savours of the colloquial, but now and then it attains real eloquence. He thus describes Singhad, the "Lion Fort," which commands the approaches to Poona:—

A place which once figured prominently in history can never be relegated to the scrap-heap of time. This is especially true of a famous fort. While one stone stands, it constitutes a memorial. Men have fought and died there; armies have hurled themselves against its defences. Within and without its battered walls desperate deeds have been done, attacks have been launched, long sieges endured, and forlorn hopes led. The very ground is hallowed, for mingled with it is the dust of heroes. Finally when, like a beautiful woman's, its day is done, and in old age men no longer desire it, then history makes it her own for ever, wreathing its battle-scarred stones with immortality.

During a journey by car from Ootacamund to Madras Colonel Newell halted at Seringapatam, and gives us a most graphic account of its capture on May 4 1799, when the European force had 874 casualties out of 2,434 engaged. Tipu Sultan, who then ruled Mysore with a rod of iron, was England's inveterate foe, and his lifelong dream was to oust her from Southern India. He fell on the breach, fighting furiously to the last. It is pleasant to hear that the memorials of the last struggle for empire in the East are maintained with pious care, as is "Scott's Bungalow," which many years ago was the scene of an inexplicable tragedy. Colonel Newell visited it at dusk, and writes:—

Shadows carpeted the floors. The gloom of the corners was pregnant with memories. Old pictures hung in substantial frames on the dim walls. The old furniture stood in its accustomed place. Everything breathed order, care, and refinement. Upstairs, dark though it was, carved elephants gleamed on the high four-poster beds, as though newly polished. Over all hovered "the tender grace of a day that is dead," mingled with an indefinable sense of something sinister. . . . Here had dwelt a happy family. Childish feet had pattered on the silent floors. Curly heads had lain down to rest in the great four-poster beds. Then came a fatal morning, when Colonel Scott went out as usual, leaving all well at home. On his return, he found the lifeless bodies of his wife and children! Was it poison, or cholera, or what? He did not pause to inquire. The distracted man rushed out of the house, and was never seen or heard of again! Perhaps the mystery of his disappearance is known to the sharks which infest the green waters of the Cauvery flowing past his desolate home.

Colonel Newell's illustrations—fifty-nine in number—add greatly to the charm of a delightful book. F. H. S.

II.—PERSIAN RUGS.

The collection of Oriental rugs is a fascinating hobby, and provided the collector takes good care of his specimens, a very safe one. That is to say, that a good rug, cared for as a good rug deserves to be, increases in value with the passing of time; and the "boom" of last year showed some of us how good an investment a rug may prove. But if you are to "know your way about" on ground that has not a few pitfalls for the unwary, you must either buy your knowledge by the outlay of a good deal of time and trouble in the Eastern markets and bazaars, or else study carefully at the feet of some expert, such as Mr. Delabère May shows himself in this very useful little book. He knows his subject thoroughly, and he passes on his knowledge in such a way that any careful reader should be able with the help he gives to distinguish between the varied types of rugs described. The illustrations are practical, and the details of design are distinctly helpful. The charm of the originals cannot, of course, be conveyed by any mere photographs, but the specimens selected for illustration have the merit of being really typical. The book is emphatically good, and author and publisher are to be congratulated upon it.

III.—A BALKAN NOVEL.

Some authors go far afield in search of local colour, but in the case of the writer of "From Another Angle" we infer that from the wealth of local colour which her experiences have brought her she has felt impelled to turn author. The lavishness with which she disposes of her material will, it is to be hoped, attract others to these lands of tense living, of strong love and hatred, as a suitable setting for less ambitious plots than those of the now vanished Ruritania order. After having followed the hero through the Croatian countryside, Zagreb, Belgrade, Macedonia, Rome, Genoa, Marseilles, and Paris, the English reader would certainly have laboured under a grievance if, in view of the fact that it was still the time of the Great War, the Croat and the French war-worker had not run across one another again a few yards from Big Ben. Outside her own country our author is most at home in Italy; elsewhere she has used her eye for, as she would say, *sehenswürdigkeiten*, and scenery to better effect than her ear. For, amid a plentiful sprinkling of foreign words, there is a grammatical mistake wherever German is tried, and male characters are invariably addressed by a word which our Serbo-Croatian phrase-books assure us is the vernacular for "Madame." Perhaps the phrase-books are wrong; in any case the story is there, and it is a powerful one, well told.

THE BULLETIN OF THE SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of Part IV. of the first volume of this Bulletin (London: Luzac. 6s.), which contains a series of linguistic studies ranging from the Sudan to Japan and New Guinea. The note of the contents is high scholarship, and the Bulletin has already established itself as indispensable to serious students; but even the general reader may find stray morsels to his taste, such as the Kurdish proverb: "A late guest must arrange for his own dinner," or the song of the Chinese coolie:—

"If you have sweet roast pork,
Eat it before it is stolen.
Spend your money while you're here,
After death it avails you nothing."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Counterpoint." By G. G. Bernardi. Translated by Claude Landi. With numerous Musical Illustrations. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

"Modern Czech Poetry: Selected Texts, with Translations and an Introduction." By P. Selver. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

March 24 (New Style).

March 11 (Old Style).

Ragab 14, 1339 of the Moslem Calendar.

Adar II., 14, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Earl of Cromer has arrived in London from India.

Colonel Lord Loch and Lady Loch have arrived at the Hôtel S. George, Algiers.

Lord Islington has been elected chairman of the Standing Joint Committee on Indian Affairs.

Colonel Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem, has become a vice-president of the Imperial Chess Club.

Colonel Baird, British Military Attaché for Turkey and Bulgaria, has taken up his duties at Constantinople.

Lord and Lady Reading left London on March 17 on their way to Marseilles, whence they are sailing on the *Kaisar-i-Hind* for India.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Keeling has been awarded the Macgregor Memorial Medal for the best exploration or reconnaissance of the year.

The marriage arranged between Colonel A. C. B. Mackinnon and Miss D. Hammick will take place at Dehra Dun, India, at the end of April.

At the last meeting of the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute Lord Reading and Mr. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, were elected Fellows.

Mrs. Rosita Forbes is helping the Survey Department in Egypt to prepare a new map of Libya in the light of the discoveries made during her recent visit to Kufra.

Sir Syed Ali Imam, Prime Minister of Hyderabad, who came as a delegate to the Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva, and Lady Imam left last week for India.

The King has granted authority to wear the following decoration:—Order of the Nile: Grand Officer, G. F. G. Purvis, Director-General, Coastguards and Fisheries Service, Cairo.

It is stated that General Sir Charles Monro, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.S.I., is to be created a baronet, in recognition of his services as an Army Commander during the war, and as Commander-in-Chief in India.

Yugoslavia will be represented at the Barcelona International Transit Conference by Dr. Tresitch-Pavichitch, the Yugoslav Minister in Madrid, and by Admiral Pritza and Captain Avramovitch as technical experts.

A Supplement to a recent *Gazette* announces the award of a D.S.O. to Major J. R. Hutchison, 38th Cent. India Horse, I.A.; a bar to the M.C. to Captain D. E. Whitworth, M.C., 2nd Lancers, I.A.; and the M.C. to Lieutenant W. H. Lloyd, 10th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (T.F.), attached to Royal Corps of Signals, for distinguished services rendered in Palestine.

The King of Roumania has conferred upon M. Michel B. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, the Order of Commander of the Star of Roumania.

An engagement is announced between Harold Arthur Wilkinson, of Cawnpore, North India, younger son of the late C. W. and Mrs. Wilkinson, and Ruby Georgina, youngest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel A. and Mrs. Butterworth, of Cawnpore, North India.

The King has given the following members of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service unrestricted permission to wear decorations of the Order of St. Sava, conferred on them by the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in recognition of their services to the Serbian sick and wounded in the late war:—Fourth Class: Miss Beatrice Anne McGregor, M.B., C.M. Fifth Class: Miss Lillian Mary Chesney, M.B., Ch.B.; Miss Janet McVea, M.B., C.M.; Miss Elizabeth Brook, M.B., Ch.B.; Miss Catherine Louise Corbett, M.B., Ch.B.; Miss Janet Stewart Laird, M.B., Ch.B.; the Hon. Mrs. Evelina Haverfield.

March 21 was the anniversary of the Persian New Year's Day. Mirza Davood Khan, Miftah-es-Saltaneh, the Persian Minister, to celebrate the event, held a reunion at the Legation, 47, Bramham Gardens. Among those present

were the Aga Khan, Prince Anowshiravan Mirza Salom, Prince Mohamed Mirza Khosrovani, Mohamed Ajam, Mohamed Chotani, Shaikh M. H. Kidwai, M. Gavrilovitch, the Yugoslav Minister; M. Dmitri Stancioff, the Bulgarian Minister; the Right Hon. and Mrs. Ameer Ali, General Sir Percy Sykes, Sir John Rees, Sir Francis Barker, Lady Lamington, Sir Harry and Lady Foster, Mir Jagoub Mehtieff, M. Eric Raquette, Ghaffer Khan, Persian Minister for Scandinavia, and Mme. Ghaffer Khan, Fathollah Khan Noury, Mirza Issa Khan, Ebrahim Khan Gharagozlou, Mr. A. S. M. Anik, representatives from the India and Foreign Offices, General Douglas, Major Willy, Mr. M. H. Isphaham, and members of the Persian colony.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (March 12):—Mrs. E. Hooper, an English lady residing in Athens, held at the Zappeion building a very successful exhibition of upwards of seventy pictures in oil and water-colour, the subjects being mostly Greek. Amongst the oil paintings, "Daisies" and "The White Fan" are worthy of special mention. One of the best pictures exhibited is the "Yard of the Monastery of Faneromeni," with its very realistic dark-green coloured cypress trees. Mrs. Hooper is evidently very fond of monasteries. She has painted about a dozen of these, and very little fault can be found with any of them. One in particular, the "Kessariani (inner yard)" strikes me as being one of her best executions, and serves as an excellent example of the artist's skill in the delicate handling of water-colours. A small ticket marked with the word "vendu" which I noticed on practically every one of the exhibited pictures proves how much this English artist's work has been appreciated by the Athenian picture lover, usually so difficult to please.

SUDAN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, February 27.

Recent arrivals in Khartoum included Colonel Backhouse, the Vicomte de Fontarce, Colonel Gray, of the Associated British Manufacturers, and Lieut-Colonel F. C. C. Balfour.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, K.C.M.G., C.B., and Mr. A. Lucas, Director of the Egyptian Government Analytical Laboratories, are shortly expected in the Sudan on a tour of duty which is expected to extend to three months.

Mr. H. W. Tite, Egyptian Manager of the Compagnie Générale des Wagon-Lits, accompanied by Mrs. Tite, arrived on the 25th inst., and is reported to be proceeding south on a shooting and fishing expedition to Lake No, in company with Mr. John Wells, late Inspector-General of Mines for Egypt.

Bimbashi H. D. Wise, M.C., Cavalry and Mounted Infantry, has been appointed G.S.O. 3.

Lieut-Colonel F. C. C. Balfour, M.C., C.I.E., from 1st Inspector, Kassala Province, has been appointed Assistant Director of Intelligence.

Captain P. S. L. Beaver, M.C., Wiltshire Regiment, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi and posted to the 10th Sudanese.

The Order of El Nahda (3rd Class) has been conferred by H.M. the King of the Hejaz on Captain (Temp. Major) H. F. C. Hobbs, the West Yorkshire Regiment.

Mr. A. S. Reid, Auditor-General's Department, Sudan Government, died at 5 a.m. on February 18, at the Civil Hospital, from influenzal pneumonia.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Akaki Tchenkeli, the newly-appointed Georgian Minister to the Court of St. James's, has arrived in London.

It is announced from Delhi that the Begum of Bhopal has been appointed Chancellor of the Moslem University of Aligarh.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced of His Highness Mir Sir Imam Baksh Khan Talpur, G.C.I.E., ruler of the Sind State of Khairpur. He succeeded twelve years ago, and was made a G.C.I.E. at the Coronation Durbar. He is succeeded by the eldest of his three sons, Mir Ali Nawaz Khan, who served in the princely Cadet Corps at Dehra Dun and made a tour in Europe in 1911.

The death occurred last week at Blackheath of Major-General Woodburn Hunter, Colonel Commandant, Royal Artillery. He entered the Army in March, 1865, became Colonel in June, 1889. Major-General in 1898, and was placed on the Retired List in June, 1902. General Hunter served with the Sudan Expedition in 1884-85, and was present at the second action at Abu Klea.

The death occurred suddenly last week of Archbishop Dorotheos, Locum Tenens of the Ecumenical Patriarch of

Constantinople, who arrived in this country at the beginning of this month to represent the unredeemed Greeks in the Turkish Empire. Sympathetic references to the late Archbishop were made on Sunday in St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and in numerous other churches. His coffin is being conveyed to Constantinople.

The death is announced of Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Sedley, fourth Marquis of Taffia (Malta), aged eight-three. He was son of Frederick Sedley, Superintendent of Police at Malta, who died in 1885, having married Catherine, daughter of the second Marquis of Taffia. His claim to the title of Marquis of Taffia was recognised by the Committee of Privileges of the Maltese nobility and by the British Government in January, 1905.

The death is announced of Sir Arthur Lewis Webb, K.C.M.G., M.I.C.E., who was for forty years connected with public works, chiefly in the irrigation departments, in India and Egypt. From 1881 to 1894 he worked in the irrigation branch of the Public Works Department in India. At the end of that term he was transferred to the same department in Egypt, where, in 1899, he became Inspector-General of Irrigation, and six or seven years later Under-Secretary for Irrigation. In 1908 he was appointed adviser to the Public Works Ministry of the Egyptian Government, and held that appointment till 1912. He was created a C.M.G. in 1902 and K.C.M.G. in 1912, and, in recognition of his services on the Nile reservoir, he was awarded the First Class Medjidieh (Grand Cordon) and the Second Class Osmanieh.

THE LATE TALAAT PASHA.

Talaat Pasha, a former Turkish Grand Vizier, was assassinated in Berlin on March 15 by a young Armenian, who had lost both his parents in one of the Armenian massacres. Talaat was born in 1872, his father being a Turk and his mother a gipsy. As a young man he entered the service of the Posts and Telegraphs; and early in the nineties, being then stationed at Salonika, where the Young Turks were extremely strong, he became mixed up with the movement. The events of 1908-9 brought him into prominence, and (after visiting London and Paris) he was appointed Minister of the Interior. Soon afterwards he became an ardent supporter of the policy of "Ottomanising" all the Turkish Empire, which he had previously opposed. In the first Balkan War he served as a volunteer, but with no great credit. He was always suspected of being not altogether without responsibility for the deaths of Nazim Pasha and Mahmoud Shevket Pasha, and there can be very little doubt that during the last ten or twelve years at least he was bent on keeping power in his hands and not over-scrupulous how he did it. He undoubtedly favoured Turkey entering the war on Germany's side and his responsibility for the Armenian massacres which followed is not seriously disputed. He became Grand Vizier in 1916, and held the position till September, 1918, leaving Constantinople shortly before the Allies entered it. Since then he had lived in more or less voluntary exile on the Continent.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

INDIA: Police Pay.—Army Reserve, War Medal.—Pensions. Public Works and Forest Officers.—Opium.—Dangerous Drugs.—Army Pay and Allowances.—Troops (Service Outside India).—Army Organisation.—Lord Rawlinson (Council of State Speech).—Cost of Living, Statistics.—Fiscal Commission. (March 9.)

INDIA: Officers' Medical Expenses. (March 12.)

EGYPT: MESOPOTAMIA (MANDATE). INDIA: Divorce Decrees.—Railways, Goods Rates. TRADE AND COMMERCE: Anglo-Persian Oil Company. BULGARIAN LOANS (BRITISH CLAIMS). PEACE TREATIES: Turkey and Greece.—Prisoners of War, Turkey. (March 14.)

SOUTH PERSIA RIFLES. EGYPT: MARTIAL LAW AND PRESS CENSORSHIP. CEYLON. PERSIA. INDIA: Industrial Disputes. MESOPOTAMIA (RAILWAY PERSONNEL) (March 15.)

INDIA: Trade Unions.—College Strike, Burma.—Shwe Dagon Pagoda.—Contracts (Non-Fulfilment).—Railway and Inland Steamer Traffic.—Fiscal Policy.—Cotton Duties.—Disturbances, Nankana.—Indian Affairs (Standing Joint Committee).—Government Officials (Passages).—PEACE TREATIES: Armenia and Cilicia. INDIA: Inland Water Traffic (Surcharge).—Medical Service (Travelling Facilities). MESOPOTAMIA. (March 16.)

EGYPT. GREECE (DEBT TO GREAT BRITAIN). BRITISH ARMY: Forces in Egypt and Palestine. INDIA: Europeans (Divorce Decrees).—Cotton Mills.—Financial Statement, 1921-22. (March 17.)

ROUMANIA (HUNGARIAN RESIDENTS). (March 18.)

Marshal Lyautey, says a Paris telegram, speaking before the Finance Committee of the Senate last week, declared that the army in Morocco at the present time numbered 80,000 men whom he desired to retain during the two or three years which would be necessary for carrying out the work of pacification in Morocco.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

In the past week there was an increase of 23,000 in the numbers on relief in India.

We have received a copy of the pamphlet, published in Cairo, entitled "L'Alliance Libanaise d'Egypte et La Question du Liban."

The annual report of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India has now been published in Calcutta, price Rs. 2½ (3s. 4d.).

It is announced that the greater part of the 6th Division has now left Busreh for India, three more battalions having sailed between March 8 and 11.

Mr. Israel Cohen is on his way back to Palestine from India. He has raised altogether £115,000 in Australasia and the East for the Palestine Restoration Fund.

The Bombay-Poona detective force has succeeded in arresting thirty-five persons, mostly Pathans, who are alleged to have been connected with the recent series of dacoities.

The Yugoslav Constituent Assembly which reassembled on March 14 has again adjourned. The Committee charged with the preparation of the projected Constitution has not completed its labours.

According to the *Tribuna*, the Christian Albanians of Koritsa are demanding autonomy for Southern Albania, under an elected governor-general and a local council, which is composed of two-thirds Christians and one-third Moslems.

Speaking in the Hungarian National Assembly last week, Count Teleki, the Prime Minister, said that Hungary would never give up her claims to Baranya, which were founded upon the Trianon Treaty, and would demand its evacuation by the Serbians.

At a mass meeting of over 10,000 persons held in Rangoon recently, a resolution was unanimously passed declaring that the people of Burma were quite fit to govern themselves, and demanded that full responsible self-government be granted without delay.

It was reported last week that news had been received from East Africa of the death of the "Mad" Mullah of Somaliland. Reports of the Mullah's death have been circulated from time to time during the past twenty years. The last authentic news of him, says *The Times*, dates from February, 1920, when, after the rout of his forces by the British, he left his wives behind and fled into Italian Somaliland.

Persons concerned as to their status as citizens in the ex-Austrian territory now within the confines of Yugoslavia should apply to the Legation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, at 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.1, for information as to the steps to be taken.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1921.

THE EASTERN MANDATES.

When the Emir Faisal, on behalf of the King of the Hejaz, informs the Inter-Allied Conference in London that he objects to the mention of the word "Mandate" in connection with the Arabs, on the ground that it is contradictory to the pledges given by the British Government; and when there is some risk of the first election in Mesopotamia turning on the question of whether a mandate is to be tolerated or not, it is clearly time for the high Olympian attitude of the Supreme Council to give place to the spirit of fellowship and common endeavour which underlies, or ought to underlie, the conception of the League of Nations. The chief purpose of the League is to secure and maintain international peace, and its covenant is built up on the idea of mutual trust and consultation. It would be, therefore, a strange irony if the first serious breach of the peace came about through the failure to give effect to the procedure that has been so carefully elaborated. We do not, however, advocate the summoning of yet another world gathering. The history of all the Allied Conferences since the Armistice has proved the difficulties, if not the hopelessness, of unwieldy meetings and the advantages of restricting discussions to the smallest possible number of representatives. Even at the recent Conference in London far more practical headway was made at informal meetings than at the official sessions. On this question of mandates, all that is required to remove occasion for friction is a direct exchange of views before misunderstandings grow into grievances, and grievances beget unrest or open conflict. The Emir Faisal strives to make a hit by calling attention to an apparent contradiction in the Treaty of Peace with Turkey. The fourth paragraph in Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, which is incorporated with the terms imposed upon the Turks, lays down that "the wishes of these communities [formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire] must be a principal consideration in the selection of the mandatory." The third paragraph in Article 94 of the Treaty of Sèvres states that "the selection of the mandatory will be made by the principal Allied Powers." It is, however, not impossible for the latter to select the mandatory while giving full consideration to the wishes of the communities concerned. The attitude of the Emir Faisal, who admits the need of European advice and assistance in Arab administration, together with the danger of the Arabs of Mesopotamia rejecting the mandate, of which the terms are unknown to them, merely suggests a misunderstanding that would yield to closer touch between the parties concerned.

The desire of the Supreme Council to regularise the mandatory system was praiseworthy; but one effect of its action has been to invest the scheme with terrors that would not be associated with a less formal relationship. Even in Great Britain the word "mandate" has aroused certain misgivings, and attempts have been made to create prejudice against the system on the ground that it exposes the Mandatory Power to imaginary commitments. As far as the draft mandates for Mesopotamia and Palestine are concerned, it is evident that these attacks have no more foundation

than the fears of the Arabs that their interests have been sacrificed. But the objection to the formal document or phrase is wide. In Persia we have seen an Anglo-Persian agreement cancelled amid every manifestation of popular approval, but simultaneously all its salient features have been carried into effect by the Government which insisted upon its withdrawal. A similar frame of mind has prompted the Egyptians to lay stress on the specific repudiation of the word "Protectorate," over and above the proposed treaty of alliance, which, by its very nature, would supersede the previous relationship. In regard to Mesopotamia, therefore, it is most necessary that no time should be lost in making clear to the Arab inhabitants, and indeed to the British public as well, that no ulterior motives lurk behind the terms of the mandate. There can be no obligation to wait until the Council of the League of Nations has approved the draft, or the British Parliament has ratified it. Drawn up by the British authorities, it gives effect to what would be the ordinary policy of Great Britain, even if no League of Nations existed. Most of the clauses have been framed for European consumption; those which will be the more closely studied by the Arabs have clearly been prompted by consideration for native susceptibilities. The difficulty in committing intentions to paper lies in the fact that safeguards against all eventualities must be inserted. There has been little opportunity to judge how an Arab administration in Mesopotamia will shape. But both the wording of the draft mandate and the declared policy of Great Britain are expressive of the hope that the country's progressive development as an independent State will be real and rapid. This aspect of British relationship to Mesopotamia can be brought home to the native population far more clearly by other methods than by the wording of the draft mandate. The key of the position is the fact that administrative advice and assistance are essential. The more easily the native authorities facilitate their grant and help to make them effective, with a view to curtailing the period of their operation, the better pleased Great Britain will be. Under such conditions neither the wording of the mandate nor the existence of the League of Nations need weigh heavily upon the land; and if the Arab Government feels that the terms of the mandate can be modified with advantage without impairing the progressive development of the country, it will find the Mandatory Power ready to lend a sympathetic ear.

The situation in regard to Syria and Palestine is, no doubt, more complicated than that of Mesopotamia. Behind the Emir Faisal's protests lies the hostility to France, for which the French Government cannot altogether divest itself of responsibility. It would be idle to enter here into the rights and wrongs of the quarrel. For the present France considers that her interests lie in riding rough-shod over Arab susceptibilities and in maintaining by force her hold upon the territory which she has claimed in spite of the previous understanding between Great Britain and the King of the Hejaz. In the interests of the Arabs themselves we can but hope that, having made their dignified protest, they will trust to the future to vindicate their claim. The world is not in the humour at present to distinguish between the grant of administrative advice and assistance and the policy of a mandate. It will, however, be able to decide very quickly whether the spirit of the mandatory system is being applied in the everyday administration of the territory. If it is, the day of complete independence will be drawing closer of its own accord; if the spirit of the mandatory system is lacking, it will be far easier to convince the Council of the League of Nations of the fact than to obtain a hearing at the present time from the Supreme Council. A recalcitrant attitude to-day can only retard the goal that the Arabs have in view. On the other hand, if they devote all their good will and talent to making a conspicuous success of Arab administration under the British mandates in Mesopotamia and Palestine, they will not only be advancing the cause of Arab unity in these territories, but will also be providing the surest means of rounding off Arab unification with the inclusion of their Syrian nationals.

NAZARETH.

An E.E.F. Impression.

This little hill-town was fortunately spared the worst horrors of war in September, 1918, though there was fighting in its streets and round its outskirts. Some three months later the plain across which one approaches it from the railway station at El Afule was still littered with the smaller flotsam and jetsam of a hurried retreat. Except for a few skeletons of horses, the relics consisted chiefly of papers—Army returns in German and Turkish, mess bills. An Army



[Photo by Capt. M. S. Briggs.]

NAZARETH: A STREET NEAR THE SYNAGOGUE.

newspaper in Turkish' caught my eye, then a bloodstained letter beginning "Lieber Willi." For the most part the fields of tares were stripped of everything valuable, either by the zeal of our own salvage troops or by the industry of the starving natives. But as we climbed the steep ravine up the hill to Nazareth we saw gun limbers, field kitchens, and motor-lorries lying overturned, thrown down there from the curving high road far above us. We found accommodation at the Hotel Germania, where the Teuton tongue was spoken still, and whence the German staff officers had so hurriedly fled only fifteen weeks before. But the landlady was hardly prepared for the arrival of visitors, and her larder could only provide black bread, eggs, honey, and tea. The streets, when we saw them next morning, furnished further tokens of the long occupation of the town as an enemy headquarters, for every other boy seemed to be wearing the cap or tunic of



THE MOUNT OF THE TEMPTATION.

Jebel Kuruntal, the square peak on the right of the picture, is the traditional site of Our Lord's forty days' fast. A Greek monastery is situated half way up the cliff,

an Austrian or German soldier, often adorned with regimental badges or numbers. Nazareth had been in these days a hospital centre, and large red crosses were painted on the roofs of the principal buildings. The story of how the Turks had treated the home of the Scotch doctor in the town, a man who for many years had laboured for the good of the people, is typical of all the other records of foolish and vindictive brutality that will go down in history. From his garden, some 1,400 feet above sea-level, we looked over a wide panorama of magnificent mountain scenery, the higher hills of Samaria lying before us. Like many other places in Palestine, but more so than most, Nazareth recalls in its situation and appearance the stone-built towns of some parts of Central Italy. Here are the great convents with their low-pitched pantile roofs and their bare flat façades. Cypresses rise from walled gardens full of flowering fruit trees. The rocky hillsides are terraced for vines. One might be in Umbria. Moreover, there is a freshness in the air very different from the sultry heat of the desert or the flat fields of the Egyptian Delta.

The photograph shows a typical paved street, steep and narrow, at the entrance to the Synagogue, a small building now used as a church by the Greeks. This is one of the Biblical sites that seem to have a claim of authenticity, the other being "Mary's Well" (*Ein Miryam*), in the lower part of the town, where, though the modern women of Nazareth draw their water in petrol tins from brass taps, we are justified in recognising the same spring that was in use for the same purpose nineteen hundred years ago. The remaining places of pilgrimage have no such ancient tradition, and are enclosed within great monasteries.

But to most of us it is sufficient to have seen the beautiful situation of this little mountain town, and to know that here, without a shadow of doubt, was the actual scene of Our Lord's youth and early manhood.

MARTIN S. BRIGGS.

A FISHERMAN-PHILOLOGIST.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

During the dark days of the war, when the Serbs were exiled to Salonika, there was a small colony of fishermen camped on an island in the malarial delta of the river Vardar, which runs a rapid and muddy course clean through Macedonia, reaching the sea between the towering height of Mount Olympus and the picturesque, cosmopolitan city of Salonika. These men, drenched with malaria, when not busy shivering from ague, were catching fish for the Serbian military hospitals.

I often used to ride through the interminable jungles of the plain and spend a pleasant evening with the little detachment of exiles. The fish they caught are hardly known in England; the favourite was the *som*, or *silurus*, a hideous beast, with broad flat head, tiny expressionless eyes, and great wide, gaping mouth, with a moustache of tentacles on each side. He is a very unprepossessing monster, and sometimes runs into 300 lb. in weight, when he can be quite a nasty customer. But he is at his best when running about 2 or 3 lb., and then the Serbs make a wonderful soup of him, which they call *alaska chorba*, very tasty, all spiced with hot peppers. Besides the *som* there is the *mren*, but he has soft meat, and is not so good to eat as he is to look at. A more familiar fish is the *sharan* or carp, which we despise at home, but in the Balkans is esteemed. After the great fire in Salonika, when food was scarce, carp was sold in the market at about 3s. a lb. or even more. Occasionally on a lucky day they would catch a *yasetra*, or sturgeon. As with us, this is a royal fish, and was sent to the Crown Prince.

The fishermen had their camp on a tiny islet in the middle of the branches of the delta; on punting across the lagoon, guests were met with a cheery welcome from the chief of the party, an unkempt, swarthy fellow, in tattered shirt and trousers that had once been white, bare feet, and an enormous straw hat. But in spite of his uncouth appearance, his manners were irreproachable, and his voice cultivated. He received his guests with admirable courtesy and unfeigned hospitality, saying that it was nice once more to talk with an educated man.

He explained that he was a Bosnian from Brod—that is, a Serb by blood, but an Austrian subject—and he was studying at Vienna when the war broke out. He at once fled across the river and joined the Serbian army as a volunteer to fight for the liberation of his oppressed people.

I asked him what his subject was. He answered quite naturally: "I am a Comparative Philologist."

Shades of Borrow! This romantic fisherman was a specialist in dead languages. He knew Old High German well, was perfectly at home in the labyrinth of Old Slavonic and the mysteries of Sanskrit, while, of course, he knew Greek and Latin too. In modern languages he was well provided, though he refused to call himself a linguist. In addition to his own crisp Serb, he knew perfect German and Italian, and could do quite good work in French and

had some smattering of English as well. When not busy catching fish or eating *som*, he spent his time in making an English dictionary for his own use, which he did in the most original way in the world, and, one would think, the least practical, at least for life in camp, where one's goods and chattels are the sport of every breeze. He had a lidless wooden tray, divided into little squares, like those boxes in which printers keep type. In each square he had a pile of little pieces of paper, cut to fit the compartment; on each piece of paper, written in a neat and microscopic handwriting, was a word, with all its shades of meaning. He carried a special pair of forceps for picking out the little tickets, which were hardly more than an inch square.

And so this fisherman-comparative philologist, when not stewing a savoury broth over a smoky fire, which kept away the myriads of mosquitoes, was diligently studying English literature, patiently passing away the time while waiting for happier days.

Belgrade, June 2, 1920.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF LORDS.

March 14.—Lord Islington asked whether an opportunity would be afforded Parliament to approve, or otherwise, the provisions of the Mandates for Mesopotamia and Palestine prior to their submission to the Council of the League of Nations at their coming session at Geneva. Lord Lamington also asked whether in accordance with Article 22 of the Covenant any steps had been taken to ascertain the wishes of the Arabs before the Mandates were divided by the principal Allied Powers, and asked for particulars and papers regarding the American Commission which visited Palestine and Syria in the spring of 1919. An important debate arose on these questions in which Lord Bryce, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Sydenham took part as well as the questioners. Lord Curzon replied in both cases. He stated that the report of the American Commission was never communicated to the British Government by the American Government, that it had never been published, and that there is no copy of it at the Foreign Office.

Dealing with the Palestine Mandate, he stated:—

I have no doubt Lord Lamington is perfectly right in saying that, if the Arabs of Palestine were consulted, they would prefer not to have the Zionists there at all. I think that very likely is the case, but as a great act of State policy it was decided, in the early stages of the War, to make a declaration which was associated with the name of Mr. Balfour. That declaration, whether it was right or wrong, has been accepted by the other Powers. It has been definitely incorporated and repeated in the terms of the Treaty of Sévres and it represents, therefore, not merely a British policy, but an Allied policy. The object of our Government, ever since that took place, has certainly been to reconcile the re-creation of what is called the national home for the Zionists in Palestine with the rights of the Arab people. That is a point to which, holding the views that I do—and my views are identical with those of the noble Lord about the Arabs—I attach supreme importance, and in so far as I have been concerned—and I have been a good deal concerned with the terms of the Mandate—my object, all the way through, has been in the direction of securing that full justice was given to the rights, and claims, and position of those who are a very large majority of the people of the country.

If the question of the Jews be left upon one side, I do not think there is any doubt at all that, given the desirability of a mandatory—and that, I think, will be universally conceded—the Arabs of Palestine would sooner have the British than they would have any other foreign State.

Dealing with Mesopotamia Lord Curzon spoke as follows:—

From the day when we went into Mesopotamia and when our victorious troops entered Baghdad, we—by “we” I mean the British Government, and I am sure I am speaking for the Coalition Government of which the noble Marquess and I were once members, as well as this one—have had no desire whatever except, in such form as might ultimately be proved to be possible, to create some form of Native Administration. We had abolished and removed the Turk. What had we to suggest in his place? Obviously, the Arab—the people of the country who had been misruled for centuries and to whom the Allies were giving a chance of independence. From the day of our first communications with King Hussein, followed by our first pro-

clamation at Baghdad, followed also by a series of Declarations to all the principal parties concerned, we have had no other solution in view but self-determination—Arab Government for what is a predominantly Arab country.

The thing has been prodigiously difficult, not only for the reason that I have named on previous occasions—namely, the almost complete absence of any trained Arabs to assume the Administration—but because, when we were three-quarters of the way through our task, there suddenly broke out a most dangerous insurrection, paralysing the efforts of the Administration, throwing everything once more into the military rut, and compelling an expenditure which, I quite agree, may have been to the last degree exorbitant, but which was forced upon a reluctant Government. That era is coming to an end. No one is more anxious than the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who has now assumed charge of those countries, to reduce military expenditure and the strength of the garrison to a minimum. It is what we all want. What we desire is to set up this Arab Administration without delay. I spent reams of paper and hours of time in the endeavour to construct, but an independent autonomous Administration cannot be set up in the East as easily as speeches can be made in this House. It is a matter that very likely takes months, and may even take years. Meanwhile, we cannot allow the whole country to fall into a raging chaos. That is simply the history of the whole thing. If any noble Lord really suspects that we have any sinister design, that we want to keep our hands on the country, or that we desire to do any of the other sinister things that appear in newspaper articles, I would ask him to believe me when I say that he is committing an error.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

March 16.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. A. Williams that it was laid down by the recent conference in London regarding the modifications of the Treaty of Sévres that Turkey should recognise the rights of Turkish Armenians to a national home on the eastern frontiers of Turkey, and that a Commission of the League of Nations should fix its boundaries; and, further, that special conditions had been arranged by the French for the protection and security of the Armenians in Cilicia.

March 17.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that no reply had yet been received from the Sultan of Egypt to the telegram addressed to him by the British Government regarding the official negotiations between the League and Egyptian representatives, but he added that the conferences would probably take place in May and that Lord Curzon will himself supervise the proceedings.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Proposed Bucharest Fair.

I understand that so far negotiations with regard to the holding of a British fair at Bucharest are in a very early stage, and that there is, in any case, no question of its being held for many months. Probably an endeavour will be made to hold it in the spring, or failing that, the autumn of next year. The earlier date would obviously be preferable, but if that be chosen there will be none too much time to spare, for the organisation will take every bit of twelve months if the fair is really to do justice to British trade. And the success of the exhibition will depend on the extent to which British firms support the efforts of the authorities to give them a really good opportunity in the markets of South-Eastern Europe.

The Indian Trade Crisis.

Merchants engaged in the Indian trade are at the present time in a most unenviable plight. They have their goods at Indian ports which are not being taken up, and while they are unable to obtain payment they are being pressed on the one hand by the banks, on the other by the manufacturers who are urging them to take delivery of further orders. The position is still more complicated by the fact that the banks have, generally speaking, curtailed further credit facilities, so that merchants are for the most part thrown on their own resources. It is all right for those firms with great reserves, but, unfortunately, all are not in that position. How those will fare who are not if some improvement does not take place quickly in the position it is difficult to see. If pressure can be brought to bear on Indian traders to meet their obligations the situation would speedily right itself. But there one comes up against what one might with justice term the white elephant of a 2s. rupee.

The Russian Agreement.

I fail to see how the trade agreement with Russia can have any practical results for a considerable time. Conditions in Russia as a result of the blessings of Soviet rule are now so chaotic that anything like ordered commerce is out of the question. Trade in these days can only be carried on by the most delicate machinery, and in Russia that machinery no longer exists, and must be recreated. Apart from that, it is open to grave question whether Russia has any large stocks for export, and if the answer is in the negative, it would be interesting to learn how it is proposed to pay for supplies from this country. The view I have given of Russian conditions is, it is true, entirely at variance with that emanating from official Soviet sources, but in the light of our experience of Bolshevik methods it is difficult to see how any great reliance can be placed on what is *prima facie* purely propaganda. Of course, if the position proves to be better than it would appear to be, the effect on world conditions will be most marked.

The Outlook.

Assuming that the new proposals for assistance to exporters prove to be thoroughly satisfactory, it must be borne in mind that the best export credits scheme that can be devised can only set the wheels of trade in motion. It cannot enable us to cope with foreign competition arising from lower costs of production. That is one of the great problems that will have to be solved before the trade position at home can possibly become satisfactory. Instance after instance has been recorded of late of contracts that have gone to other countries, simply because it was out of the question to obtain a reasonable quotation from British firms. Orders for locomotives for other parts of the Empire have been lost, while for coal, a most vital part of our export trade, countries in the Near East and other regions now look further afield. Coal is in some respects the crux of the problem. If an agreement can be arrived at with the miners on the question of wages, it would not take long to recover our lost markets for this commodity, while the reduction of the price of coal to something approaching an economic level would have an enormous effect on the whole industrial life of the country.

Critical Situation in the Sudan.

During the war a great demand arose for Sudan produce, and the trade returns expanded by leaps and bounds. Now, as will be seen from the report from our Khartoum correspondent, given on page 356, a vital change has come over the position, and instead of enjoying prosperity such as they had not known before, agriculturists there are faced with a most critical situation. Of the factors responsible for this the most important has been the rapid decline in values, the result of which is that agriculturists are faced with the prospect of heavy losses on present and future crops. Other potent causes are the shortage of labour and the high cost of fuel. Our correspondent points out that practically all available labour has been utilised in connection with Government projects, and the result is that labour is now able to make extortionate demands from the employers. The matter is obviously one which calls for action by the authorities, who cannot afford to allow the country's staple industry to suffer a set-back which would prejudice the work of development for a number of years.

Is Trade Assisted?

A letter which appeared in these columns recently criticising the assistance given by British officials to travellers in the Near East has brought down upon me various protests. The view is taken that the writer has done a great injustice to our representatives, who, speaking generally, are unsparing in their zeal for promoting British interests, and I am reproached for having allowed the letter to appear. As to that, I can only reply that the columns of this paper are open to every shade of opinion, and that criticism, even if unfounded, is apt to have a healthy influence in maintaining the standard of public services. Of course, we know that things are vastly different from conditions before the war, when anyone who wanted to complain could have found half a hundred grievances without difficulty, but even to-day it would be going too far to say that there is no room for improvement.

The A.P. Success.

As I anticipated, the Anglo-Persian issue proved an overwhelming success, the amount being largely oversubscribed. Of course the offer was a specially attractive one, for 9 per cent. preference shares so amply secured are not to be had every day for the asking, but even so, investors have of late shown themselves so shy, as in the case of the recent Sudan issue—or shall we say have had their activities so restricted by the crushing burden of taxation—that the result could not be accounted certain. As my readers are aware, the Anglo-Persian prospectus appeared in THE NEAR EAST, and it may be of interest to record the fact that every issue that has been given publicity in these columns has received the required support from the public. Company promoters are, as a rule, highly superstitious, and this record will probably appeal to them.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 6.

The Cotton Situation.

Responding to the popular demand, the Egyptian Government has just taken various decisions which should materially relieve the internal economic situation, and incidentally assist the smaller fellahen. At a special sitting held on Friday the Council of Ministers decided that the Government should purchase cotton in quantities not exceeding a maximum of one hundred kantars in each case, the price being fixed at 23 dollars per kantar for F.G.F. Sakellaridis and 16 dollars per kantar for Ashmuni, and being subject to alteration every week according to the fluctuations in the local market. At the same sitting the Council agreed to the National Bank advancing 15 dollars per kantar on Sakellaridis and 10 dollars per kantar on Ashmuni at an inclusive interest rate of 7½ per cent., the bank undertaking, in the event of the market price falling, not to call in the loans or ask for more cover before March 31, 1922; and it also approved of the Agricultural Bank being authorised to advance money on holdings of five feddans and under. In the latter case the Government gives its guarantee for these loans, as under the existing legislation small holdings are rendered inalienable, and the bank has hitherto been compelled to rule them out; while in the case of the National Bank it is understood that the Government is rendering itself responsible, within certain limits, for any loss which may eventually be suffered by the bank.

Although the policy of Government purchase at the present juncture has not been favoured by leading financial authorities and business men, it is possible that the Government will not run much risk in the matter, for there is reason to believe that the local price has been artificially depressed by local operators, and that the effect of the Government action in the long run will be to force the price up to a more reasonable level. Already the market has jumped 3 dollars on receipt of the news of the Government decision. Taken altogether, however, these measures cannot fail to alleviate the present state of stress which the agricultural masses, especially the smaller cultivators, are suffering, and that, after all, is the principal consideration.

SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, February 27.

Gloomy Agricultural Outlook.

The bright outlook of last spring has, unfortunately, given place to the utmost gloom and depression this year, and the hapless agriculturist is faced with a heavy loss on his present and future crops. Apart from the collapse of the various produce markets, the present situation is mainly due to the shortage of labour and the heavy cost of fuel. The vast Government projects in the Ghezireh have absorbed practically all available manual labour, and the natural consequence has been severe competition between the various Government Departments, local contractors, and cultivators, resulting in an extortionate increase of wage for both skilled and unskilled labour. The Sheikhs of villages and the various labour agents are in the happy position of demanding a premium of from PT 50 to PT 150 per head, according to the nature of the work involved and the locality, and the unfortunate would-be employer has either to submit

or see his undertakings indefinitely held up or hopelessly ruined.

In Khartoum Province the state of the crops is deplorable. Owing to lack of labour, it is practically impossible to gather all the cotton now lying on the ground, and, as the plants are in need of water, one is faced with the problem as to whether to gather the fallen cotton at the expense of the future pickings or to water the plants at the cost of losing the fallen cotton. The price of wood fuel has risen from 20 to 25 milliemmes in 1914 to 110 to 140 milliemmes per kantar of 100 rottles in 1921. This abnormal rise in price has been almost entirely due to the fact that the various Government pumping stations on the Blue Nile and in the Berber Province and also in the Khartoum Electrical Power-House have all been burning wood fuel. As a result, the Blue Nile in three years' time will be denuded of forest as far as Singa, and it is obvious that immediate steps should be taken to replace wood fuel by coal or liquid fuel in all pumping schemes north of and including Khartoum. The heavy railway freight levied on coal has made it a prohibitive type of fuel to the average cultivator, who is further handicapped by the transport charges on moving his produce by rail. As an example, freight on 315 rottles of unginned cotton from Khartoum to Port Sudan, works out at about PT 105. Assuming that the 315 rottles of raw cotton yield 100 rottles of lint after ginning, it will be seen that this charge alone works out at a trifle over 2½d. per lb.

Tractor Ploughing.

A series of very interesting demonstrations were carried out at Shambat Research Farm with a Fordson tractor and various types of Oliver ploughs. Three types of soil were experimented on with very satisfactory results. A eight-inch furrow was obtained with an Oliver disc-plough in heavy soil thickly matted with neghil roots, and a strip of land that had lain fallow for some 11 years, hitherto employed as a grazing ground and previously heavily flooded, was successfully ploughed to a depth of six inches. Amongst those present at the trials on the morning of the 25th inst., were His Excellency the Governor-General, the Assistant Director of Agriculture, the President and Vice-President of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce and a representative gathering of landowners and native cultivators, together with the representative of the Austin Tractor Company, and the demonstrators of the Fordson and Oliver Companies. The trials were an undoubted success, but certain doubts were expressed as to the probable life of the Fordson tractor, in view of the nature of the ground, climatic conditions, and the somewhat heavy hand of the native drivers. It is interesting to note that whilst a complete outfit for a 75-acre farm in the United States would cost 600 dollars, the same outfit would cost over £E650 in the Sudan, owing to the present rates of freight.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, March 3.

Russia's Debt to Roumania.

The various sums which Russia owes Roumania amount to about 18 milliard French francs in gold. This will be one of the main points which Roumania will broach when the negotiations at Reval with the Russian Soviets begin.

Electrification of Railways.

The Ministry of Communications has received from a French-Anglo-American group a proposal to utilise the hydraulic power of the river Bistritza for electrifying an important Roumanian railway line 700 kms. long, the same staff to be employed which worked on the electric railways in Southern France. This group is willing to accept as payment Roumanian Treasury Bonds payable in ten years, the annuities and interests to be paid in the shape of grain or sub-soil products transported by barges and ships provided by the group. This proposal is now being studied by a committee appointed by the Ministry.

Estimate of Autumn Sowings.

According to the Department of Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, the area of the autumn sowings up to January 1 in the old kingdom is as follows (in hectares):—Wheat, 1,100,000; rye, 42,000; barley, 29,000; and rape-seed, 5,000.

There is no doubt that the prospects have improved, for, taking wheat as an example, there is an increase of 300,000 hectares, or 38 per cent. as compared with the autumn sowings of 1919. It is true, however, that, compared with pre-war sowings, there is still a deficit of 800,000 hectares, or 42 per cent., but this difference will probably be lessened

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by the sowings which took place in January and by the spring sowings.

The situation in the new provinces for the same period is as follows (the figures representing hectares):—Bessarabia: Wheat, 220,000; rye, 63,370. Transylvania: Wheat, 521,700; rye, 75,400. Bukovina: Wheat, 9,500; rye, 12,970.

Miscellaneous.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce announces that the import of goods from Germany is now free, and that such goods will not be confiscated for the War Indemnities Account.

The Government is now investigating the question of reducing the excessively high export taxes on oil products.

The Ministry of Communications has closed a contract with the German firm Henschel and Son for the purchase of forty locomotives, Prussian type G.8.2, at the price of 2,450,000 marks.

The Economic Convention between Roumania and Czecho-slovakia has been concluded at Prague, having been signed by M. Hiotu, the Roumanian Minister there and M. Hottovetz, the Czecho-slovak Minister of Commerce. This convention has a temporary character, and is based on the most-favoured-nations principle; and, being "ad referendum," it has now to be approved by the Ministers' Council and ratified by Parliament.

GREECE.

ATHENS, March 8.

Export of Currants.

According to information supplied by the Greek Chamber of Commerce at Patras the quantity of currants exported from this country up to December 31 was 62,141 tons, as against 70,812 tons exported up to December 31, 1919. Of this total 46,318 tons were exported to the United Kingdom, as against 57,413 tons exported during the corresponding period in 1919; and 9,769 tons of currants were shipped to the United States, as against 5,751 tons.

ATHENS, March 12.

Indemnities for Damaged Property.

The Commission appointed by the Government in connection with indemnities claimed by the persons whose property was damaged or destroyed on the day of the announcement in Athens of the attempt on M. Venizelos's life in

Paris (August 13, 1920) has up to the present authorised the payment of the following sums:—To M. Vozikis, M.P., Governor-General of Thrace, 171,725 drachmæ; to M. Stratos, M.P., for damage done to his residence, 310,000 drachmæ; the *Nea Imera* will receive 250,000 drachmæ; the *Politia* 148,538 drachmæ; the *Astrapi* 70,000 drachmæ; and the *Rizospastis* (a Socialist journal) 102,265 drachmæ. The well-known Greek actress, Mlle. Marica Cotopouli, is to receive 350,000 drachmæ for damage done to her theatre in Omonoia Square.

There are a good many more claims which have not yet been dealt with by the Commission. The most important is that put in by Mme. Yanaro, wife of the editor of the *Esperini*, who has sent in a bill for 1,437,795 drachmæ. M. Skouloudis, the ex-Prime Minister, at whose house extensive damage was done on that eventful day, is claiming 1,183,850 drachmæ. The applications for indemnities so far received by the Commission represent a total sum of well over seven million drachmæ, and unless the Greek Government decides to present each claimant with an I.O.U., one cannot quite see where all this money will come from.

CYPRUS.

CYPRUS, March 5.

Favourable Crop Prospects.

The late rains have brought down from the hills an abundance of the fertilising *detritus* which annually enriches the great Mesaorian plain. The prospects for cereal crops are now all that could be desired in every district. The pastoral outlook for flock-owners is also excellent. The olive crop of last autumn was so abundant, especially in the Northern Kyrenia District, that a considerable surplus of olive oil is available for export. Cultivators are urging that Government should relax the rule which prohibits export of this oil. The price of this product has fallen, while the high cost of almost all other articles of consumption remains unchanged. The local production of olives and oil is generally insufficient for island needs, which are large, and Cyprus, which should export largely if the industry were what it should be, depends as a rule on a fairly large supply from outside. Carobs, of which a large quantity is being held, are fetching from £5 10s. to £7 a ton. Wines of the last vintage fetch from 30s. to 50s. the "load" of 128 oke, according to quality.

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THE BONDHOLDERS' REPORT.

Greek and Turkish Finances.

Turkey's financial position is the subject of interesting comment in the report of the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders, which has just been issued. We give the following extracts:—

Greece.

The total gross receipts in 1919 applicable to the service of the old gold loans amounted to 100,844,948 drachmæ against 67,450,699 drachmæ in 1918. The receipts from the monopolies and the stamp and tobacco duties, from which the plus values are derived, were 50,468,063 drachmæ and 36,264,901 drachmæ respectively—an increase of 14,203,162 drachmæ, or 39 per cent. above the highest previous figure. Including balances from the previous year, the net amount available for increase of interest and sinking fund in 1920 was 20,792,020 francs, against 9,111,172 francs. in the previous year, and out of this sum, as stated in the Council's last report, the interest on all the loans of the three groups was raised to the full original rate and the ordinary sinking funds of the three groups were increased by 30, 30, and 32 per cent. of the original interest respectively.

In 1920 the gross receipts were 123,662,708 drachmæ, and the proportion applicable to the plus values was 65,630,414 drachmæ. The sum available for increase of interest and sinking fund will permit of the payment, for the second year in succession, of the full interest on all the old gold loans, and of additions of 28, 28, and 26 per cent. of the original interest respectively to the three groups. It is difficult to say anything at the present time as to the financial condition and outlook in Greece, the future being so largely dependent on decisions of high policy. Recent political events, coupled with the withdrawal of financial support by the Allied Powers and the issue of a large amount of paper money without Parliamentary sanction or a corresponding gold reserve, have caused a very considerable fall in the value of the drachma.

Turkey.

In 1918-19 the gross receipts from the revenues assigned to the service of the Unified Debt amounted to £T6,830,304 (paper), as against £T6,087,495 (paper) in 1917-18. For 1919-20 the provisional receipts were £T7,735,630 (paper). No complete estimate of the receipts for the current year can be made, as all communications with Anatolia have been interrupted for some time past. The agencies of the Debt Administration are allowed to continue in office, but the proceeds of the revenues have been taken by the Nationalist Government, which gives the agencies a receipt therefor. When and how these forced contributions, for which the Turkish Government will be ultimately held responsible, will be returned is, of course, most uncertain.

It may, however, be of interest to mention that up to the end of November, 1920, the gross yield from the ceded revenues (exclusive of Anatolia) was about £T2,450,000 (paper), while interest on deposits and on the reserve fund, and the Debt Council's share in the profits of the Tobacco Régie, were expected to bring the total up to about £T3,850,000 (paper). In addition to this the receipts from Adrianople, Broussa, and Smyrna were reckoned at about £T1,160,000 (paper).

The arrears of interest on the Unified Debt, reckoned up to March, 1921, amount to £6,876,234, against which the Debt Council hold resources estimated, at the current rates of exchange, to amount to £2,800,000. The coupons due September, 1920, and March, 1921, amount to £1,324,695, but no definite information can be given at present as to the funds available to meet this additional charge. During the past year the edict of the Turkish Government forbidding the payment of coupons to subjects of enemy countries has been revoked. Payment of Unified coupons can now be obtained in Turkish currency, but it is not thought likely that many holders will avail themselves of the privilege.

The Council are informed that, with the consent of the respective Governments, provisional authority has been given by the acting Allied Commissioners at Constantinople to put into force the suspended tax on spirits, and that this should add considerably to the receipts of the Debt Administration. As regards the funds deposited in German banks during the war by the German, Austrian, and Turkish

delegates on the Debt Council, it was decided, early in 1921, by the present Debt Council to call in on deposit the eleven coupons on the Unified Debt due March, 1915, to March, 1920, inclusive, with the object of establishing with the Allied clearing houses the claim of the bondholders to the repayment of the money at pre-war rates. A payment on account at the rate of 1s. 3d. per coupon of 8 shillings was offered to bondholders depositing their coupons. Receipts reserving their rights were given in place of the coupons so deposited. As the funds in question (amounting to some 160,000,000 marks) represent money collected by the Debt Council as agents for the bondholders for the service of the debt, it seems to the Council that the bondholders have the strongest possible claim that the money should be repaid at the pre-war rate and not in the present depreciated currency of Germany.

THE BULGARIAN REPARATIONS COMMISSION.

The Bulgarian Reparations Commission was received in audience by King Boris at Sofia on March 11. Count de Cherisey, president of the Commission, in the course of his speech in presenting the members of the Commission to his Majesty, said:—"In the terrible calamity which has overtaken the world Bulgaria has been seriously affected. The country which I had known a few years ago in its full vigour, advancing rapidly towards more brilliant destinies, I find to-day in a most unhappy situation. To the regrets for the past, to the cruel losses, to so many mourners both public and private we add the uncertainty of the present and the fear of to-morrow. But while the present time has its difficulties it is gratifying to us to be able to note here the more favourable prospects of the future. We recognise the solid qualities of the Bulgarian race, its patriotism, its endurance, its invincible vigour in toil. We know the wealth of the soil, the abundance of its agricultural production, which assisted and well looked after ought rapidly to provide sufficient exports to re-establish the economic balance. We know we can count on the far-sightedness and energy of the statesmen who have charge of the destinies of Bulgaria during these difficult times. Lastly, Sir, permit me to say that we place our trust in the wisdom of a king, loved and respected by all, who represents to us to-day the radiant hope of his country."

Sir Elliot Colvin, British Delegate on the Reparations Commission, has accorded an interview to a representative of the *Zora*.

"The Commission," said Sir Elliot, "is not yet fully installed. It has so far held only two sessions, at which we have had under consideration the law on the application of the economic and financial clauses of the treaty which the Bulgarian Government has to carry out.

"Naturally, the first duty of the Commission is to provide for the application of these clauses, but we do not wish you to regard us as agents of the enemy come to distract on your property. The war is over, and we do not come here with designs against the Bulgarian people.

"The Commission has come to Bulgaria not only to collect the amount of the indemnities, but also to assist in repairing the ravages of the war. We count on the support of the Government and of public opinion in the accomplishment of our difficult task, and we hope that we shall be able to assist in the economic and financial recovery of Bulgaria. I hope that our presence here will not embarrass you; that it will be actually useful to your country. Beyond question our duty is to make demands, but we hope that you will arrange the matter so that the application of the Treaty will not hamper the economic development of the country."

In conclusion, Sir Elliot expressed the hope that all possible facilities would be given to Bulgaria, adding that the Commission was in the position of a doctor whose duty it was to aid in the complete restoration and in the return of the capacity for work of his patient.

Reuter's Agency has been informed by the Greek Legation in London that the Greek Ministry of Finance states that the coupon to be paid this year to the shareholders of Greek Government gold loans has, as it did last year, attained par.

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AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

GREAT SCOPE FOR DEVELOPMENT.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The land between the rivers will offer a vast field for agriculture when the irrigation works are fairly started, for the margin of cultivation will be steadily lowered over a wide area, bringing land into use that is at present lying idle. By degrees the land will be sorted out for crop-bearing, cotton giving the best results in one area, and wheat in another. And then there is the very important question of labour, of which more presently.

Mesopotamia has been described as the greatest undeveloped granary in the world; this can be easily explained with the aid of a few figures and some geography. Irak, as the Arabs call it, is larger than the Punjab. Of its 116,000 square miles about a quarter form Upper Mesopotamia, extending from Baghdad to Mosul, where the rainfall is just sufficient to keep wheat and barley under cultivation. The other three-quarters are swallowed up in the great plains of Lower Mesopotamia, with the three deltas of the Diala, the Tigris and the Euphrates. From Baghdad to the Persian Gulf it is as dry and thirsty a land as any in the Scriptures; scarcely three per cent. of the cultivable soil bears any crop up to the present, and the whole land cries out for the coming of the irrigation works that mean so much. The question of irrigation is, therefore, paramount in importance. Before the war Sir William Willcocks had outlined a scheme to irrigate seven millions of winter crops at a cost approximately of thirty millions sterling, and yield nine per cent. on the outlay, and this has still to be dealt with.

Upper Mesopotamia includes the fertile country of Arbil and the great wheat belt of Mosul, the total area under cultivation being roughly about half a million acres only. This could be pushed out very much farther on all sides by the free use of labour machinery to probably three million acres. The rainfall is normally twelve inches, just double what it is in Lower Mesopotamia, where cultivation is for the most part confined to the narrow belts and the marsh-land alongside the rivers.

Three areas are under irrigation up to the present—namely, the delta of the Diala River, a tributary of the Tigris, the Lower Euphrates, and the Shatt-el-Arab, the navigable channel of the combined waters of the Tigris and Euphrates between Kurna and Busreh. The Euphrates could be made to irrigate the whole of Southern Mesopotamia south and west of Baghdad, while the Tigris, it is contended, should be used for the country north of Busreh.

And, besides all this, there is the great province of Arabistan, with its immense possibilities for agricultural development, of which advantage has still to be taken. A million acres could be easily put under crops there by way of supplement to the output of Mesopotamia, many of the old canals being quite capable of repair. A proposal that has met with much approval favours an arrangement between the British Government and Persia to guarantee the autonomy of Arabistan, and so open the field for a big development in the future, under conditions that would attract cultivators. The opportunity is ours still, and it is to be hoped it will not be let slip or fall into other hands.

The question of labour is scarcely second in importance to irrigation, which is saying a good deal. The latest census returns show a total of 1,740,000 people in Lower Mesopotamia, dwelling outside towns and more or less directly engaged in agricultural pursuits. This allows a percentage of five per head of population to the acre. An even distribution on this scale would suffice with the aid of labour-saving machinery, which on large estates will be a necessity in the future. Landowners have been inconsistent in their demands for tractors, and trials have been lately carried out at Baghdad.

On land controlled by new irrigation projects the necessary labour will have to be obtained by attracting the nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes. This will naturally take time—possibly a considerable time—but there is no reason to doubt that this problem will be solved for the benefit of Mesopotamia. The Arab, it must not be forgotten, is a nomad mainly through force of circumstances and the long misrule of the Turks. Fortunately for us, he has on the whole a respect for British methods, and knows very well that at any rate they generally bring stable government and reasonable security of tenure; also they involve a totally different system of taxation to that which has hitherto prevailed. All these things considered, he is likely to settle down to agriculture without any trouble, and he will do it all the sooner because he knows that he will be able to reap where he has sown under the British raj.

One of the chief obstacles to progress has always been the system of taxing land on the basis of percentage of gross profits, which results in putting a premium on inferior cultivation and is fatal to any spirit of enterprise. The whole question is now being reviewed in the light of such desired improvement as a fixed assessment subject to periodical revision.

Reference is often made to the salt lands in this part of the world. This is a feature common to all arid countries where the upward action of the soil is not mitigated by rainfall. It can be effectually counteracted by drainage, and where salt has caused sterility, reclamation by washing is a simple process of cure. The salt here is common salt, and the problem of its treatment is largely a question of drainage rather than of reclamation.

Before the war there was a considerable export of barley from Busreh under the name of Persian barley, which is used mainly for brewing purposes. Having a shorter season than wheat, barley easily matures on less water, is less liable to disease, and is better able to withstand the concentration of salts in the soil. There is likely to be a large increase in this crop in the future.

Rice is extensively grown in the south, the tribes engaged in that branch of industry being reputed the richest and likewise the most stable element in the population. Sugar beet is another crop of which more will be heard, and the cultivation of ground-nuts is being taken up in some quarters with success, but, of course, on a limited scale.

Flax offers a promising field. It is cultivated near Busreh, chiefly to furnish fishing lines and nets, but the industry is capable of considerable extension. Recently a small experimental area was grown at Baghdad and was found to yield very good results. In past days silk was a valuable cottage industry, and efforts are being made to revive it. The wool of Mesopotamia has always been accounted amongst the best in the East; the export exceeds four millions of rupees.

The mainstay of Lower Mesopotamia is the date trade. This forms the principal export from Busreh, the value running into 22 million rupees, but the trade might be greatly increased by a free use of fancy packings. The date can be cultivated with success from Fao to Anah on the Euphrates and Beled on the Tigris.

The one valuable mineral the country produces is oil. The oil belt appears to extend along the foot of the Persian boundary from one end to the other. From the agricultural standpoint its great importance lies mainly in the prospect it opens up for development. A cheap supply of oil fuel is indispensable for the employment of labour-saving machinery and extending transport facilities.

ORANGE-BOX MAKING IN PALESTINE.

Orange boxes are made in Jerusalem of lumber usually imported from Roumania and Austria, but recently Norwegian and Swedish lumber has been used, says an American Consular report. Some of this material comes sawed to the sizes required, and some is sawed at Jaffa. The dimensions of the sawed boxes are as follows:—Length, 68 centimeters (26.77 inches); width, 32 centimeters (12.59 inches); height, 27 centimeters (10.62 inches). One partition is used. The thickness of the ends and partition is 16 millimeters (0.65 inch); thickness of the sides 8 millimeters (0.314 inch); thickness of tops and bottoms 7 millimeters (0.27 inch). The box itself weighs about 4½ kilos (10 pounds), and its contents about 33 kilos (72.75 pounds). Since the Armistice the price of lumber has declined, and still greater reductions are expected, which restricts purchases to immediate requirements. The orange season in Palestine lasts from November to March, and contracts for lumber are made in the summer for delivery in August and September.

With a view to encouraging the cultivation of cotton in Palestine, cotton has been exempted from payment of tithe for a period of two years, commencing April 1.

It is understood that a United States firm has contracted with the Greek Government for the supply of window frames and doors for houses to be built in Macedonia.

It is announced that an aeroplane service is to be established shortly by Italian seaplanes between Brindisi, Corfu, Crete, Derna, and Alexandria.

The shipping entering Algerian ports in 1920 show an advance of 1,197 ships of 1,068,082 gross tonnage, and 1,496,756 tons of merchandise, on that of 1919.

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ENGINEERING.

Problem of Coal Storage.

It is not clear whether the presence of a larger percentage of dirt, slate, shale, etc., in stored coal, an increase due to the lack of care in picking at the pit-head, has anything to do with liability to heat and fire, but it is evident that it is more difficult to store coal now than formerly. The chief mechanical engineer of a large Government undertaking said recently that the whole problem of coal storage depends on this question of heating and subsequent spontaneous combustion, and any facts that can throw light on this somewhat obscure phenomenon are of more than usual interest and value. Amongst other points, it would be interesting to know whether low-grade coal is more liable to fire than coal of fine quality; whether the presence of more or less oily shale leads to increased heating; and whether the presence of damp has a similar effect. These are only three of the more important queries to which definite answers have not as yet been forthcoming, and I shall be glad to hear from readers who have definite practical information on those matters.

It appears certain, from a series of tests and investigations carried out over a period of some ten or a dozen years, that if fine coal is kept out of the pile, the heating surface is so relatively small that no cause exists for this spontaneous ignition. Put in another way, it would seem that where fine coal is absent there is a greater amount of air insulation present in the coal-stack, and that this has a deterrent effect on the heating. Mr. O. P. Hood inclines, however, to the former view, and appears to find something deleterious in connection with coal-dust itself, an opinion which does not appear to me to be exactly justified. However, the point is not of vital importance. The presence of fine coal is full of danger, whatever may be the direct cause of the heating.

These remarks about fine coal, however, must not be taken as relieving a coal-user from any and every source of anxiety, provided he orders large, lump coal from the pit. The essential factor is not how much fine coal is ordered, but how much actually gets into the coal-stack. In these days of careless and utterly irresponsible labour, it is a fact that coal bought as lump at the mine is so carelessly handled that by the time it reaches the consumer it may be in far from its original condition.

The results of the tests and investigations mentioned go to show that a unit of area of the coal surface in a pile generates a certain amount of heat, provided it can find combining materials. The amount of heat generated depends upon the temperature of the piece of coal, by which is meant that if coal is put into storage at a temperature of, say, 80 degrees, it will generate much more heat per unit of surface than if it be put into storage at a temperature of, say, 60 degrees. In general, as Mr. Hood says, the rate at which chemical reactions proceed doubles for every 10 degree rise in temperature. If this general statement applies in this case, an increase of 20 degrees in temperature means a four-fold increase in the amount of heat generated. It has already been a matter of observation that coal stored during the hot months of the summer and in heated areas is much more liable to spontaneous combustion than that stored in cooler situations and during the colder months of the year.

Another factor which is seldom given full consideration, but which is of more than usual importance, is the freshness of the surface exposed to the air. A freshly broken surface of coal has a rate of heat generation that is a function of the particular kind of coal. That rate, which is practically zero with anthracite, is most rapid with what may be termed younger coals, being particularly marked in the case of those coals found in the tertiary formations, and which are usually known as brown coals or semi-lignites. The quantity of oxygen contained in the coal seems to be the fairest measure of this rise in the rate of heat generation, although this is not to be regarded as an infallible indication. In regard to this the coal surface apparently becomes satisfied in time, and the heat produced falls to an almost inappreciable amount.

Since the rate of heating increases with the temperature, it is evident that if the heat generated is not removed the process becomes a progressive one, in which case the amount of heat generated, instead of falling or, at any rate, remaining practically constant, will tend to rise as time goes on. When the heat cannot escape, the rise in temperature more than makes up for the ageing of the coal surfaces. Thus the coal, which would be more inert with the progress of time, only becomes more disposed to catch fire.

One of the most pertinent facts that stands out in connection with this phenomenon of coal ignition is that a coal pile is cooled by radiation and by movement of air through the pile. Mr. Hood gives the following illustration: Suppose that coal were delivered in four uniform sizes and piled in a conical form by dropping it from a single point. The natural arrangement of particles would be such as to

furnish a foundation, over nearly the whole pile, of larger sized pieces, whilst the lower flanks of the pile would likewise be of the larger sizes. Nearly all the smaller pieces would be in the central core of the pile and form the top of the cone. In the region of large pieces air would move freely, and the coal surface exposed would be a minimum; hence there would be little likelihood of heating. In the centre of the pile the movement of air would be small, whilst the amount of heating surface would be great. If the fine coal should happen to be so densely packed as to prevent a movement of air, there would be no heating, because there would be no supply of oxygen to combine with the active surfaces. If there should be sufficient ventilation, such heat as might be generated would be carried away and dissipated as quickly as it was formed.

The Motor Trade.

I am informed by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders that Mr. Albert Brown has been elected first chairman of the new factors' section of the society. The election of the chairmen of the various section committees takes place periodically, and I understand that the following is the complete list:—Accessories and components, Mr. W. Peto, in succession to Mr. S. D. Begbie; agricultural machinery, Mr. H. G. Burford, re-elected; body builders, Mr. G. H. Thrupp, re-elected; cars, Mr. E. M. C. Instone, re-elected; commercial vehicle (petrol), Mr. F. Churchill, re-elected; electric vehicle, Mr. W. Hixson, re-elected; factors, Mr. A. Brown; foreign car manufacturers and concessionaires, Mr. A. S. Mays-Smith, re-elected; marine, Mr. A. Perman, in succession to Mr. H. W. Hutchinson; pneumatic tyre, Mr. T. H. Woollen, re-elected; solid rubber tyre, Mr. A. Bonsor, in succession to Mr. Beckwith, deceased; steam vehicle, Mr. G. Hoare, re-elected.

'Season Cracking.'

Certainly one of the most interesting as well as most valuable papers read before the Institute of Metals was that of Messrs. Moore and Beckinsale on the "Season Cracking of Brass and Other Metals." Numerous specimens of brass have come to my notice in which season cracking has occurred, and the whole subject has a commercial importance of great magnitude. An investigation has been made into the causes of this, and also as to the mechanism of the process by which the cracks form and develop; and amongst the more important conclusions reached are certainly the following. Season cracking occurs in a great variety of industrial brasses, differing widely in composition, degree of purity, microstructure, and physical properties, but occurs only in material which is maintained in a state of stress, either by external constraint or more commonly by internal stress.

Corrosion of the surface, and sometimes of the walls of the cracks, is frequently associated with season cracking, but corrosion effects are not always visible. Season cracking may occur in brass coated with continuous protective layers such as lacquer, though nickel-plating is probably completely effective in preventing season cracking if a sufficient and continuous coat of nickel is secured. Highly-stressed articles capable of developing season cracks in certain conditions may be kept for years in reasonably pure atmospheres without showing any sign of cracking, and there appears to be no reason to anticipate the development of cracks so long as the condition of the surrounding atmosphere does not change. At the same time, some agency additional to the presence of initial stress appears to be necessary for the development of season cracks; and surface defects do not appear to contribute to the development of season cracks in brass to any important extent, and corrosion does not necessarily favour their development.

Mercury, ammonia, and ammonium salts readily produce cracks in brass which is sufficiently stressed in tension. It is probable that traces of ammonia in the atmosphere are an important agency, and possibly the main agency, inducing season cracking of stressed brass.

Season-cracks almost invariably follow an inter-crystalline path, and the cracks produced in stressed brass by mercury or by ammonia are of the same inter-crystalline type. Ammonia appears to have a specific and selective action upon the inter-crystalline material of brass, weakening it sufficiently to cause cracking if in tension. Mercury has a similar inter-crystalline weakening action. The greater the degree of hardening by cold work the less is the brass affected by the inter-crystalline weakening action of ammonia or mercury, although it is probable that weakening may occur whatever the degree of hardness of the brass.

It is probable that the behaviour of a copper alloy submitted to the combined effect of tension and of ammonia or mercury is a reliable index of its liability to fail by season-cracking. This liability appears to diminish as the zinc content of the brass is reduced. Copper and zinc-copper alloys containing less than about 10 per cent. of zinc are unlikely to fail by the development of season cracks in service.

A suitably controlled low temperature annealing which will remove stress sufficiently to ensure freedom from season-cracking with little or no effect on the hardness appears to be the most effective safeguard against failure by season-cracking, and might well be applied to all brass articles made by cold-work operations capable of inducing permanent internal stress.

This study of season-cracking and of the action of mercury and ammonia on stressed brass affords strong support to the hypothesis of an intercrystalline material differing essentially in its properties from the crystals themselves. For example, in a pure alpha brass the intercrystalline material appears to be attacked by ammonia or by mercury much more rapidly than the crystals. The presence, on spun cups and on other cold-worked articles, of a layer which retards the intercrystalline weakening action of both mercury and ammonia, is an interesting confirmation of the view that the intercrystalline material is similar in its properties to the amorphous film produced by surface flow.

The undoubtedly intercrystalline character of season-cracks in brass appears to be fully explained by the selective weakening action of a chemical substance on the intercrystalline material. The authors are unable to find in the results of their work any evidence indicating that season-cracking is the result of viscous flow of the intercrystalline cement. In this particular their view of season-cracking in brass differs from that of Rosenhain and Archbutt, although there is agreement in so far as their explanation is also based on the assumption of an intercrystalline material probably identical in its properties with Beilby's amorphous phase found in surface films.

Motorists' Night Telephones.

The Automobile Association informs me that it has installed over 50 sentry boxes along the main roads of the country, in which are fitted telephones for the use of members. During the past eighteen months members have been provided with special keys, enabling them to open the boxes and use the telephones at night time, after the A.A. road patrol in charge has gone off duty. This day and night roadside telephone service has proved of considerable convenience, particularly after dark, when roadside troubles have occurred, or when it has been necessary to call up an hotel, etc., in advance of arrival.

To enable members more easily to locate these telephones after dark, the Association has for some months past experimented with systems of illumination. The first A.A. roadside telephone box to be illuminated is that situated on the Epsom Road, near Ashted. The Association has decided similarly to illuminate the "Phone" signs attached to all A.A. roadside telephone boxes, except in cases where the boxes are well indicated by public lighting services.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Market More Cheerful.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

Although there has been no distinct change in the situation, the tone of the market since a week ago has been rather more cheerful. In some quarters the opinion is gaining ground that the bottom in prices was touched early this month, but at the same time sellers cannot fully convince merchants that lower rates will not prevail in manufactured goods. Many manufacturers believe that no really great improvement will come about until the costs of production are substantially lowered, and it is anticipated that in about two months a drastic cut will be made in cotton operatives' wages. It is estimated that in the weaving section the output is not more than 25 per cent. of the full capacity of the looms. With regard to cloth, buyers for Egypt have not shown any particular inclination to commence operations, and recent advices from that outlet point to it being overcrowded with Lancashire goods. Still, here and there some small business has been transacted, but no big step forward can be made until the stocks of dear goods are liquidated. Buyers for Constantinople have merely looked on. In American yarns a few miscellaneous transactions have occurred in extra hard descriptions for the Levant. Undoubtedly the most promising cloth outlet is Calcutta, and fair lines of dhooties have been booked. China has been very quiet. Business with the South American outlets has been practically suspended. Operations in Egyptian spinnings remain limited. Isolated contracts have been mentioned in 60's twist at cut prices.

H.M. Minister at Belgrade reports that according to an order published in the official Gazette by the Minister of Finance the replacement of 1 and 2 kronen notes will begin as soon as possible, in order to withdraw them completely from circulation. Until this is done no Government pay-office shall receive from one person at one time more than 50 kronen in 1 and 2 kronen notes, which will only be accepted if stamped by Government authorities authorised to do so.

INTERNATIONAL COTTON STATISTICS.

HALF-YEARLY RETURNS.

Mr. A. S. Pearse, the general secretary of the International Cotton Federation, has published statistics relating to the consumption of cotton throughout the world during the half-year ending January 31, 1921, and stocks of cotton in spinners' hands on February 1, 1921. Since the armistice it is the first occasion that Austria and Russia have participated in the census. The only country of note which has not reported in time is China, otherwise the tables include the whole world. In view of the present crisis in the cotton industry throughout the world, questions were introduced in the inquiry forms asking for the number of spindles stopped, and the hours during which they were idle. These points have been answered satisfactorily by most countries, and the following reports have been received:—

England.—Out of the 56,351,570 spinning spindles existing at the present time returns from 51,382,892 spindles have been received, and of these 40,337,522 spindles have reported short time to the extent of 369.33 hours. The figures indicate that during the last half-year practically the entire industry has been suspended for a period of over six weeks of forty-eight hours.

France.—The French Federation state that a very careful calculation shows that the total number of spinning spindles in France is 9,600,000, and that in this figure are included 1,375,000 spindles completely stopped owing to the ravages of the war. According to particulars received, the mills, by running short time, suspended work during the half-year to the extent of 2.3 weeks of forty-eight hours.

Germany.—There exists in the whole country 9,400,000 spindles, and 9,150,541 spindles have made returns, of which 2,750,000 were stopped during the half year. This is equal to the suspension of the entire industry during 7.5 weeks of forty-eight hours in the half-year.

Russia.—This is now only the fourth largest cotton-spinning country of Europe, possessing altogether 7,100,000 spindles. Of these only 750,000 were working on January 31, 1921, and 6,350,000 spindles were stopped during the six months under review.

India.—Short-time figures have not been obtainable. As the six months' cotton consumption is considerably higher than half of last year's consumption, it is evident that India, with her 6,763,076 spindles, has not worked short time at all, or very little.

Japan.—There are 3,803,596 spindles in the country, and replies have been received from 3,077,279 spindles. During the half-year the average of idle spindles was 674,582; and 523,886 spindles worked short time twenty hours per week during the half-year.

United States.—The number of spinning spindles is 36,051,000, of which 31,509,021 only were active. At the end of December 1920 there were over 6,000,000 spindles idle in the United States. This figure was reduced at the end of January, 1921, to 4,541,979.

With regard to the statistics relating to the consumption of cotton, the Federation in the past has only secured these figures once a year, at the end of July. In comparing the present consumption figures with those of the previous tables, it must be borne in mind that the new figures relate to six months, whilst the previous figures cover a period of twelve months. During the six months ending January 31 Great Britain consumed 1,197,075 bales, Russia 520,750 bales, Germany 393,080 bales, Italy 393,967 bales, and France 316,231 bales, the total consumption throughout the world being 7,720,446 bales. On February 1 spinners in Great Britain held stocks of cotton of 317,571 bales, Russia 136,900 bales, Germany 131,986 bales, Italy 170,304 bales, and France 113,617 bales.

The Civil Government of Palestine has disbursed within a period of seven months a sum of £145,100 for the purposes of agricultural loans.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended February 28 amounted to £E8,522; total for year £E545,874. For the corresponding period of 1920 receipts amounted to £E10,605 and £E359,723 respectively.

In a message dated March 18 Reuter's Ottawa correspondent states that, questioned in the House of Commons as to the report of the possibility of Roumania repudiating her indebtedness to Canada, Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance, said that all Roumania had asked for was to defer the payment of interest. It was the intention of the Government to collect the debt.

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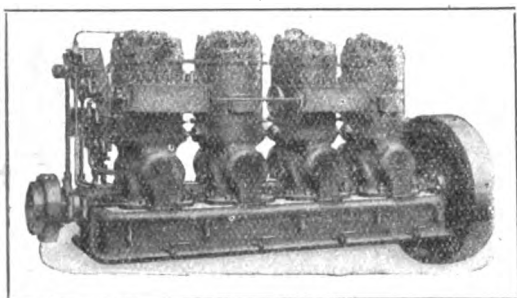
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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has expanded considerably during the past week. Currants have been a good feature, and practically all varieties have advanced in price. Sultanas have been in strong demand, and rates are higher. Persian dates are going into consumption fairly well, while figs continue in good request.

Sugar.—There has been no change in prices. West Indian crystallised has been done at 60s. to 62s. 6d., while American granulated is the same at 67s. Home refined has been in good demand at the official rates.

Coffee.—The futures market has been firm. Quotations are:—March, 37s.; May, 38s.; July, 38s.; September, 40s.; December, 41s.

Oilseeds.—The market has shown an upward tendency. Indian linseed has gained 6d. at 18s. Rapeseed has been steady, with Toria at 17s. 6d., and bold Ferozepore at 16s. 6d., increases of 3d. and 6d. respectively. Brown Cawnpore is 6d. up at 14s. 6d. Cottonseed has been quiet, with Egyptian black at 12s. 6d. and Egyptian Sakellarides at 11s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Oils have been variable. Linseed oil is unchanged at 29s. 6d. Rape oil at 46s. is 1s. down. Refined cotton oil remains the same at 40s., but the Egyptian crude variety is 1s. up at 31s. Turpentine is 5s. lower at 50s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 180s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 298s. 8d. cwt.; cheese, 161s. cwt.; chillies, 115s. cwt.; eggs, 22s. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 81s. 3d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 107s. 6d. cwt.; East Indian bold, 112s. 6d. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 94s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 36s. 3d. cwt.; hams, 160s. cwt.; lard, 107s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 1s. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 3½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 110s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 107s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 86s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 67s. 10½d. cwt.; No. 1 cubes, 72s. 3d. cwt.; Mauritius, 66s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 22s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 12s. 9d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 14s. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £5 ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 6½d. lb.; Java, 3d. lb.; wheat (Austrian), 86s. 3d. qr.; wheat (English, white), 92s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 79s. 3d. qr.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 10½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 9½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £24 11s. 3d. ton; arsenic (white-powdered), £47 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 132s. 6d. cwt. Potassium: Bi-chromate, 11½d. lb.; chloride, 6½d. lb.; caustic, £48 15s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 7½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £34 10s. ton. Sodium: Crystals, 150s. ton; bi-carbonate, £10 15s. ton; bi-chromate, 7½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 5s. ton; chloride, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £20 12s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £33 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 5½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 6½d. oz.; red lead, £36 10s. ton; white dry lead, £41 15s. ton; white ground lead, £52 ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulus), £39 12s. 6d. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £65 15s. ton; copper (electro), £71 10s. ton; gold bars, 105s. 3½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 150s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 180s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £18 10s. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 9d. unit; molybdenite, 55s. unit; nickel, £202 10s. ton; platinum, 320s. oz.; plumbago, £35 ton; quicksilver, £12 7s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 31d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 10s. ton; tin (standard), £151 15s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 28s. 3d. box; wolfram, 14s. 3d. unit; zinc sheets, £37 ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer: first, 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 5½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; cows: first, 60 lbs. and up, 3d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 2½d. lb.; cows: second, 60 lbs. and up, 2½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 2d. lb.; bulls (first), 2½d. lb.; bulls (second), 1½d. lb.; kips (first), 3½d. lb.; kips (second), 2½d. lb.; kips (third), 2d. lb. Calcutta Market.—Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides, cows: Agras, 8.0 to 13; Durbhargas, 5.8 to 6.8; Patnas, 4.8 to 5.8; salted cows, 2.8 to 5.8; arsenic hides (buffalo), 2.8 to 7.0; Skins: calf, 6.0 to 8.0; goat, 130.0 to 160.0 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 7.55d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian Sakellaridis), 11s. 6d. cwt.; linseed (La Plata), £16 12s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £17 5s. ton; soya beans, £12 5s. ton; palm kernels, £19 ton. Oils: Linseed, £30 2s. 6d. ton; soya, £33 ton; cotton (crude), £30 13s. ton; olive, 12s. gallon; ground nuts, £40 ton; palm, £36 ton; rape (crude), £47 ton; petroleum, 2s. 4d. gallon; turpentine, 57s. 6d. cwt. Rubber: Plantation No. 1 crepe, 1s. 0½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 10½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11½d. lb.

Figures prepared by the Roumanian Bureau of Statistics show that in Bessarabia during 1920 the production (in metric quintals) of wheat was 4,848,297, of rye 959,596, of barley 5,766,079, of oats 1,012,415, and of maize 5,327,711.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended March 17:—Steadiness has again characterised our market during the past week, and although the volume of actual business remains at about the same level, the situation seems a little healthier taken all round, and the voice of the confirmed pessimist is not so frequently heard on 'change as it used to be. The measures taken recently by the Egyptian Government to assist cultivators are bearing fruit, inasmuch as confidence in the trade, which has of late been so sadly lacking, now shows distinct signs of being restored. Some "distress" cotton, which has been lying heavily on the market, is fast disappearing, and the hardening in the basis referred to last week has been well maintained and a much improved inquiry has been in evidence. The Continent and also America have each supplied their quota, but the latter, so far, has shown but little disposition to buy. Manchester continues to withhold her support, and reports from that centre are often widely divergent, so that one hardly knows what to believe. To-day's official advices, however, indicate that there is considerably more doing. A very small amount of c.i.f. business has been transacted at hardening rates. Total sales, 900 bales. Quotations of fair, good fair, and good Sakellaridis are raised 50 points.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in February:—

Wheat and Barley.—The weather, on the whole, was favourable and the water supply sufficient. The plants look healthy and the crop prospects are satisfactory. A considerable proportion of the early-sown crops is now in ear. Watering and manuring were the chief operations during the month under review. Slight attacks of rust and smut have been noticed nearly everywhere.

Beans.—The weather was favourable, though in a few localities winds have caused flower-shedding. There was an ample supply of water, and the fields were being watered during the month. The crop is looking well, and pod-forming is general. Green pods continued to be gathered for human consumption. Insignificant attacks of broomrape (Halook) are reported from all provinces. Blight and rust have also been noticed in some localities.

Helba.—The weather was, on the whole, favourable, and the water supply ample. Pod-formation is now general in early-sown fields, and the yield is expected to be about average.

Onions.—The crop is approaching maturity, and a good average yield is expected.

Lentils.—Pod-formation is progressing. The yield is expected to be a little above average.

Bersim.—The second and third cuttings are being taken, while drees-making started in some provinces. It seems that, owing to restriction of cotton areas, some of the catch-crop is being left as permanent bersim.

Cotton.—The preparation of the land for this crop is considerably behind-hand except in the provinces of Behera and Minufiya and in some of the larger estates elsewhere. Sowing is particularly late, as the farmers do not seem to have made up their minds definitely regarding the extent of cotton to grow in view of the present depression.

BULGARIA'S SURPLUS CEREALS.

According to information supplied by the Bulgarian Minister in London the Bulgarian State Consortium for Cereals has the following stocks available for disposal:—In the Danubian ports, all 1919 harvest—2,000 tons of millet, 2,600 tons of barley, 340 tons of oats, 730 tons of rye. At Varna and Bourgas, all 1920 harvest—5,000 tons of wheat, 1,000 tons of barley, 1,000 tons of rye, 200 tons of chick peas, 1,500 tons of haricot beans.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the fortnight ended February 19:—

The sales during the past two weeks amount to 21 cases of manufacturing opium at 12s. to 15s. as to quality and strength. Our exchange to-day is 585 piastres per pound sterling for cheque and 0.67 dollars for one Turkish pound of piastres 100. The arrivals are 1,210 cases against 1,490 at same date last year, and our stock to-day in first and second hands is 1,196 cases.

The use of kerosene oil stoves and heaters in Palestine has greatly developed recently, owing to the high price of coal and fuel wood.

All persons exporting goods from Bulgaria are obliged to cede to the National Bank, for the benefit of the State Treasury, one-third of the value of their exports in foreign currency at a special rate, which will not, however, be less than 20 per cent. lower than the Bourse rate. The export of Bulgarian bank notes, bonds, State and municipal coupons, etc., is forbidden, as well as those of the National and Agricultural Banks; also gold and silver coins.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

HAIFA.

The report for January states :—The prevailing crisis and the monetary stringency continue to influence unfavourably the general situation of our district, the agricultural products of which remain in part unsold.

Fearing a new fall in cereals, some merchants have deemed it to be expedient to despatch some consignments of lentils, chick peas, and sesame to the ports of Syria and the Lebanon, where prices are slightly more remunerative than elsewhere. Altogether a quantity of 450-500 tons of these goods has been exported to these places during the month for realisation at current prices. In view of the unfavourable economic situation of Palestine, the regulations of the authorities regarding the prohibition of the export of cereals only apply to wheat; other articles can be freely exported.

The abundant rains which we have had of late promise a good harvest. The area of land sown is greater than ever before, and it may be anticipated that the forthcoming crops will be abundant, enabling a large part to be set aside for export. Imports continue to be strictly limited to the needs of the district.

STAMBOUL, March 5.

The Constantinople market has presented scarcely any change during the past week. Some small sales have taken place for the towns of the Anatolian littoral as well as for Roumania. Imports have markedly decreased despite the decline of prices in Europe.

Colonial Produce.—Sugar.—Some cargoes from Holland and Antwerp have not found purchasers here, which has further depressed prices. Dutch sugar in transit is quoted at £37-38 per ton, and in Customs at £T34 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—The market is quiet, with a tendency to fall. Quotations per oke for coffee in transit are : Rio Ps.42, Santos 45, inferior grades Ps.25.

Rice.—Prices have again fallen following large arrivals from Rangoon and Egypt. Quotations are : Saigon No. 1, for shipment at Marseilles, 90 francs per 100 kilos; inferior qualities, 75-80 francs per 100 kilos. Here Saigon rice in transit is quoted at Ps.13-14½ per oke, and in Customs Ps.15-15½ per oke.

Exports.—Complete stagnation continues to rule in the market. The sales of the week amount to about 500 bales of mohair.



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ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

It seems impossible to hope for settled conditions on the Stock Exchange, and last week we reverted from buoyancy to the uncertainty with which in recent weeks we have been so familiar.

Gilt-edged stocks have been firm, though they are closing somewhat below the best. Consols are 47½, the Five per Cent. War Loans closed at 86 9-16, while Victory Bonds stand at 77½, in all cases advances on last week's rates. Foreign bonds have been variable, Germans hardening on the result of the Upper Silesian plebiscite.

The Industrial group has been rather featureless, and changes have not been of any outstanding importance. Oils have been heavy, but Rubbers, after an indifferent opening, are responding to a slight hardening in the price of the raw commodity.

In Near Eastern securities, which rank among Government stocks, Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. are unchanged at 62½. Greek Guaranteed 2½ per Cent. 1828 are a point up at 61, while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent., at 68½, are ½ up.

Greeks Strong.

Greek securities are again rising. The 5 per Cent. 1881 and the 5 per Cent. 1884 Loans are both 1 point up at 43, at which there were buyers. The 5 per Cent. 1890 is the same at 42, while Fundings have gained a point at 43, at which there were buyers. The 1910 Loan is unchanged at 42, but the 5 per Cent. 1914 has advanced 2 at 42, at which there were buyers. The 1902 Loan is 2 up at 37.

Moderate strength was displayed by Egyptian shares. Behers are unaltered at 8½, while the preference shares at 3½ have risen ½. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are unchanged at 3½, but Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 2½d. up at 1s. 4d. Delta Lands are unaltered at 8s. 9d., as also Gharbieh Lands at 1½. New Egyptians at 22s. 6d. have gained 10½d., and Union Foncier at 2½ are ½ up, at which there were buyers. Sudan Plantations at 3 7-16 are the same.

Oils have been rather featureless. Anglo-Egyptians are ½ down at 1 15-16, but Phoenix have shed 1s. 3d. at 11s. 9½d. Roumanian Consolidated are 3d. up at 14s. 6d., and Steaua Romana at 16s. 3d. has gained 9d.

Among miscellaneous descriptions, Abyssinian Corporations are unaltered at 3s. Alexandria Waters are unaltered at 6½, while Mörums are 6d. lower at 12s. 6d. Egyptian Salt and Sodas have been done at 29s. 6d., a rise of 2s. 6d. Egyptian Markets have come to business at 18s. 6d.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £ ...	25 22½	52 00-52 50
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25 22½	135-140
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee ..	24d.	1 3¼-1 3½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25 22½	280-290
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee..	24d.	1 3¼-1 3½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	568-580
New York	Dollars to £	4 86½	3 91½-3 92½
Paris	Francs to £	25 22½	56 10-56 40
Prague	Kronen to £	24 02	287-300
Rome	Lire to £	25 22½	96-100
Sofia	Levas to £	25 22½	327
Teheran	Krans to £	50	55
Vienna	Kronen to £	24 02	1,100-1,300
Warsaw	Marks to £	20 43	2,900-3,100

In some cases quotations are nominal.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on March 4 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 3-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6½; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £3; Assoc. Cotton Ginners, £25 32; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 73; Behéra Ord., £E7½; Behéra Priv., £3½; Bonded Stores, £11½; Brasseries d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 104; Building Lands of Egypt, £2; Cassa di Sconto, Fr. 107; Cassa di Sconto Priv., Fr. 108; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt. 6½; Crédit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 572½; Crédit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 7,200 ex.; Crédit Foncier 1886 Oblig., Fr. 342; Crédit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 234½; Crédit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 227; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 130; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 82; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 104; Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord., 26s.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4½; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10; Gabbari Lands, £E½; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des., £5½; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., £27; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £5; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. Fondateur, £35; Land Bank of Egypt Actions, £4½; Land Bank of Egypt Parts de Fond., £35; Lots Turcs, Fr. 45; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, P.T. 320; Nungovich Hotels, £6½; Ramleh Railway, £1½; Salt and Soda, 26s. 10½d.; Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 39½; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 60; Union Foncier d'Egypte, £2½; Upper Egypt Hotels, £2; Urbaines and Rurales, £3½.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 14:—During the week ending March 5 general crop prospects unchanged. Some difference has arisen between Bombay cotton brokers and cotton contracts board. At request of brokers' association the board has agreed to postpone next fortnightly settlement for one week, and market is consequently closed for one week from March 10 for hedge contracts other than liquidation of open contracts. Brokers' association have fixed minimum rates on basis of Rs. 255 for broach cotton, below which rates members are prohibited from trading. Piecegoods markets lifeless. Some inquiry for wide width mulls. Calcutta jute and gunny markets very dull. Prices of hessians declining. Owing to dissatisfaction with Dundee arbitrations and consequent invoicing back, Calcutta jute balers have resolved not to sell on Dundee contracts; balers of actuals not to bale substitutes; balers of substitutes to bale only one mark; and balers will not give guarantees on actuals; they will guarantee substitutes only for London. It was decided to recognise arbitration, but no invoicing back will be accepted. Unsold jute will not be consigned after March 31. Further reductions in freights to America. No change in bank rates. Considerable discontent reported on the part of Burma cultivators at fall in paddy prices from Rs. 180 to Rs. 148 per 100 baskets of 46 lb. each this time last year. At tea sales on March 8 selections showed slight improvement; demand was irregular and general tone of market tended downwards; medium brokers with a little tip were steady and common leafs were at previous rates. All other kinds ruled lower. 629,176 packages sold to date at an average price of five annas five pies per lb.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended March 12 amounted to £8,498.

Numbers are announced of Four-and-a-Half per Cent. bonds of the Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway drawn for payment at par on April 15.

The Government of India announce that the cable rate to Europe will be increased as from April 1 from 18 to 20 annas per word.

The Bengal Doars Railway Company have declared an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on ordinary stock, payable, less tax at 4s. 8d., April 14.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

LARGE GREEK SHIP LOST.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, March 5.

The Greek mercantile fleet has lost one of its finest ships, the Admiral Coundouriotis (11,000 tons), which was burnt last week in Salonika harbour. This steamer, which was but recently constructed, had only just returned to Greece from America with a cargo of petrol and gasoline. Part of this cargo had already been discharged at the Piræus, the remainder going to Salonika, Constantinople, Jaffa, Beyrout, and Alexandria. The fire broke out early on Saturday afternoon, and, assisted by the strong wind blowing at the time, spread so rapidly that all efforts to extinguish it proved fruitless. A number of other ships lying in the vicinity of the Admiral Coundouriotis, and laden with ammunition, in the face of the danger weighed anchor and left the port in all haste. Several shots were fired on the burning ship by a small gun placed on the quay, but these failed to sink her. A larger gun was finally brought up, and this ended the short career of the unhappy ship.

WATER POWER IN GREECE.

A Swiss engineer has been employed by the Greek Government to investigate the water power in the State of Macedonia, and he has made an interesting report on the subject after a study of the falls of the rivers of Kladovo, Vodena, Niaoussa, lower Aliakmon, and high Aliakmon (says an American Consular report). Special tables have been prepared showing the estimated power of the falls of Bladovo to be 17,500 horse-power; those of Edessis, 26,000 horse-power; of Niaoussa, 22,000 horse-power; those of lower Aliakmon, 143,300 horse-power; and those of high Aliakmon as 143,000 horse-power. The total of available force of water from these falls is estimated at about 350,000 horse-power. It is estimated that the exploitation of the falls mentioned above will produce annually an electric current of about 120,000,000 kilowatts. The production of electric current from the falls of western Macedonia would be sufficient not only for the motive power and lighting of the three cities of Athens, Piræus, and Salonika, but also for the motive power of the Larissa Railway.

The consumption of electric power at Athens and Piræus is about 40,000,000 kilowatts annually and at Salonika 9,000,000 kilowatts. The plants for the development of the waterfalls would cost approximately between 160,000,000 and 180,000,000 drachmæ (30,880,000 dols. to 34,740,000 dols.). On the basis of this expenditure, a kilowatt would cost from 12 to 13 lepta (2 to 2½ cents). As Greece is dependent upon the importation of coal for a large part of its fuel supply, the employment of its water power is of vital importance in the development of the national industries.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Magdapur, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 11); s.s. Holywell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 16).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, March 30); s.s. Yorkshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 13).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Antigone, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Swansea, April 1); s.s. Pavia, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, April 2); Glasgow, April 7; and Swansea, April 7).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. City of Oxford for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, April 1); s.s. Maronian, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Liverpool, April 7).

Ellerman City Line.—S.s. City of Milan, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 1); s.s. City of Cairo, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, April 20).

Ellerman's Hall Line.—S.s. City of Genoa, for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, April 1).

French Levant Line.—S.s. Vulcain, for Bordeaux, Algiers, Messina, Alexandretta, Beyrout, Jaffa, Port Said, Alexandria, and Cyprus (Hull, March 30).

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenavy, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 7); s.s. Glenshane, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 21); s.s. Glenade, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 5); s.s. Glenluce, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 19).

Holt Line.—S.s. Machaon, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, March 26, and Birkenhead, March 30); s.s. Bellerophon, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 1); s.s. Anchises, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow,

April 8); s.s. Oanfa, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, April 8); s.s. Deucalion, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Drombre, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, March 26); s.s. Incemore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 9); s.s. Venice, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 23).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Naldera, for Bombay (London, April 8); s.s. Sardinia, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 8); s.s. Plassy, for Bombay (London, April 15); s.s. Nore, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 22); s.s. Dongola, for Bombay (London, May 6).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Warfield, for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 2); s.s. Nardana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 9); s.s. Chanda, for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 16); s.s. Manora, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 22).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Trentino, for Algiers, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, March 26).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince, for Malta, Alexandria, and Syrian coast ports (Antwerp, March 26; London, April 5); s.s. Scottish Prince, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria (Manchester, March 31).

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Southern Punjab Railway.

For the year to September 30 last the net earnings (at exchange of 1s. 4d.) amounted to £392,801, against £358,068 for the previous year. The net revenue was £491,466, of which £206,550 is the Government's share of surplus profits, and £10,000 is transferred to "contingencies" account. This leaves £274,916, and £125,960 was brought in, making £400,876. Further dividend on ordinary stock of 9 per cent., and a further bonus of 1 per cent., making 16 per cent. for the year; carried forward, £148,876, subject to excess profits duty and corporation profits tax if found due. The question of liability has not yet been settled.

Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

The report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin states that the working of the line during the half-year to December 31 last has been continued by the company's staff, and that there are now 184 miles working, or nearly half of the whole system. The remainder of the railway is still in the possession of the Turkish Nationalists. For the first time since 1914 the Council are in a position to present accounts in a reasonably complete form. The traffic receipts for the six months are the largest on record, and amount to £334,414, the increase being largely due to military traffic. The working expenses were heavy, owing to the excessive cost of material and great increase in the price of labour and the generally abnormal conditions prevailing. During the whole of the period under review the negotiations referred to in the last report have been carried on, but, in view of the uncertainty at present ruling, especially with regard to the Treaty of Sévres, no definite conclusion has been reached. However, the company's claims for war damages have been completed, so far as this is possible, for the period from the outbreak of war until June 30, 1920, and they will be sent in this month. Further claims will have to be drawn up for the losses incurred by the company since June 30, 1920, but this cannot be done until the company regains control of the whole system.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 516.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Greek Offensive.

After the fresh mobilisation to which reference was made in these columns last week the Greeks have lost no time in opening a new campaign against the Turkish Nationalists. They have gained an important success in the capture of Afion Karahissar, which places them astride the Baghdad Railway. At the same time they are across the railway to the north of Eskishehr, so that Mustapha Kemal Pasha's communications with both Constantinople and Cilicia are cut. Greek reports bear witness to the weakness of the Turkish resistance encountered so far, and it is evident that the suddenness of the Greek attack has caught the Angora authorities unprepared. The near future will decide whether the Greek or the French estimate of the Turks' fighting forces is correct. In its initial stages the Greek offensive has proceeded according to plan, the occupation of Afion Karahissar within a few days being the pivot of the Greek delegation's contention in London that the Angora army could be disposed of within three months. Towards these military operations the Allied Governments can hardly do otherwise than adopt a non-committal attitude until they are appealed to by one side or the other, although their moral obligations in view of the fact that both Greeks and Turks were invited to the London Conference raise a nice point.

The Egyptian Cabinet—

The new Cabinet in Egypt continues to enjoy public favour, and though a number of students marched from Zaghloul Pasha's house to the Palace on the Sultan's birthday, they are reported to have "created no serious disturbance." It is, in fact, difficult to see any reason why they should do so, but their demonstrations have been sometimes so irrational in the past that it is almost astonishing to find them less so now. Presumably the "march" in question was for the purpose of keeping their own enthusiasm alive against Zaghloul Pasha's return. That event is expected to take place on April 4 at Alexandria, and a great reception is being prepared for him. Whether the Cabinet shares the enthusiasm of the populace is known only to itself, or its individual members; but it looks as if it is ready to go very far towards more or less effacing itself in order to induce

Zaghloul to co-operate with it. How far this is for the good of the country remains to be seen. It is even possible to question whether it is for the good of Zaghloul Pasha himself, although his attitude suggests that he is incapable of realising the fact.

—And Zaghloul Pasha.

An illustration of the lengths to which the Egyptian Cabinet is prepared to go in this direction is afforded by its answer to a question addressed to it regarding the abolition of the Capitulations. The Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that, Italy wishing to ascertain its views on this point, the Foreign Office sent a telegram to Cairo accordingly, adding that Italy did not wish to agree to the abolition if the Egyptians were opposed to it. The Cabinet, after a long and secret sitting, replied that it could not give an answer until negotiations regarding the abolition of the Protectorate were further advanced. The *Post's* correspondent adds, however, that the real reason for the delay was the Ministers' wish to consult Zaghloul Pasha. The latter has so far shown no enthusiasm for the removal of the Capitulations—rather the reverse—realising, of course, that they provide magnificent opportunities of playing off one Power against another. His attitude towards this subject would under other conditions and at another time probably give even the Egyptian public to think. As it is, however, Zaghloul is at the "roses, roses all the way" stage of his career, and possibly believes that it will last out his lifetime.

Conquest of a Plague.

As our readers will remember, we have from time to time referred to the efforts made of late years to find a cure for one of the greatest plagues of Modern Egypt—and, it seems, of Ancient Egypt also—bilharziosis. In the past this dreadful disease has scourged both Egypt and the Sudan, and every effort to get rid of it failed; but, comparatively lately, Dr. Christopherson experimented with antimony, applied intravenously, and it is now announced that his treatment is recognised as a specific for the disease. Dr. Christopherson has quite recently received a letter from the Department of Public Health of the Union of South Africa informing him of the successful adoption of his discovery, and, among other home authorities, the Ministry of Pensions is employing it for the healing of soldiers who contracted the disease in the late war; and it is hoped that those who contracted it in the South Africa War may also benefit by it, if funds permit. Dr. Christopherson's triumph may almost be regarded as marking a new era in the history of medical progress in the Nile Valley.

Egyptians and Sudanis of this and of future generations will certainly have reason to bless his name, and it is to be hoped that his work will be suitably recognised by the Government.

The Bolsheviks and Central Asia.

The announcement that a Bolshevik mission, seventy strong, is waiting at Askabad for authority to enter Persian territory serves as a reminder that the Moscow Government does not rely solely upon its Red armies for propaganda purposes. Agreements have now been negotiated by it with Persia, Afghanistan, Bokhara and Turkestan, as well as with Angora and the British Government. According to the treaty with Afghanistan the Soviets establish a number of Consulates in the latter country, and undertake to pay an annual subsidy to the Ameer's Government; each party binds itself not to enter with a third Power into a military or political agreement which would be detrimental to the other. Thus Russia, as was inevitable, has taken full advantage of the new freedom of action in regard to international relations allowed Afghanistan by the recent Anglo-Afghan arrangement. But for Great Britain the chief interest in the subject lies in the indication afforded of the Soviet resolve not to allow any slackening of military effort to affect the output of Bolshevik propaganda. As the trade agreement with Great Britain is said to be welcomed in Moscow mainly for the opportunity that it will provide for Soviet representatives to have free access to our industrial centres, there would seem to be a weighty drawback to be set against any trade advantages to be derived from the agreement. In regard to the Turks, it is clear that Angora and Moscow are making use of one another, each for its own ends, without any special bond of union between them. The Nationalists feel that they can only maintain touch at this time with Turanian elements in Central Asia with Soviet assistance or goodwill, and the Bolsheviks are anxious to keep their communications right up to the Indian frontier well affected. The situation for Great Britain would be less serious if there were the knowledge that the danger is fully appreciated, and is being met by a definite policy. Of the latter, however, there is no indication.

Cold and Confidence in Persia.

The withdrawal of the British forces from Northern Persia has been delayed for some weeks by extraordinarily severe weather, and the Teheran correspondent of *The Times* reports that despite all precautions the troops have suffered much from malignant frostbite. Greatly to their credit, the responsible authorities have been able to provision the force; but the roads are quite impassable for motor transport, and communications have had to be kept up entirely by pack animals. The cold has taken a heavy toll of life from man and beast, and many travellers have been snow-bound for weeks. In spite of these conditions, however, the correspondent referred to reports a new feeling of confidence in the country, inspired by the inauguration of the new régime at Teheran. The dread of Bolshevism is fading away, and Zia ed-Din appears to have been able to inspire his countrymen with fresh hope and self-respect. All this is to the good, and though we shall not pretend to believe that all is now for the best in the best possible of lands, we are glad to be able to congratulate the Persians upon the change.

Delhi and Whitehall.

An incident in the Budget debate at Delhi draws attention once again to one of the chief obstacles to more cordial relations between England and India, the inveterate suspicion and mistrust of the management of Indian finance in this country. The Government of India has been frequently pressed to say how far Whitehall was responsible for the details of its exchange policy, but the Finance Member could tell the Legislative Assembly only that "it is not within the power of Government to answer these inquiries," or, in other words, that the secrets of Whitehall cannot be disclosed. Surely it is time for Mr. Montagu to abandon this attitude. We

believe Indian suspicions to be absolutely unfounded, but their existence is a fact of the political situation, and they can be dispelled only by entire frankness. So long as the veil is there, Indians will continue to imagine a world of horrors behind it; the transfer of the control of finance from Whitehall to Delhi cannot be effected just yet, but in the meantime it should be possible to withdraw the veil once for all, and allow Indians to see that Whitehall has nothing to be ashamed of.

The Army in India.

The position in regard to the strength of the forces to be maintained in India was made clear last week by Mr. Montagu's statement in the Commons, which, however, merely repeated information already in the possession of the Indian legislature. The local aspect of the question is to be worked out by a committee of the Viceroy's Council, and the materials so provided will then be examined by a sub-committee of the Committee of Imperial Defence in the light of recent progress in such technical matters as equipment and mobility. We do not think that there are any reasonable grounds for objecting to this course of procedure, which appears well adapted to harmonise the local and professional aspects of an extremely complex question, and we shall be unfeignedly glad if the result should be to secure a substantial reduction in the heavy military charges now borne by India; but, as we have so often insisted, the security of the country is the paramount consideration, and the truest economy is to be found in an Army so efficient as to discourage attack. India was attacked two years ago because her defence was supposed to be inefficient, and the cost of the operations against Afghanistan and the Frontier tribes may well serve as a warning against allowing such misconceptions to arise in the future.

The Criterion of Military Strength.

Mr. Montagu's declaration made it clear that the criterion is "the internal and external security of India," a phrase which should go far to dispel the misconceptions aroused by the now famous pronouncement of the Esher Committee that the Army in India could be considered only as part of the total armed forces of the Empire; and we gather from his language that he will not quarrel seriously with the more detailed statement formulated by a committee of the Legislative Assembly, which, after describing the purpose of the Army as defence against external aggression and the maintenance of order, urged that in other respects its obligations should be no more onerous than those of the Dominions, and that it should not be employed outside India except for defence. As things stand at present, the Dominion status seems to us to be the only possible objective. The ideal of Imperial military organisation must not be abandoned, but the expectation that India would be willing to lead the way towards it is inconsistent with the hard facts of practical politics; we believe that the Indian legislature will be ready to move abreast of the Dominions, but the movement must be concerted, and the politicians will have to be educated up to it by slow degrees.

Divorce in India.

We do not think many lawyers will be found to quarrel with Sir Henry Duke's recent decision that the Courts in India have no authority to grant a divorce to British subjects who are resident in the country but retain their British domicile, but its effect has been to raise some very difficult and painful questions. The Courts have been granting such divorces for half a century, and on the strength of them many divorced persons have married again. These marriages must now, we suppose, be regarded as bigamous in law, and counsel for the India Office declared at the hearing of the case that some hundreds of persons would be rendered illegitimate. These questions can be disposed of only by Parliament, and we are glad that no time is to be lost in introducing a Bill to validate the judgments which have been held to be void, but the ordinary layman will probably say that half a century is rather too long for such a state of things to be allowed to continue.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Tuesday Morning.

The Recess.

Parliament only takes a little over a week's holiday this Easter, with a longer rest promised at Whitsun if it behaves itself. Last week was uneventful. Mr. Austen Chamberlain made his debut as leader, and received his blushing honours with his usual modesty; but the new appointments are not yet announced. Sir Robert Horne, however, is still backed for the Exchequer, but it is believed that Sir Gordon Hewart will remain on as Attorney-General, and the Lord Chief Justiceship will go to another. The Government simply cannot spare him from the House of Commons.

The Lobby last week and the country houses this week are full of discussion as to Mr. Lloyd George's own future. Will he go right or left? To judge from a speech at a luncheon just before the House rose, in which he attacked Labour as a danger to the State, the answer is likely to be to the right. But there is a good deal of Radicalism left in the little Welshman yet, and if he does lead the Conservative wing, the Conservatives will have to do a good deal more in the way of reform than the old Tories like.

Somebody has recalled the remark of the old Scotch lady in this connection, when told that her son had been taken prisoner in one of the Indian wars, and chained to another prisoner: "God help the man who's chained to our David." Some of the Tories may yet echo the remark if they chain themselves to the modern David.

The Speakership.

The Speaker has intimated his intention of retiring before Whitsun, after many years of admirable service to the Commons, whom he has ruled by wit as well as firmness. His successor is likely to be Mr. J. H. Whitley, a Yorkshire member, and Deputy-Speaker for a long period. Mr. Whitley is quiet, tactful, and impartial, and very generally liked; there is little doubt that he would fill the greater post with credit and distinction.

But it is said that he will only accept it if unanimously chosen. It is not improbable that this will be the case, but there are a few members who would like to see Sir F. Banbury, the well-known Tory member for the City, in the chair; and another section is understood to support the present Solicitor-General. The general opinion, however, is that the latter, although a charming personality, is hardly strong enough man for the post. It is true that the present House is easy to govern, but the next one, elected in three years' time, may not be so well-behaved. And a Speaker who lets the House get out of hand even once never quite recovers his authority.

The Speakership has also been offered informally to Mr. Asquith, but he refused it rather brusquely, not altogether to the delight of his diminishing band of followers. The road, therefore, seems clear for Mr. Whitley.

Easter Holidays.

Easter started with summer frocks, and ended with winter overcoats. But the trains were crowded, and, in spite of everybody's complaint of being hard up, everybody seemed to have money to spend; and even the possibility of another coal strike at the end of the week did not unduly depress the holiday crowd. The exodus was mainly to the South Coast, East Anglia being a little too bracing for the Londoner in March. Quite a number of people went to Cornwall, in spite of the heavy railway fares.

Popular Art.

Mr. Marcus Stone, who died last week at the ripe old age of eighty, was probably the most generally known artist of the late Victorian period. His career was one uninterrupted success. As a boy he attracted the attention of Dickens, who knew a good deal about book illustration, and who secured young Stone his first commission. Later on, when he started painting, he had the unique experience of never having a picture rejected by the Royal Academy, of always being hung on the line, and of having every picture sold before it was exhibited.

Needless to say, such extraordinary good fortune did

not mean the highest artistic achievement. His pictures were of the popular story-telling type, usually with a sentimental interest; "Two's Company, Three's None," the title of one of them, was typical of the rest. His women were graceful and pretty, not grand or beautiful; he reflected the conventional middle-class idea.

House of Lords Reform.

The House of Lords is not to be reformed this year after all. The Liberals profess to be very angry, but cannot protest too much; for it was Mr. Asquith who declared that the reform was "a debt of honour which brooked no delay," and then did nothing to redeem it for six years. Some of the peers are disturbed at the delay, however, because they think that the reform will probably be put off until too late, and then a Labour Government will come in and follow Hamlet's advice to "reform it altogether" by abolishing it. I doubt whether Labour would do anything quite so drastic; it probably remembers that Cromwell abolished the House of Lords, but it soon came back again.

But reform is a difficult problem. A reformed House of Lords means a stronger House of Lords, and the Commons would assuredly be jealous of any increase of power in that direction. It is admitted on all hands that the present House is too large, but who shall be excluded; and on what grounds and by whom, are very controversial questions. If the House were reduced to about two hundred picked men, as is suggested in some quarters, the problem would still not be solved, as the Government of the day could not always be sure of a majority, and this would entail the creation of fresh peers. On the other hand, there are still some who would like to see the Parliament Act abolished, and would seize the opportunity of the reform debates to raise that question. At the moment, I think, the country is not in any mood to tackle a constitutional crisis, and is well content to see the whole matter postponed.

A New Bank Building.

During the war the pessimists assured us that London would cease to be the financial centre of the world. Now that the war is over, however, the City seems to have no room for anything but finance. Every vacant site is taken by the banks, and I hear that the London County and Westminster is now to erect a palatial building of nine floors and two basements in Lothbury. It will be a magnificent edifice in the Palladian style. Another bank is enlarging its premises in Broad Street, and others may be seen opening branches here, there, and everywhere. A recent article in the *Edinburgh Review* pointed out that the war, so far from weakening the financial preponderance of London, was likely to intensify it. One read the prophecy with some doubt at the time, but the author seems to have known what he was talking about.



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A New Quarterly.

Of all unlikely quarters to start a new periodical I should have thought the Bank of England the most unlikely. But that sedate institution has entered the stormy seas of journalism, and even adopted the flippant title *The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street*. Truly this is a revolutionary age. Perhaps the *London Gazette* will follow suit, and head its list of bankruptcies "Are we downhearted?" The Old Lady herself, who, like most heiresses, is loved more for her money than her looks, would be still more popular with her admirers in the City, I understand, if she gave some hint as to a reduction of the Bank Rate, but on that matter the new house-organ is discretion itself.

The Tourist Traffic.

The influx of American visitors seems to have begun remarkably early this year, and the hotel managers are rubbing their hands with delight. The London shop-keeper, who has been trying in vain to stimulate the Cockney to buy by means of repeated bargain sales, hopes the Yankees have brought their purses with them; and the picture-dealers and manufacturers of antiques are preparing for the harvest. The usual lament will soon go up that we are exporting all our artistic treasures to the United States; but in Chelsea, and other places where living artists congregate, they would not be sorry if most of the old masters crossed the Atlantic. It would give more room to the younger men to earn their living. Many of them have had an unusually hard time lately.

The Week's Book.

"Modern Democracies" (Macmillan), by Lord Bryce, is a large book, but by no means a heavy one, although it is not intended for those who read for recreation. The first part deals with the general features of democratic government. The second contains detailed studies of the working of democratic institutions in France, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand, with short sketches of the republics of

the ancient world and of modern Spanish America. The last section discusses general conclusions as to democratic government. Lord Bryce believes in democracy, and he points out that the new European States have adopted democratic principles. But the real danger, in his opinion, is no longer, as the classic thinkers held, that democracy leads to the rule of a tyrant, but that the people will not trouble to exercise their powers. "The extension of the functions of government and the increasing magnitude and complexity of the subjects falling within these functions have not elicited a corresponding will to serve the community on the part of those best fitted to serve it. Frenchmen, Englishmen, and Americans find it so natural a thing that men should be interested in politics that they assume men will always be so interested. But is it really true—so students of history will ask—that this interest can be counted on to last? For a thousand years, after the days of the last republicans of Rome, the most civilised people of Europe cared nothing for politics, and left government in the hands of their kings or chiefs. Greek democracy had been destroyed by force more than a century earlier, and little regret was expressed at its extinction. No one thought of trying to revive free self-government in Italy or Greece or around the coasts of the *Ægean*, where hundreds of republics had bloomed and died. The thing did happen, and whatever has happened may happen again. Peoples that had known and prized political freedom resigned it, did not much regret it, and forgot it."

But that is not quite the conclusion of the whole matter. "Hope, often disappointed but always renewed, is the anchor by which the ship that carries democracy and its fortunes will have to ride out this latest storm (the Great War) as it has ridden out many storms before. Democracy will never perish till after hope has expired." Lord Bryce, like Lord Morley, is now a very old man; it is good to see that he is more optimistic than his old colleague.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 13.

The Question of the Delegation.

The declaration of the British Government with regard to the Protectorate appears to have been generally very well received. Everything tends to show that the importance and liberal spirit of this declaration are recognised and appreciated by all thinking Egyptians; certainly those who are directing the political movement have frankly welcomed the declaration as facilitating their task.

There appears, however, to be some difficulty in uniting all the elements so as to form a delegation which will be wholly representative of the nation and possess the authority to negotiate and see through an agreement, and which at the same time will command the confidence of both the Egyptian nation and the British Government. The trouble seems at first to have been in regard to the question of either forming a delegation with the present Cabinet in power or reconstructing the Cabinet and choosing the members of the delegation from amongst its members. It is understood that the principle of a new Cabinet constituted by the leaders of the various parties has been accepted. It was evident that no delegation could fulfil the conditions necessary to the success of its mission unless it was assured of wholehearted support in Cairo, and unless it could keep touch with public opinion in Egypt through a Cabinet which as much as itself was interested in the success of the negotiations that it was undertaking.

That principle accepted, it would appear that a further difficulty has been encountered in the matter of the constitution of the new Cabinet and the designation of those members who are to go to London to negotiate and those who are to remain behind. It is exceedingly unfortunate that this hitch should have occurred; for there is little time to be lost if the delegation is to leave for London at the end of April, and is to be ready with its programme, etc. However, since so much progress has been made in the past, and particularly recently, thanks to the tact, broadmindedness and sincere desire to attain a speedy successful settlement shown by those who have been controlling matters, there is every reason to hope that even before this letter reaches you the difficulties which are now confronting us will have been overcome.

The Colonial Secretary in Cairo.

Mr. Winston Churchill, accompanied by Air Commdore Trenchard, Colonel Lawrence, and others, arrived this week, having spent a day in Alexandria on the way to inspect the aerodrome there. The Colonial Secretary and his party left the train one station before Cairo in order to avoid the hostile demonstration which appeared to be gathering outside Cairo station. They motored to the Semiramis Hotel, which will be the headquarters of the Middle-Eastern Conference that Mr. Churchill has summoned, and where almost simultaneously with his arrival there descended a flock of generals and other personalities arriving from Mesopotamia, Aden, and Somaliland.

The Mesopotamian Delegation includes Sir Percy Cox, General Haldane, Gaafar Pasha, Minister of Defence, Sassoon Effendi, Minister of Finance, Miss Gertrude Bell, General Ironside, from North Persia, and Colonel Trevor, from Bushire; while in addition, Sir Geoffrey Archer, Governor of British Somaliland, Colonel Cox and Major Barrett, Resident and Assistant Resident at Aden, are of the party. The first general Conference took place yesterday afternoon, and it is to be assumed that Mesopotamia, Aden, and Somaliland will be the first questions to be dealt with, since Sir Herbert Samuel and Mr. Deedes will not arrive from Jerusalem until the 16th instant.

It is not known exactly how long Mr. Churchill will

remain here—"as long as necessary" was the information given to me—but it is practically certain that he will pay a visit to Palestine before returning to London. Full information has been published in the London Press as to the object of this Conference, and I am informed that whatever decisions may be come to will not be made public until Mr. Churchill has been able to report to the Cabinet and until he makes his promised statement in the House of Commons.

End of the Irrigation Libel Action.

The Willcocks libel action came to an end on Friday afternoon. The last day of this twenty-five-days trial, which was devoted to the summing up by Judge Grain, attracted a very large attendance, and the Court was crowded out. Among distinguished visitors present was Sir Benjamin Robertson, late Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, India, who was given a special seat in the well of the Court. The jury, which consisted of well-known business men, took about one hour and a-half to deliberate, and their verdict of guilty on both charges, viz., criminal libel and sedition, has been very well received. After the delivery of the verdict, Mr. Preston, counsel for the Crown, stated that he did not press for exemplary punishment, as the object of the prosecution was to bring about a cessation of the attacks and libels. The judge announced that he would suspend sentence until counsel for the defence had had an opportunity of laying before him on behalf of Sir William Willcocks such proposals as he might feel called upon to make. Sir William declared, however, that he did not want mercy, only justice; he demanded that sentence should be passed on him forthwith; he considered the judge in summing up had prejudiced the jury against him, and he would take the case to a higher plane where he knew he would be proved to be right.

SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, February 27.

Khartoum Amusements.

The annual open tennis tournament proved as great a success as ever. The Broun singles championship was won once more by Mr. H. S. Job, the open doubles for men by Messrs. Field and Richardson, who become holders of the new Job Cup. The standard of tennis is better than ever, and we look to Mr. Job to uphold the laurels of the Sudan in Egypt, where he has been transferred after ten years in this arid land.

The third winter meeting of the Khartoum Racing Club was held on Saturday, February 19, and proved somewhat of a disappointment from the point of view both of racing and of attendance. The small attendance was doubtless due to the meeting being held on a Saturday instead of the customary Friday, the change of day being caused by the Church Missionary Society's sale of work having been fixed for the previous day. For the first time for some years the Governor-General was unavoidably prevented from being present.



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A company of amateurs, composed of railway officials and their wives from Athara, presented a very successful pantomime, "The Babes in the Wood," which was duly appreciated.

The Sudan Club is continuing its popular fortnightly ladies' nights, and the enthusiasm for dancing has in no way abated. It is reported that some 120 sat down to dinner on the 17th inst., which must constitute a record.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, March 3.

Winding-up of a Department.

After several complaints in Parliament with regard to the Under-Secretaryship of Reconstruction, the Council of Ministers has decided to wind up this Department, dividing it into three sections. Beginning from April 1, the Section of Supplies will be handed over to the War Office, the Section of Reconstruction to the Ministry of Public Works, and the Purchasing of Goods Section to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

The present Parliamentary Session has been extended to March 28.

Prince Sapieha's Visit.

Prince Sapieha, the Polish Foreign Minister, accompanied by Princess Sapieha, General Razvadovski, Chief of the Polish General Staff, M. Zbyczewski, Head of the Roumanian Section of the Polish Foreign Office, and Capt. Dzieduszki arrived in Bucharest last Tuesday night (March 1) by special train from Warsaw.

Prince Sapieha first paid visits to M. Take Jonescu and Gen. Averescu, and then had an interview with the King, who retained him to a luncheon given in his honour. Amongst those present were the King, Queen, the Infante of Spain, Prince Nicholas and Princess Helen of Greece, Prince Nicolae and Princess Marie of

Roumania, Prince Sapieha, Count Skrzynski, Gen. Razvadovski, M. and Mme. Take Jonescu, Gen. Rascanu, Roumanian War Minister, and Col. Gorka, Polish Military Attaché. After luncheon the King conferred upon Prince Sapieha the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Star, and upon Gen. Razvadovski, the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Crown of Roumania.

In the evening a gala dinner was given by M. Take Jonescu at the Foreign Office in honour of the nation's guests, at which all the Ministers of the Cabinet, foreign Ministers, and other high State officials were present. Although the negotiations for the conclusion of the Polish-Roumanian Alliance will continue after Prince Sapieha's departure, in diplomatic and political circles here the alliance is already considered as a *fait accompli*.

General News.

The Government has given its sanction to institute a Saxon University at Cluj (Transylvania).

The new Greek Minister, M. Panas, and the new Yugoslav Minister, M. Tcholak, presented their credentials to King Ferdinand last week.

The authorities at Rezina (Bessarabia) report that groups of Bolshevists, devoid of arms and clothing, are attempting to take refuge in Bessarabia. These attempts are thought to be in connection with the precarious situation of the Bolshevist element in Ukrania, where the peasants are in revolt.

BUCHAREST, March 10.

Practically the whole of the past week in the Chamber has been devoted to debating the validity of the election of M. Stere, who was recently chosen as the representative of Soroca, Bessarabia. The principal charge against M. Stere was his pronounced pro-German attitude during the war, when he even published a newspaper (*Lumina*) which frequently condemned Roumania for joining the Allies against the Central Powers. In his defence M. Stere admitted that his former political attitude was mistaken, but explained that it was attribut-

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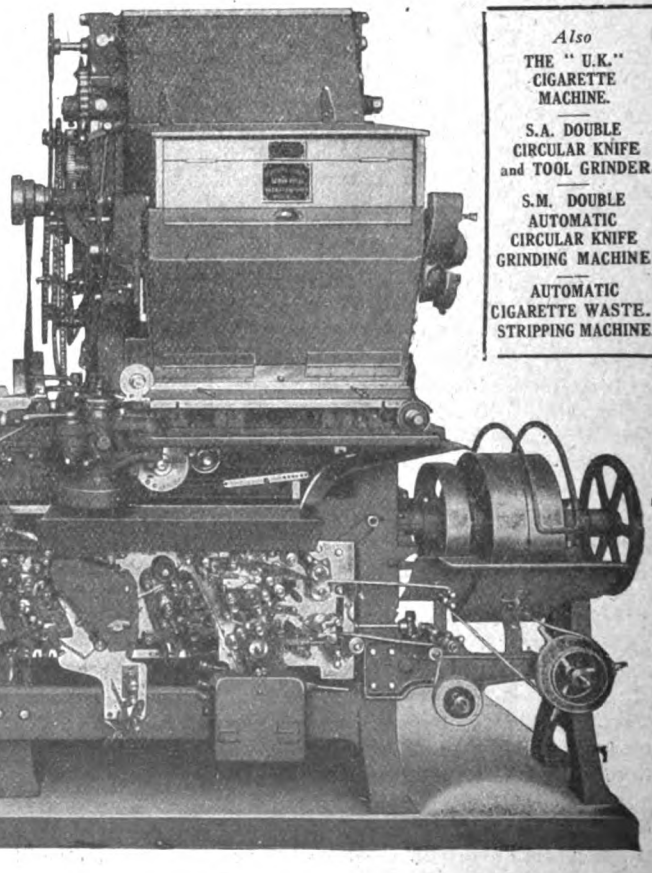
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able to his very strong anti-Russian feeling. A native of Bessarabia, he had devoted his life to the Roumanian cause there during the Russian rule, and for this he had suffered imprisonment and even exile to Siberia; and naturally he could not wish that Russia should win the war, since this would mean for Roumania the irretrievable loss of Bessarabia. The majority insisted on his invalidation, but this could not be carried out, as no irregularity had taken place at his election; and moreover the expressed wish of the 36,000 voters who had given him their suffrage could not be ignored.

The principal result of the incident was the withdrawal from the Federalist *bloc* of its leader, M. Jorga, who declared that he could not associate with a traitor to the country. At their last meeting the executive committee of the Federalist *bloc* had decided that on this question every member should be left free to vote as he chose; but the decision was not adhered to, the Bessarabian Peasants' Party and others showing strong partisanship; and M. Jorga, regarding this as a personal attack on him, in view of his antagonism to M. Stere, resigned the leadership as stated. He has been asked to reconsider his decision, but has so far refused to do so. Whatever he may eventually decide, it seems that the Government has scored by sowing discord among the Federalists.

The Magyars in Transylvania.

The Roumanian Press is full of the Magyar machinations in Transylvania. The Hungarian Government, despite assurances of friendly intentions, is favouring Irredentist propaganda in Transylvania and the Banat. Several spies were arrested lately in Transylvania, and on them were found instructions from Budapest as to the attitude Hungarians and Saxons across the border should adopt towards the Roumanians. According to these instructions, every Hungarian should hold that in Transylvania he is still on Hungarian territory, and should always be prepared to throw off the Roumanian yoke. To keep alive this spirit "literary societies" should be organised; every village should have its Irredentist library; in every house the map of pre-war Hungary should be found; badges of the Hungarian national colours should be worn at all times; the sympathies of foreigners should be enlisted whenever possible; national costume should always be worn; pro-Roumanian Hungarians should be derided and put to shame; Hungarians should avoid Socialism, but socialistic movements among Roumanians should be encouraged. As to more active measures, arms should be obtained and secreted against the day of revolt; Magyar banks and co-operative societies should be formed, with a view to gaining preponderating influence in Transylvania, and Budapest should be kept informed as to the moral of the Roumanian troops—with much more to the same effect.

The Polish-Roumanian Entente.

Before leaving Roumania Prince Sapieha was the guest of the Academy and of Parliament, where he was warmly welcomed. In a talk with Press representatives he stated that the Polish-Roumanian accord was on similar lines to the Franco-Polish compact, which aimed above all things at the maintenance of peace. He went on to explain that if either of the two countries was attacked the Entente Powers would hardly be in a position to help them in a military sense; so that the accord was very necessary. But, he added, there was no reason why a third, or even a fourth, State should not join them. He did not think that a Bolshevik attack was probable, but added that surprises are always possible.

General News.

The Government is working on a project to rearrange the districts of Greater Roumania. The whole country will be divided into nine regions and forty-eight districts instead of seventy-five as at present existing. In the course of this month the exchange of prisoners between Roumania and Hungary will start.

M. Take Jonescu, Minister for Foreign Affairs, has received a note from the London Conference inviting Roumania to send her delegates to the conference to take part at the discussion on the Dardanelles question.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 16.

The Results of the London Conference.

The final proposals made by the Allies at the London Conference were at first received with incredulity in Turkish circles in Constantinople. When later reports confirmed the earlier telegrams, considerable astonishment was expressed on all sides that the Allies, having once suggested the holding of an inquiry concerning the desires of the populations of Thrace and Smyrna, should have made proposals which take practically no account of those desires, whatever they may be. In anti-Nationalist circles the Allied decision, or, rather, proposal, is attributed to the impossibility of entertaining any confidence in the Turks so long as the country is dominated by adventurers like Mustapha Kemal. At least, that is how Ali Kemal Bey puts it in the *Sabah*. In Nationalist and neutral circles, however, the belief is expressed that the Allies have not said their last word, and that, upon further consideration, the Thracian question will be reconsidered; and the proposal to maintain a Greek garrison in Smyrna will be abandoned. It is generally agreed on all sides that the proposals as they stand are certain to be rejected by the Great National Assembly, and to a certain extent, therefore, the labours of London have not been successful. On the other hand, the French and Italians have every reason to be satisfied, for instead of the secret and underhand agreements that have subsisted hitherto, they have now concluded extensive ententes with the Nationalists with the knowledge and apparently the consent of the British Government itself. The circumstance of Anafolia being opened to French and Italian commerce whilst British commerce is still banned should be a source of considerable comfort to British firms interested in trade in the Near East!

With regard to the "conversations" between the Turkish and Greek representatives there is a widespread opinion in Turkish circles that the Allies, having regulated most of the questions of direct and vital interest to themselves, intend to leave the Turks and Greeks to settle their differences in whatever manner they choose. Such a policy might be possible for France and Italy, for neither Power is regarded as the special friend of Greece, and one of them is regarded as the open enemy of that country. The British, on the other hand, have come to be regarded as the acknowledged champions of Greece, and are credited with the intention of pursuing, in spite of the return of Constantine, the original policy accredited to them of making Greece the principal inheritor of the remains of the estate of the "Sick Man." This idea still holds good, and so long as a single Hellenic soldier is stationed in Smyrna nothing will dissipate it.

If the Turks are dissatisfied, however, it must not be supposed that the Greeks are overjoyed. The following extract from the *Proia* of March 15 is a sufficient indication of Ottoman Greek opinion:—

The "small concessions" described as by no means destroying the fundamentals of the Treaty of Sèvres completely upset the exceptional and honourable part attributed to Greece in the Orient. The Greek garrison in the city of Smyrna is nothing more than a gendarme for Europe, charged with the duty of defending the Straits against an Asiatic attack. Greece is replaced in her part, which interests the great maritime Powers more directly, by Turkey. And that is not all. The principal clause concerning the application of the Treaty, and stipulating that Constantinople, with the surrounding districts in Europe and Asia, might be taken from Turkish administration if, six months after its ratification, the Treaty had not been applied integrally, has been removed. This clause constituted the

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strongest guarantee for unredeemed Hellenism, its highest hope, and the basis upon which a new Hellenism might have been raised. But this clause has also vanished. And M. Gounaris is simply occupied with the problem as to whether the officers of the local gendarmerie in Smyrna are to be Hellenes or foreigners.

The above extract is illuminating in more senses than one, and clearly exposes the full extent of the "megala idea" which is and probably will be for some time to come the principal obstacle to a lasting settlement in the Near East.

Thus, once again, half measures have had the usual result of satisfying neither of the principal antagonists. There is some satisfaction, however, in the circumstance that all is not over yet, and that further discussions are practically inevitable. There is still, therefore, some chance, however slender, of a general settlement which will permit trade to be recommenced, and incidentally save Constantinople from general bankruptcy.

ALBANIA.

DURAZZO, March 10.

Foreign Representatives.

Mr. Eyres, British Consul, has arrived in Albania and has had an interview with the Prime Minister, Ilias Bey Vrioni. His arrival has been welcomed as that of the first foreign representative here in this second period of Albanian political life. It must be understood, however, that Mr. Eyres—who is known to have very friendly feelings towards this country—is not officially appointed Consul here yet, but has been sent by the Foreign Office to make certain investigations and report thereon. It is confidently hoped, however, that the British Government will ere long appoint him Consul-General, and even that a British Minister may soon be seen in Albania.

France has just appointed M. Beguni Bilecoq as Consul at Scutari. I understand that the Albanian Government has caused representations to be made at the Quai d'Orsay regarding the uselessness of appointing a Consul at Scutari, and one who will not even be in touch with the local authorities.

The Elections.

The elections are almost over. The people have taken real interest in this manifestation of political life, but there have been certain difficulties to overcome. At Scutari, where there has never been a census, there was no certainty regarding the number of deputies to be elected, or as to the proportions of Moslems and Catholics. At Kortcha there were Greek intrigues, the most influential agent being the famous Bishop Jakovos, whom the Albanian authorities have to tolerate. In spite of these difficulties, the elections have passed off quite satisfactorily. The Nationalists have a large majority.

A False Alarm.

During the last days of February rumours were current of Greek activities on the Albanian frontier, and there were lively fears of an attack by the Greeks. These rumours greatly alarmed the Albanian Government, which made urgent representations to the Great Powers; but happily the alarm turned out a false one. In all probability the movements across the Greek frontier were in connection with the despatch of troops to Asia Minor, though it may have been intended to influence the elections in this country. At present the country is absolutely calm.

Two Albanian Memoranda.

The Albanian Government has forwarded (on March 2 and 3) two memoranda—one to the four members of the Supreme Council (Britain, France, Italy, and Japan) assembled in London, and the other to the League of Nations. In the former, the Albanian Government reminds the Great Powers that Albania, recognised as an independent and sovereign State in 1913, has just been admitted to the League of Nations, with accompanying rights and privileges, and that the Great and Lesser Powers established diplomatic relations with this country, which it is advisable now to renew in order that Albania may resume normal political life and be able to devote itself to reconstruction and progress. The second Memorandum deals with the contempt of rights of minorities shown by Serbia and Greece in regard to Albanians who were brought under their rule in 1912. The Governments of Athens and Belgrade not only ignore the civic and political rights of the Albanian minorities, but permit daily ill-treatment of them. Quite recently the destruction of seven Albanian villages in the Kossovo region has been reported, with the deaths of twelve people.

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.

TOWARDS A NEAR EAST SETTLEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have not received my NEAR EAST this week, but those who like myself are interested in the Turkish and Egyptian problems have been afforded much food for reflection in the various *communiqués* and articles published in *The Times* of the 14th and 16th inst. Personally speaking, holding the views that I do on the Turkish question, I can but exclaim at the complete change of front on the part of the Prime Minister; but whether our prestige in the Near East has been thereby enhanced I am more than doubtful. In fact, I fear that throughout the Moslem world it will be regarded as a complete climb-down on the part of our Government, not because we have been persuaded of the justice of the Turkish claims, but because we are afraid of the consequences which will ensue if we continue to turn a deaf ear to their demands. From first to last we have made a gigantic muddle of this Near Eastern question, as, in addition to the millions of taxpayers' money which has been wasted in Mesopotamia and the unnecessary sacrifice of lives, our statesmen have failed entirely to recognise that Pan-Islam is more than a spiritual movement, that it is a practical working proposition which has to be reckoned with when dealing with Moslems even in secular matters. The result is that not only have we failed in Asia Minor, but we have largely discounted the good results which the Indian Reform Act was expected to bring about. Indian Moslems, who have hitherto been reckoned as the most loyal of His Majesty's subjects, have joined forces with Hindoo agitators, and the non-co-operation movement has caused incalculable mischief, if not open rebellion.

Unquestionably the terms now offered to the Turkish Nationalists are a move in the right direction, and it is not surprising that Bekir Sami Bey, when interviewed by *The Times* correspondent, should have stated "that we are nearer peace now than we were hardly a week ago." It is also not to be wondered at that Bekir Sami Bey should have protested against the retention of a Greek Army of Occupation in Smyrna, a stipulation quite unnecessary, and one calculated to undo all the good which the other concessions are likely to bring about. If I had been Bekir Sami Bey, I should have also looked on the proposal of a Christian governor over the Smyrna area with grave suspicion, and should have insisted that, whoever else was appointed, M. Venizelos should be barred. M. Venizelos is too enthusiastic a supporter of the larger Greek scheme, and has been the cause of all the mischief in Asia Minor hitherto. M. Venizelos may be too big a man for such a post, but I am quite convinced that were he appointed it would very soon cease to be a governorship and become an independent kingdom of the Greeks in Asia Minor. A Smyrna municipality on the lines of the Alexandria Municipality would, with the help of the Mixed Gendarmerie, surely give the Greeks in Smyrna all the rights they are entitled to?

One word as regards Egypt and Prince Ibrahim Hilmi's article published in *The Times* of the 14th inst. He appears to be voicing the views of a Moderate Party in Egypt, if one is still in existence. The opinions expressed in the article as to the cause of all the trouble are more or less what Sir Valentine Chirol and the Milner Commission have already recorded; but the Prince's proposal for the creation of a Second Chamber to control the elected Council is, I think, thoroughly sound; and the files of THE NEAR EAST will show that it was a form of control which suggested itself to me as the best form of control for the Indian Councils, which were under consideration at the time my article was published. The idea did not find favour, even if it was ever considered, by the Indian authorities, who preferred the Diarchy system with its reserved subjects. The proposal is, I think, worth consideration in Egypt, and was (or one very similar), if I remember right, at one time recommended for India by Mr. Lionel Curtis in his "Letters to the People of India." The details of such a constitution and franchise were also set forth by me in my "Recollections and Reflections," published in 1919.—I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

Diarritz, March 17, 1921.

ENGLISH IN BULGARIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The English-Speaking League of Sofia was instituted in 1911. The succeeding wars, of course, suspended its work. It was restarted immediately after the Armistice, and is now in full working order. It counts to-day more than 200 members, residents of Sofia. The object of the league is to cultivate good

and social relations among the English-speaking residents in Bulgaria, to encourage the spread of the English language and literature, as also of English manners and education. For this purpose three-monthly evening courses in English are given under the direction of the league, public lectures are arranged for, to which non-members also are admitted, and social gatherings are held fortnightly in the rooms of the league. In these last the capacity of the rooms is too often quite insufficient. On special occasions special entertainments are introduced. Thus, on the eve of the English Christmas special choirs sing Christmas carols. An institution such as the league, has, I think, no need of recommendation to right-thinking Englishmen. There is not an important town in the Near East in which there are a French consul and a dozen of French-speaking persons without an "Alliance Française" encouraged and largely supported. But the British and French Governments differ vastly in their procedures in such matters. A pleasant and useful exception to the English rule has just been made by the present British Minister in Sofia, Sir Arthur Peel. His Excellency gave a tea party, with a dance, in the Legation on the 28th of last month to a part of the members of the English-Speaking League, and I understand that he proposes to repeat the experiment. The entertainment was a great success for the league, and I hope a pleasant surprise to the host.

The Bulgarians are great readers. Unfortunately there is a marked deficiency in the league's library. The books are few and too expensive to buy. A few generous Englishmen and Americans have responded to the league's appeal for books. Amongst the first I may mention the late Sir Edwin Pears, Messrs. H. M. Wallis and Kenneth Ledward, and very recently Lord Northcliffe. His lordship has sent twenty parcels of books in memory of the late J. D. Bourchier.

It requires so little to support such an institution adequately and to enable it to develop its work of social progress, culture, and enlightenment.

Bulgaria has turned out an unfortunate country, but surely her efforts for good and useful work should be generously appreciated by those who cannot deny that such efforts and work are also for the advancement of their interests. The English-Speaking League of Sofia, I do believe, claims their support.—I am, etc.,
P. M. MATTHEEFF.

Sofia, February 5, 1921.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The negotiations undertaken with the Turkish Delegation during their recent visit to London for the mutual exchange of prisoners of war, learns Reuter, are now nearing completion, and it is hoped that the repatriation will shortly take place. Under this arrangement twenty British prisoners of war who have been held captive by the Turkish Nationalists in the neighbourhood of Angora will be repatriated in exchange for certain Turkish Nationalist prisoners held by the British Government. One of the British prisoners who will be repatriated in accordance with this arrangement is Colonel Rawlinson, brother of Lord Rawlinson, who was sent on a military mission to the Caucasus about eighteen months ago.

Beersheba municipality has decided to erect a bust of Lord Allenby in Beersheba to commemorate the first victory of the Allies in Palestine. The bust will be the work of a Jerusalem sculptor, and will be in Palestinian stone.

The Queen of the Hellenes has intervened on behalf of the Greek refugees from the Caucasus now in camps at Salonika, where their condition is reported to be very insanitary and their death-rate from typhus and dysentery very high. The Government has accordingly sent £20,000 for immediate relief.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

The McCullagh String Quartet.

We have heard much recently of the virtues of female musicians, and it was perhaps with ears saddened by the recollection of failures by other lady chamber players that we went to hear the concert given by the McCullagh String Quartet at the Mortimer Hall on March 21. This quartet is composed of four ladies from Liverpool, and, though this was their first appearance in London, let us say at once that here is a competent body of lady musicians, well worth hearing. It is true that they do not possess in unusual measure any of those qualities supposed to suffuse from their sex—emotional warmth, dash, fire, and the rest of it—but they do play in tune, their discipline is good, and their modesty quite charming. Novacek's quartet in E flat is not a bright work, and the acoustics of the Mortimer Hall made its inner parts sound thinner than they actually were, so that the performance was never moving; however, they certainly justified their claim to consideration. In Holbrook's Pianoforte Quintet, which they played with the composer at the pianoforte, there is too much that is commonplace, and one would willingly have heard this quartet in things of greater movement. It was unfortunate that J. R. Heath's "The Flowers of Flame," a dramatic song sequence with string quartet and pianoforte, should have been introduced at this concert, for the Mortimer Hall is the last place in the world where such a work should have been given. The singer, Mr. John Goss, had quite the worst time of it; but the audience, who could hear but few of the words, ran him a close second. As far as one could judge the work under such conditions, it was surprisingly bad. J. R. Heath is capable of much better stuff than this.

Miss Isabel Gray.

In Miss Isabel Gray's pianoforte playing there is a very certain but fixed attraction; her restraint is fine, but a lack of spiritual abandon defers one's admiration of her. There was much confidence—even audacity—in her performance of three concerti at the orchestral concert which she gave, with Sir Henry Wood and the New Queen's Hall Orchestra, at the Queen's Hall on March 22, but it was justified. Catoire's Concerto in A flat (Op. 21), Rachmaninov's in C minor (Op. 18), and Cesar Franck's "Variations Symphoniques" are about as stiff a test as you may wish, and, technically speaking, Miss Gray came through brilliantly. There are a quite delightful neatness and good finish in her playing, which save it from being superficial display. But at present her tone is a little shallow, and there is a want of intimacy that tends to make a monotonous impression. However, these things, which seem to derive from deliberate restraint rather than lack of temperament, will probably alter, for her potentialities are manifestly very great.

Sir Henry Wood's orchestra, which did not seem in very good form, made small appeal with Butterworth's "Shropshire Lad" Rhapsody, but they gave an adequate first performance (in a London concert hall) to Ravel's suite, "Le Tombeau de Couperin." This pianoforte music has been most charmingly orchestrated, in that delicate way of which Ravel is a master. Mozart's Minuet in D was a happy piece to place between Rachmaninov's sentimental concerto and the strictly governed emotion of Franck's Variations; but for Miss Gray to choose as an encore the drearily long Prelude in E minor of Rachmaninov was surely an error. This Russian is not a cheery soul at the best of times, but to let him spread his sentiment at the end of an interesting programme is to produce an anti-climax.

The London Choral Society.

It was hard luck on the London Choral Society, whose ambition is as high as that of any choral body, that its performance at the Queen's Hall on March 23 of Beethoven's "Mount of Olives" and "Solemn Mass" should be marred by the accidents that befel the soloists. Criticism is gratuitous when impromptu soloists have to be called upon; though the singing of Miss Lilian Berger, a very complete musician, who volunteered her services when Miss Astra Desmond failed to appear, was, in the circumstances, memorable. Of the rest not very much can honestly be said in praise, though the choir sang with more spirit than is their custom. No defects of time, attack, intonation, and so on could obscure the splendour of the "Credo" in the Mass; here, indeed, the sheer depth of Beethoven was sometimes reached, particularly in the orchestral passages. One felt sorry for the conductor, Mr. Arthur Fagge, who, though never imaginative at the best of times, might have done much worse in the extremely trying conditions.

ANDANTE.

An urgent appeal has been received by the Armenian Refugee Fund in London for help for the Armenians, who are now experiencing the effects of a terrible food crisis.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"CYPRUS UNDER THE TURKS, 1571-1878." By H. C. Luke, B.Litt., M.A. (London: Oxford University Press. 8s. 6d. net.)
- II.—"A LADY DOCTOR IN BAKHTIARI LAND." By Elizabeth N. Macbean Ross, M.B. (London: Leonard Parsons. 7s. 6d. net.)
- III.—"THE PILGRIM IN JERUSALEM." By Rev. O. H. Parry, M.A. Illustrated. (London: S.P.C.K. 10s. net.)

I.—TURKISH CYPRUS.

The Turks held Cyprus for three centuries (1570-1878), wresting it from the Venetians, whose occupation lasted eighty-two years. The three preceding centuries of Lusignan rule had been a period of amazing wealth and luxury, which left architectural monuments of great beauty and interest. But the Orthodox Greek Church, to which the bulk of the people belonged, had been reduced to complete submission by the Latin Church, whose Archbishop was supreme. The Ottoman invaders were, therefore, almost welcomed by the Greek-speaking Cypriots as deliverers, and the Sultan, whose favour was thus gained, restored the Orthodox Archbishop and abolished the existing serfdom. The people, however, only passed under another form of tyranny. They had to pay to follow their religion, and to contribute heavier taxes than the Turks, who were brought into the island in large numbers to appropriate the best lands. The Porte found a taxable population of about 85,000, in a population estimated at 197,000. Then began a period of degradation and oppression in an island much afflicted by drought and locusts. Many left it for Crete, Corfu, and the Morea. Figures are unreliable, but it is unlikely that the Turkish element ever exceeded the Greek. The island became a Pashalik, under the Dardanelles vilayet; and later the estate of the Kapitan Pasha (Lord High Admiral), with a Musellim (*Mutasellim*) as resident Governor. Subsequently it became a fief of the Grand Vizier. Governors bought their posts, and recouped themselves by squeezing what they could out of the people. There was but rarely a good and well-disposed Pasha. The superior commercial activity of the Greeks enabled them to redeem their monasteries and Church properties. Meanwhile the Greek Archbishop—the Ethnarch, or political head of his community—and the Ottoman Governor found it to their mutual interest to keep on friendly terms, and under this "unholy alliance" the unfortunate Cypriots were unmercifully fleeced. Sometimes the rapacity of the Prelate led to his downfall, and sometimes, on the other hand, bishops proceeded secretly to Constantinople to protest against the unbearable oppression of the Governor. The reforms of Mahmoud II. and his successor marked a new, and in some respects better, era. But Ottoman laws, good as they are on paper, are disregarded in practice, and too often become dead letters. The Greeks now sought in ever-increasing numbers to acquire Hellenic nationality, and the Turks saw with alarm that Cyprus would soon become a Greek colony, with the Sultan's authority at an end. The Porte therefore decreed that the Sultan's permission was necessary for a change of nationality. A rising of the Turks in 1804 was a prelude to that of 1821, when the Turkish Governor found in the Greek rebellion a pretext for ruthless repression in Cyprus.

The British connection is of interest. A British Consulate is first mentioned in 1626. The archives date from the last part of the eighteenth century. Consuls were appointed, up to 1825, by the Levant Company, which traded and was well represented in Cyprus. We find British merchants lending money to Cypriots at 20, or in reality 30, per cent., since they took interest in kind (silk, cotton, wine, and cereals) at their own valuation. The British name stood higher than that of any other nation, and their relations with the Turkish authorities were apparently always friendly.

Mr. Luke has done good service towards filling the gap in Cyprus annals caused by the sterile period of Ottoman misrule. He has drawn largely from the excellent *Excerpta Cypria* of the late Mr. C. D. Cobham, and from the archives of the British Consulate in Cyprus, now first unearthed by him. Perhaps it would have been well had he relegated some of the correspondence to appendices, and given us more, in narrative form, from his own pen. Perhaps he will do so in a future and fuller edition.

II.—A LADY DOCTOR IN LURISTAN.

From time immemorial the Bakhtiaris have occupied a mountainous tract in Southern Persia known as Luristan. Their habitat lies athwart the communications between Teheran and the Indian Ocean, and commands the lower reaches of the Karun, which is Persia's only navigable river. Hence their influence on her politics is out of all proportion to their numbers. It is increased by a well-knit

feudal organisation, which—despite internecine struggles for power—has enabled them to retain virtual independence. Dr. Elizabeth N. Macbean Ross, who lived for several years in Luristan as a lady doctor, gives us much curious information regarding the powerful Bakhtiar tribes. Government is in the hands of a group of ruling families, the males being designated "Khans" and the females "Bibis." Dr. Ross won her way into the innermost circle of this aristocracy, and ranked as "Bibi" during her residence in Bakhtiar-land. She traces a striking parallel between Scotland in the sixteenth century and latter-day Persia; but acutely explains the situation there by remarking that "the principle of evolution acts just as surely in the social development of nations as it does in the realm of science" (p. 110). Deeply interesting is her account of the manners and customs of the Bakhtiar clans. They have no history, poetry, or legends. Their language—probably an offshoot of the obsolete *Farsi*—cannot be reduced to writing. In point of religious belief, they are fatalists and agnostics, resembling in this respect the tribesmen of pre-Islamic Arabia. Each of their chieftains dwells in an isolated castle, surrounded by his retainers and rules the *vayyas*, or tillers of the soil, with a rod of iron. He keeps them at heel by controlling the system of irrigation, on which their crops depend, and, like the corresponding class in pre-revolutionary France, regards his luckless vassals as *taillables et corvéables à merci*. His womenfolk enjoy an exceptional position. They are for the most part well educated, capable housewives, and able to manage the family estates during the husband's protracted absence. Polygamy is universal, and, according to Dr. Ross, it works admirably in practice. She writes (p. 64):—

The Bakhtiar women are as a rule well treated, sheltered, protected, and cared for. Their children are brought up in the rank and with the status of the father, and certainly in the tribe with which I am acquainted, much of the frightful immorality prevalent in the West is conspicuous by its absence.

The Bakhtiaris are, indeed, model parents, eager to give their children the best education within their reach. It has become the custom to send boys of the aristocratic class to Switzerland for the purpose. Dr. Ross is inclined to regret this new departure, and there is no doubt that the British public school affords a better training to scions of a ruling race than any Continental Lycée. Many leading Bakhtiaris cherish strong British proclivities, but great mischief has been wrought of late years by an Indian renegade, who poisons their minds against our countrymen. It is sad to learn from Dr. J. N. Macbean Ross's Foreword that the authoress died of typhus fever while serving as a medical officer attached to the Serbian army, leaving behind her a memory which, as a high official said, "will live for ever in the hearts of the Serbian people." F. H. S.

III.—THE PILGRIM IN JERUSALEM.

Of the making of many books about Jerusalem there is certainly no end, and surely every lover of the Holy City will be glad of them as tributes to the supreme beauty and charm of her who is to them the centre of the world. "The Pilgrim in Jerusalem," we are told, "reproduces in literary form the talks the author was wont to give to the soldiers in Jerusalem." No doubt this explains the detached arrangement of the book, each chapter being rounded off as a separate article; and also its somewhat noticeable lack of historical sequence. Because each part of Jerusalem is treated in this isolated fashion we never finish with any period, but are constantly dragged backwards on our tracks to this or that person or event, and yet, when we reach the end of the book, have gained no clear outline of the story of Jerusalem. The author evidently has not lived in Palestine, and thus has had to rely upon guide-books and works of reference rather than upon personal knowledge and experience. He gives us a good list of "important works" upon Palestine, and has evidently read up his subject well; but it is strange to find Mark Twain and Mr. Fulleylove quoted at length, and barely a word from any real authority on the Holy City.

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Mr. Parry thinks that "the absence of any sanctuary or apse seems to show that the Mosque El Aksa was built for the Moslems" (p. 52). He should give his authority for such a definite statement of opinion, which is by no means generally held. We think also that he errs in stating that the four crosslets of the Jerusalem Cross represent the "four principalities of Antioch, Beyrout, Ascalon, and the Fortresses" (p. 105). Were they not the four great fiefs of Tripoli, Antioch, Edessa, and Galilee (or, as some say, Kerak)? Beyrout was only a lesser seignury in the County of Tripoli, and Ascalon in the Earldom of Jaffa (Conder, "Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem," p. 162 and maps). Of the Cross's inner and more beautiful meaning—the Five Wounds of our Lord—he says nothing. Another slip is the statement that "Godfrey entered Jerusalem on Good Friday, 1099" (p. 93). Jerusalem was taken on Friday, July 15, and one of the early Pilgrims tells us that over the great doorway of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre were carved the words—

One thousand and one hundred years save one
Since Blessed Mary bore her Glorious Son,
When rose upon July its fifteenth sun,
By Frankish might Jerusalem was won.

For the illustrations, also the work of the author, we have nothing but praise; they are charming, admirably chosen, delicate in execution, and most accurate. The headings to the chapters are also delightful, most suggestive and unusual. Certainly the writer has loved his subject, and we are sorry that he did not allow his genuine personal feeling to break through and disperse the guide-book atmosphere that pervades the book. E. M. E. B.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Chæphoræ of Aschylus is to be performed in the ancient Greek theatre at Smyrna on April 16, 17, 20, 24, and 28.

M. Clemenceau reached Paris on March 23 on his return from his tour in the East, and was enthusiastically welcomed.

The winter has been exceptionally severe in Northern Persia, and many muleteers are reported to have perished on the road.

The Secretary for India has appointed John Norman Garnock to superintend the transfer of lascars or other persons at North Shields.

Yugoslavia has decided to take part in the conference of the representatives of the Austrian Succession States, which is shortly to take place in Rome.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

March 31 (New Style).

March 18 (Old Style).

Ragab 21, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Adar II. 21, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Princess Beatrice left Algiers for Paris on Tuesday.

The Aga Khan left London on March 23 for Paris for Easter.

Earl and Countess Curzon of Kedleston spent Easter at Kedleston.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside are spending a short holiday in Paris.

The Ranee of Kalsia, with her daughter, has arrived in London from India.

Air Marshal Sir Hugh Trenchard arrived at Marseilles from Cairo on March 23.

Viscount and Viscountess Milner will return to London on April 20 from the South of France.

Mr. Alfred I. Ellis, of Birkdale, Southport, who died on December 27, left £500 to the Madras Tamil Mission and Orphanage.

A Reuter's message from Athens announces that Madame Manos, widow of the late King Alexander of Greece, has given birth to a baby girl.

M. L. Caftanzoglou, Minister Plenipotentiary and Secretary-General to the Greek Delegation, has been spending a few days in the Isle of Wight.

Sir Harry Lamb, who has been serving on the British High Commission in Constantinople, arrived at the Consulate-General at Smyrna on March 20.

Colonel Sir Malcolm Murray, who accompanied the Duke of Connaught to India, has returned to London. The Duke will probably be back towards the end of April.

Prince Danilo, eldest son of the late King Nicholas, has abdicated his claim to the Montenegrin throne in favour of his nephew Prince Michael, son of the late Prince Mirko.

Mr. Sachidananda Sinha, the Vice-President of the Indian Legislative Assembly, gave a banquet at Delhi last week in honour of Mr. A. F. Whyte, the President of the Assembly.

Lord and Lady Inchcape left London last week by the P. and O. Sicilia for Marseilles. It is their intention to make a short cruise in the Mediterranean on their yacht, the Rover.

The Kaisari-i-Hind, with Lord Reading on board, arrived at Port Said on March 23. Lord Reading landed, proceeded to Cairo by special train, and will rejoin the ship at Suez.

M. Costa Stoyanoff, Bulgarian Director of Public Debt, has arrived in Paris from Amsterdam, and together with Mr. Raiko Daskaloff, Minister for Commerce, will return shortly to Sofia.

M. Gounaris, the Greek War Minister, who was to have left London last Thursday, was confined to his room through indisposition, states Reuter, and was consequently obliged to postpone his departure for Athens until March 25.

The King has granted permission to Canon R. A. Maclean, O.B.E. (temporary C.F.), to wear the Order of St. Sava (4th class) conferred on him by the King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly in Rangoon, between A. V. Rooth, M.C. (late captain, 47th Sikhs), of the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation, Ltd., youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Rooth, Ashover, Chesterfield, and Mary Sidney Theresa, elder daughter of the late Sir John Lentaigne, F.R.C.S.I., of Tallaght, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

Sir Edward and Lady Boyle have returned to London from Belgrade, where, accompanied by the Dowager Lady Boyle, they have made arrangements for bringing the operations of the Serbian Relief Fund to a close.

Mr. Eugen and the Hon. Mrs. Millington-Drake are returning to Paris at the end of this month, and later proceed to Bucharest, where Mr. Millington-Drake has been appointed First Secretary of the British Legation.

An engagement is announced between Frederick Ewart Robertson, eldest son of the late F. E. Robertson, C.I.E., and Mrs. Robertson, and Brita Muriel, only child of H. R. Cobbold and Mrs. Cobbold, 20, Lee Road, Calcutta.

March 19 being the centenary of the birth of Sir Richard Burton, traveller, scholar, and translator of "The Thousand and One Nights," numbers of people visited St. Mary Magdalene's Cemetery, Mortlake, and laid wreaths on his tomb.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in April, between Major Evelyn St. Clair Gray, M.C., Poona Horse, and Evelyn, youngest daughter of the late Thomas Rome, J.P., of Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire, and of Mrs. Rome, Raymead, Goring-on-Thames.

At a meeting of the committee of the Association of Ceylon Golfers, held at the offices of the Ceylon Association in London, it was decided to hold a golf competition at Deal on June 7 and 8. Competitors should send in their names and their lowest club handicaps to the Secretary of the Association, 6, Laurence Pountney Hill, E.C.4, as soon as possible.

OBITUARY.

A Reuter's message announces that Mr. Chudleigh Garvice, a commandant of police in Egypt, has died at Alexandria, after four months' illness. He was the son of the late Mr. Charles Garvice, the novelist.

The death is announced of Mr. T. Evans Wansbrough, who during the war served voluntarily as an ambulance driver with the French Red Cross on the Salonika front. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre for his services.

The Jerusalem correspondent of *The Times* reports the death, on March 20, of His Eminence the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Kamil Hussein Effendi, who, he adds, was a man of fine character and much respected by all communities.

News reached London last week of the death at Calcutta of Sir Rash Behari Ghose, C.S.I., at the age of 75. He was a famous and great lawyer and a fine scholar. He was appointed to the Tagore Law Professorship in 1876, and had served on the Bengal Legislature and twice on the Supreme Legislature.

Sir Stuart Hogg died at his residence, Villa Celine, Beaulieu, on March 23. The fourth son of Sir James Weir Hogg, he entered the East India Company's service in 1853, and served as Assistant Commissioner in the Punjab, Collector of Burdwan, in Bengal, and Chief Commissioner of Police and chairman of the Municipality at Calcutta. He was knighted in 1875.

General Roger Pine Coffin has died at the Old Hall, Brackley, aged seventy-four. With the Royal Marines he saw active service with the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, taking part in the occupation of Port Said and the actions of El Magfar, Tel-el-Mahuta, Mahsameh, Kassassin, and the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. He was twice mentioned in despatches, and received the medal with clasp, the bronze star, and the brevet rank of major. In the Sudan Expedition of 1885 he was present at the actions of Hasheen and Tofrek and the operations at Tamai, and received two clasps. He was promoted to the rank of general in 1911.

General Gouraud, the French High Commissioner for Syria, has arrived in Constantinople.

The Alexandria Horticultural Society are holding shows on April 22, 23, 24, and November 5 and 6.

It is announced that the Belgrade Government have decided to take part in the conference of the representatives of the Austrian Secession States which is shortly to take place in Rome.

Professor Einstein has joined the Zionist delegation which accompanies Dr. Weizmann to the United States for the purpose of raising subscriptions for the Keren Hayesod £25,000,000 fund for Hebrew work in Palestine.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

March 22.—Colonel Amery informed Mr. Mosley that the latest figures show that the number of Indians employed by the Administration in Mesopotamia in December last were, under the Labour Directorate about 24,000, in the Inland Water Transport about 10,000, and on the railways about 19,000; and in other branches of the civil administration, the latest return for which is August, 1920, about 2,200. The last figure has since been reduced.

March 23.—Mr. Montagu informed Sir William Joynson-Hicks that the Prime Minister had decided to submit the military requirements of India to a special sub-committee of the Committee of Imperial Defence, and that the Government of India have announced that they are appointing a committee of the Viceroy's Executive Council to prepare the material to lay before the Committee of Imperial Defence. He gave an assurance that no further reductions will be made in the Indian Army pending the inquiry.

March 24.—On the motion for the adjournment of the House, a brief debate arose on the question of the British mandates for Mesopotamia, Palestine, and East Africa. The subject was introduced by Mr. Ormsby-Gore, who urged the consideration of the terms of the various mandates by both Houses of Parliament before the Government submitted their final draft to the Council of the League of Nations for their consideration and ratification. Mr. Ormsby-Gore also expressed his satisfaction at the scrapping of the Anglo-Persian agreement, and expressed the view that the interests of both Great Britain and Persia would be served by its complete abandonment. He hoped that the Foreign Office would convey to the British diplomatic representative in Teheran the thanks of all those interested in the well-being of Persia on the skilful manner in which he had safeguarded British interests during a difficult period. Colonel Archer-Shee hoped that Article 22 of the Covenant of the League might be amended so as to leave the final say regarding the terms of the mandates with Parliament rather than with the Council of the League. Lord Robert Cecil intimated that he would press for the appointment of a Select Committee of Parliament after the Easter recess to examine the draft mandates prepared by the Government in detail. He expressed doubts regarding the adequacy of the clauses of the Mesopotamia Mandate dealing with the use of military forces and concessions. Both Mr. Ormsby-Gore and Lord Robert Cecil countered the view held in certain quarters that the terms of the mandates were likely to impose increased financial burdens on Great Britain, and supported the view that had the policy of the Government during the interval that has elapsed since the Armistice been more closely on the lines of policy now embodied in the draft mandates many millions might have been saved.

Colonel Amery replied, and declined to commit the Government to the submission of the draft mandates to Parliament, and pointed out that the drafts had been the result of a series of negotiations with the principal Allied Powers to whom rights over the territories in question had been conveyed by the peace treaties. He agreed with Mr. Ormsby-Gore that the heavy expenditure in the Middle East had nothing to do with the League of Nations, and would equally have been incurred had no League existed. In regard to both Mesopotamia and Palestine, he had high hopes that the result of Mr. Churchill's conferences in Cairo and Jerusalem would enable a "drastic and sweeping reduction of expenditure" to be made. He added that "the more completely the inhabitants of Mesopotamia stand on their own feet the better we shall be pleased."

Lord Robert Cecil also asked some questions regarding the new position of the Treaty of Sévres. He hoped there would be no far-reaching changes in its provisions, especially with regard to Constantinople, which had been "the curse of Europe for centuries." Why the Turks should receive more consideration than the Germans was a mystery to him. They entered the war against England without a cause, they waged it with cruelty, and did their best to exterminate brutally a whole race. That we should turn round and show tenderness to the Turks at the very moment we were advertising our firmness towards Germany was, in his opinion, a grave defect of justice and an even graver one of policy.

Mr. Harmsworth (Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs), in replying, was unable, in view of present events in Asia Minor, to say anything more than has already been said by the Prime Minister regarding the Treaty of Sévres.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1921.

THE TRANSCAUCASIAN CAULDRON.

Situated between Russia and Turkey, and left, so far as the Allied Powers are concerned, to its own devices, Transcaucasia could hardly expect to escape the chaotic condition into which it has fallen. Amid the welter that has followed the war which was to end war, the Transcaucasian republics do not for the moment occupy a very important position in the eyes of the world; but they have a geographical significance which has not been lost upon either of their great neighbours, and when the Allies can divert their attention from things nearer home, they, too, will find that they cannot afford to be indifferent to the future of the three States commanding both the Russian and the Turkish high road to the Middle East and India. It is well, therefore, for the British public to keep in touch as far as possible with the course of events between the Black Sea and the Caspian, even if it is difficult to understand the policies that lie behind the kaleidoscopic changes that are taking place there. The one fact which for the onlooker emerges out of the almost hopeless tangle is that both Russia and Turkey would be consulting their own interests better by allowing Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, severally or collectively, to act as a buffer between them than by seeking territorial expansion at the expense of any of the three in order to bring Russian and Turkish territory into closer proximity. In this particular, it so happens, the interests of the Allied Powers are identical with those of Russia and Turkey; and for this reason it would seem incumbent upon the Entente Governments to lend at least their influence, if they cannot give more material support, to the forces struggling to carry out a policy of such general advantage. But no attempt would seem to have been made either at the recent London Conference or in the Trade Agreement with Russia to plead the cause of peace and free development in Transcaucasia. If Allied relations with Russia and Turkey improve, one of the first steps to be taken should be to persuade both countries to adopt a self-denying policy towards the three republics.

It is easier to follow the sequence of recent events in Transcaucasia than to understand the interplay of policies which have led up to those events. As is known, the first instinct of the three States of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan on achieving independence was to form a federation. The arrangement, unhappily, lasted for a few weeks only, as the Georgians held that their interests called for a declaration of war on Turkey, and they were unable to carry Azerbaijan with them. This separatist movement proved the undoing of all the States, as it exposed them individually to Bolshevik designs. Azerbaijan was the first to succumb, a year ago; Armenia followed; and now a combined Red attack on Georgia has placed Russia once more in authority over her Caucasian provinces. It is less than a year since the Soviet Government accorded recognition to the Georgian republic, and it would have been thought that the Socialist character of the Government would satisfy Bolshevik requirements for the time being. In the opinion of the Georgians themselves, however, Moscow has been actuated more by racial considerations than by political doctrine. A particularly bitter cry has been raised from Tiflis against

the "Red Imperialists," who have "annihilated the most democratic State that ever existed." Between Russia and Turkey, Georgia has, indeed, fared badly. While her Government has been driven literally into the sea—it is reported to be located at present on a steamer lying off Batoum—the Turks have seized the districts of Artvin and Ardahan. The attempt to secure possession of Batoum as well was not successful; after a brief occupation of the town the Turks were expelled, as a result of the Georgians making common cause with the Bolsheviks, and a Russo-Turkish Treaty signed at Moscow on March 16 cedes Batoum to Georgia, while confirming the Turkish Nationalist Government in its possession of Artvin and Ardahan, together with Kars, which has been taken from the Armenian republic. The attitude of the Russian Bolsheviks would seem to be that they are prepared to recognise Georgian independence only in the event of the country adopting a Soviet régime. To judge from the terms of the Moscow agreement with the Turks, they are satisfied that the arrangements made for the Red conquest of Georgia suffice to keep it permanently Red, or they must have had other reasons for an accommodation at this time with Turkey. But events in Armenia, where the Bolshevik régime has since been overthrown, suggest that other countries as well as Russia fail to appreciate the blessings of Bolshevism and wait only for the first opportunity to rid themselves of it. The new Armenian Government is confident that it has disposed of the Soviet danger from within, but it remains to be seen whether the Moscow authorities will not order an organised campaign against Armenia on the lines that have proved effective in the case of Georgia.

In spite of the recent agreement between Moscow and Angora, the Turks can hardly retain the illusion that in making common cause with the Bolsheviks they have hit upon a settled policy for the Ottoman Empire of the future. The experience of the Caucasian republics shows that Soviet friendship is conditional upon the acceptance of Bolshevik doctrines, which are not likely to commend themselves to Turkish ruling classes. Unless, however, she does accept these doctrines, Turkey can have no permanent feeling of security against a Soviet Russia, while she has the certain knowledge that a restoration of Imperial Russia will bring with it the old designs upon Constantinople. In these circumstances there can be only one sound policy for the Turks, to create a buffer territory in Transcaucasia between themselves and the Russians, and to safeguard their retention of Constantinople by arriving at an understanding on the subject with the League of Nations. If the Angora authorities are capable of looking far enough ahead, they will seize the opportunity that now presents itself of coming to terms with the Allied Governments. A successful Greek offensive cannot fail to impair the position they have gained as a result of the London Conference; if, on the other hand, the Greeks are pressed back upon Smyrna, the Turks will have gained a relatively unimportant advantage, as they will be left with the more serious problems confronting the future of their country still unsolved. Both Turkey's choice of policy and the future of Transcaucasia call for a sympathetic attitude on the part of the Allied Governments. The withdrawal of British influence from the young Republics was a misfortune for all of them, and there is every reason to suppose that they are sufficiently aware of the fact to appreciate any help or advice that can now be given them. No costly expedition is required, and even a mission could be restricted to very small dimensions. It should be possible, at an outlay that could not be challenged by those whose concern for the national welfare is inspired mainly by the desire to embarrass the present Government, for Great Britain by friendly counsel to assist Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan along the path of mutual toleration, leading to political co-operation, while persuading the Turks that their own interests lie also in this direction. At least the attempt is worth making. The policy of leaving inexperienced Governments to stew in their own juice is fatal to the world's peace, and there should be other ways of helping the lame dogs among the nations over stiles than by means of formal mandates.

SOME SILHOUETTES.

By "Cactus."

I.—HACKING TO THE MEET.

At a cross-roads stands a staff officer at his pony's head, bridle over arm; pony and man in marching order.

The deep sandy roads, bounded by high cactus hedges, gleam white under a full moon. Allenby's cavalry is concentrating for the "big push," and a Division is moving under cover of darkness from its camp to the orange groves where it is to lie hidden, close behind the line, ready for zero day.

The officer looks anxiously at his watch, and glances in the direction from which he expects the brigades. As he does so he hears behind him the gurgling of a grousing column of camels approaching the line of march of the cavalry at right angles. "Blazes!" he mutters, "who the devil are these?" and mentally curses someone at G.H.Q. for having boxed the march tables. He stops the Australian officer riding at the head of the column. "Who are you?" "133rd Camel Company—water for X. Division. Must be in Wilhelme by 0600, or the 'feet' won't get their water."

"Many behind you?"

"Nope! 'Nother company perhaps."

"Right! Get a move on quick. There's a Division crossing your line in a few minutes, and there'll be hell to pay if they aren't under cover before 'Johnny Turk' gets up in the air and spots 'em."

The column winds slowly by, water gurgling in the *fantassies* as they rock to and fro on the creaking saddle packs. Led by blue-clothed, puggaried Egyptian Labour Corps, endless camels stream by. To the anxious watcher it seems as though all the camels in the world are collected in that column. "I believe the blighter has bluffed me," he thinks to himself; and pictures the wrath of the approaching brigadier if he finds his road blocked.

Just as he hears the approaching jingle of the leading brigade the last camel grunts by.

Comes a ghostly brigadier with his staff, followed by regiment after regiment, shrouded in clinging, acrid dust, through which lance tips glitter intermittently in the moonlight; follow machine-gun squadrons—guns on pack, and still more cavalry. Brigade after brigade files silently by.

As the tail passes him the staff officer turns to his pony and tightens his girths. Feeling hungry, he unstraps his near wallet and pulls out what he hopes is a tin of chocolate. An ominous rattle meets his ears, and on opening the tin the contents prove to be a collection of spare buttons and badges.

"Well, old man," he mutters to his pony, as he swings into the saddle, "some servants are the frozen limit!"

II.—THE MEET.

Again moonlight and sand. It is the following night, but the sand this time is the sand of the almost tideless Mediterranean. To the south, almost as far as the eye can see, horses are picketed close under the cliff in case of a stray shell. To the north the sky is occasionally lit up by the flash of a gun, but on the whole it is wonderfully peaceful, and the men, British and Indian, are taking a last bathe before the hunt begins.

"A bit different from France," muses our friend of last night, as he canters along the sand.

Arriving at the head of the leading brigade, he finds a lance stuck in the sand bearing a divisional pennant. He pulls up, dismounts, and hands his pony over to his orderly.

Entering a cave, he finds his brother officers seated over the remains of a late supper.

"Well, are they all up?" asks the G.S.O.1.

"Yes; the rear brigade was in its position of readiness and off-saddled when I left them. Where's the General?"

"Gone to bed"—indicating an inner cave—"and by the same token you'd better turn in, too, when you've had some food. Hounds move off at four ak emma, but I don't suppose we'll go through much before eight. Well, I'm off to bed—night!"

III.—GONE AWAY.

The dawn on September 19, 1918, was heralded by the resounding crash of our barrage as our guns opened simultaneously at Zero hour. The cavalry, early astir, have been preparing for the long hunt which every cavalryman hoped against hope lay before him. Two hours after Zero the Division whose fortunes we are following is formed up along the beach, screened from the view of the Turk by Arsuf Head. On the cliff above is the headquarters of the Infantry division which is to make for them the "G" in "Gap" they had so often waited for in France.

In a dugout cut in the side of a gully leading up from the beach is the Infantry battle headquarters. Outside a cavalry and infantry officer are chatting.

"Well," says the Infantryman, "it looks as if you are going to have a show at last. What's your objective?"

"This time to-morrow," answers the Cavalryman, quietly, "we shall be in Nazareth, and with any luck we shall have nobbled old man Liman."

"Good lord! that's a bit optimistic, isn't it?"

"Well, our General has told the Chief he will get there, and nothing will stop him once he gets going."

A head pops out of the dugout.

"Divisional Commander wanted on the 'phone, sir."

Away slips the Infantryman up the hill, and returns in a moment with his General, who enters the dugout. Moments pass, and the Infantry Commander emerges, and calls the cavalryman up to him.

"Where's your General?"

"Still up at your O.P., sir."

"Well, young man," says the Divisional Commander, "you can tell your General that the infantry have got their third objective, and that I, General X., consider that the cavalry can now go through." The cavalryman salutes, and with a broad grin of delight sprints off on his errand.

"Der Tag!"

GREEK GIFT TO BRITAIN.

The Greek White Cross Society, which was organised to provide marriage gifts to daughters and sisters of Greek soldiers who gave their lives for their country, has signalled in a notable way its appreciation of the British soldiers who died while serving with the Salonika Army during the war. Through M. Spiros Matsoukas, its founder and president, the society placed in the hands of the British Ambassador at Athens a sum representing £1,612 12s. 10d., with a request that it should be distributed in marriage gifts to the daughters of British soldiers who died on the Macedonian front. The gift has now been transferred by the Treasury to the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation for administration, and the corporation has decided to distribute it in sums of £32 to daughters married after their father's death. Applications, giving full particulars of the date of marriage, name, number, and regiment of father, and date of his death, should be addressed to the Secretary, Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, 17, Waterloo Place, London, S.W.1.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:—
ANGLO-PERSIAN AGREEMENT. EGYPT. ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY. ALBANIA. (March 21.)

THE EGYPTIAN CABINET.

The new Egyptian Cabinet is composed as follows:—

Prime Minister (without portfolio).....	ADLY YEGHEN PASHA
Vice-President of the Council (without portfolio).....	HUSSEIN RUSHDI PASHA
Minister of the Interior	ABDEL KHALEK SARWAT PASHA
Minister for Public Works, War, and Marine	MOHAMMED SHAFIK PASHA
Minister of Communications	AHMED ZIWAR PASHA
Minister of Education.....	GAAFER WALY PASHA
Minister of Wakfs.....	MIDHAT YEGHEN PASHA
Minister of Justice	ABDEL FATTAH YEHIA PASHA
Minister of Agriculture	NEJIB GHALI PASHA



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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Mesopotamia.

Mr. Percival Landon, writing from Baghdad in the *Daily Telegraph* of March 22, states clearly the problem of defending Mesopotamia. But, as he says, little can be done until the extent of the military force with which the Cabinet intends to fulfil its obligations under the Mandate is known. However, he proceeds:—

It may be of some guidance to Downing Street to know that at least eighteen months must elapse before an Arab army can be sufficiently organised and trained to assume the duties of external defence—duties which seem unlikely to grow less during that period. Nor must it be forgotten that internal dissensions are bound to break out as soon as the final decision as to the new Empire of Irak is made public, even if—even all the more because—that decision is based upon popular election. Unless, therefore, we are willing to admit defeat in that one corner of Asia where our interests, direct and indirect, are unrivalled; to confess our inability to handle a Mandate which was peculiarly one of our own seeking; and, above all, to Americanise our conception of our duty towards our neighbour in the world—we must be ready to see this new State through its first and helpless period by maintaining "force" here. That our way is set about with difficulties is unquestionable. No easy path will bring us to our goal. But let us, at any rate, comfort some of those who believe that the money invested there is merely thrown away. The country is amply rich enough to pay for its own salvation, and the timid would do well to remember a parable. Mr. Darcy sank a quarter of a million in this part of the world before he discovered a cupful of oil. But he then discovered also the Anglo-Persian oilfields.

The matter, indeed, is one to which we are already committed. There is a consolation to be found by some in the thought that our enterprise will be justified from the financial point of view. Others will be glad that we at least have not laid our hand to the plough and looked back. But no amount of moral satisfaction will alter the plain fact that in the carrying out of this, the only Mandate of importance that the peace has called into being, we shall need all the judgment, tact, experience, and resolution that we possess.

Changes in Constantinople.

Writing in the *Fortnightly Review* for March upon "Constantinople After the War," Mr. H. Charles Woods sums up his impressions of the changes which have taken place in the Turkish capital. The Russian occupation of Pera, the exceedingly high cost of living, and the new position occupied by the Moslem woman—these are the first things upon which he comments. Turning to politics, he sketches five courses which could be pursued in an attempt to settle the Eastern Question, and concludes by suggesting the following amendments to the Treaty of Sévres:—

1. A liberal interpretation of many of the clauses dealing with the financial and other forms of control. Everybody whom I saw in Constantinople made this point, and many added that, if the "Commission of the Straits" cannot be abolished, its authority should extend only to the waters, and not to the shores, of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus.

2. Asia Minor to be evacuated by the Greeks, and the Armenian frontier (upon the position of which the President of the United States is to arbitrate) to be drawn in such a way as to give reasonable satisfaction to Ottoman claims. Although the first of these points is of great importance, I believe that all just Turks might agree to the adoption of one of the following alternatives. Firstly, that a plebiscite under Allied control should be held now instead of, possibly, at the end of five years, and that, whatever be the result of that plebiscite, some special régime should be established for the port of Smyrna, where the Greek element of the population undoubtedly predominates. Secondly, that the whole zone, or at any rate the greater part of it, should enjoy an autonomy under the League of Nations or one of the Great Powers—a solution much less objectionable than is the presence of the Greeks in such an area.

3. In Europe the Ottoman frontier to be the pre-war and not the Sévres boundary. People whom I met in the East seemed to think that there were two possible substitutes for such a change. Firstly, the recognition of a frontier formed by the Enos-Midia line or by the line which limits the Straits Zone. Secondly, the creation of an autonomous and internationalised State to include what was Turkish and perhaps also the pre-war Bulgarian Thrace.

To summarise and to recapitulate, it may be said that the war has resulted in far-reaching changes in Constantinople and that the situation in Turkey is now much worse than at any time since the Armistice. In the present impasse, created by the existence of a Treaty which cannot be enforced and which it is difficult to destroy, it is impossible to suggest what may be the decisions of the forthcoming Conference, or to say whether that Conference will arrive at any decisions at all. In such circumstances, all that I can add is that there are two outstanding conditions which ought to be recognised. Firstly, although in repudiating M. Venizelos, the people of Greece have forfeited one of their strongest claims to Allied support, the interests and welfare of the large number of Hellenes domiciled at Smyrna and in other areas affected by a modification in the Treaty cannot be ignored. They are as much entitled to representation at the Conference as are the Greeks of the Old Kingdom or the Turks

of Constantinople or Angora. And, secondly, provided the rights of these Christians are safeguarded, once the Treaty is to be amended (and it must be amended), I think that no stone should be left unturned to secure amendments which, if they be not actually satisfactory, should at least be acceptable to all the better and more moderate sections of the Turkish people.

THE EVEREST EXPEDITION.

At a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society last week the President, Sir Francis Younghusband, announced that the King, who is patron of the society, had sent a donation of £100 towards the funds of the Mount Everest expedition, in which both the King and Queen took the greatest interest. Colonel Howard Bury, the leader of the expedition, has been received by the Prince of Wales, and has explained to him the maps and plans. Sir Francis Younghusband added that Mr. Harold Raeburn had already left for India; and all the provisions and mountain equipment had been despatched. They had heard from Major Morshead that his survey party would assemble at Darjeeling on April 1.

ARCHÆOLOGY IN PALESTINE.

At the first meeting of the subscribers to the British School of Archæology in Jerusalem, held at King's College recently, the Chairman, Sir Frederic Kenyon, announced that the Prince of Wales had consented to be the patron of the school. The Director, Professor J. Garstang, who has recently returned from Jerusalem, described the establishment of the school in a convenient building on the Damascus road, and stated that close relations had been established with the Government, and that a basis of collaboration and co-operation had been arranged with the French and American schools of archæology. The school was co-operating with the Palestine Exploration Fund in the excavation of the site of Askalon, where very interesting discoveries had already been made, and still more important discoveries were anticipated when the excavations were resumed in April.

The Chairman pointed out that, though the school had been established with an extraordinary measure of success, it could not be maintained and developed without much greater support, and he urged the present subscribers to endeavour to interest others and to obtain further support. The officers elected were Mr. C. E. Mott to be hon. secretary, and Mr. Robert Mond hon. treasurer. Sir Frederic Kenyon was unanimously elected first President of the school. The Vice-Presidents include Lord Curzon, Lord Allenby, Sir Herbert Samuel, and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Bucharest Fair Project.

It will be seen from our Bucharest Correspondent's letter this week that there is some idea of holding the proposed British Empire fair at Bucharest this year. No one can doubt that the sooner the project is undertaken the better for the future of our trade with South-Eastern Europe, but the possibility of its materialising this year may, I think, be dismissed. There is not sufficient time to make the exhibition really representative, and it must be that if it is to fulfil its object.

The Answer to Lancashire.

It was obvious that Lancashire could hope for no satisfaction in regard to the Indian cotton duties as a result of the deputations of protest to Mr. Montagu, but the cotton county needed to be convinced that an altogether new situation had arisen in India, and that henceforward it would be useless to look to Whitehall for redress whenever any question of altering the cotton duties arose, and the necessary orientation of view will doubtless follow as the result of Mr. Montagu's unambiguous reply to the deputations. He pointed out that the Government of India had been given the right to consider the interests of India first, than which I imagine Lancashire could have had no plainer reply. He further remarked that the Indian Budget makes no special distinction in regard to cotton fabrics, that the duties have been raised to meet a deficit, and that Lancashire's goods are in the same position as other British manufactures. Admittedly there is no specific discrimination against Lancashire, but as our principal exports to India are cotton goods, it cannot be said that there is much in the point raised by Mr. Montagu. For the time being, of course, Lancashire is still in a favoured position, as the cotton Excise duty is maintained, but it may be assumed that that will go in due course, and it is obvious that Lancashire must be prepared for a time when India will represent a very different market from what it has in the past.

The Outlook.

It would be futile to pretend, as a contemporary does, that Lancashire will be unaffected to any great extent by the change, for the result must obviously be immensely to increase the market in India for home-made fabrics. India is never likely to produce goods that can compete with the high count productions of Lancashire, but the extent of the Indian market of the future for Lancashire will be determined to a marked extent by the cost of production. It should be added that world trade conditions make it certain that whatever the effect on the Indian market, it will be some time before Lancashire really feels it. With the trade depression coming to an end and the prospects of the gradual restoration of trade with Russia, Lancashire is likely to find in the near future all the outlets she requires for her manufactures.

Austria and the Danube Ports.

It seems extremely probable that one of the results of the war settlement in the Near East will be the transference to a considerable extent of Austria's sea-borne trade from Trieste to the Danube ports. Apart from any question of inclination, the tendency is bound to be promoted by the fact that in the future Austria will be able to obtain her food supplies from Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Roumania, and South Russia. The results of the change would be to enhance still further the value of the Danube as a commercial highway, and greatly to increase the importance of Galatz, Braila, and other similarly situated ports.

Egypt's Need for Tourists.

The failure of the Egyptian season is in no way a matter for surprise in view of the prevailing circumstances. Up to 1914 the Nile Valley was sure to receive throngs of tourists as each winter came round, but the war came to cut across everything, and of those of Egypt's

habitues who have survived few can now afford the increased expense entailed, and outside their ranks this generation does not know Egypt. So while the Riviera resorts have all been crowded with the fashionable world Egypt has found herself more or less neglected, and with the pleasant prospect, moreover, of being still more ignored in the future, as the result of France's efforts to popularise Morocco as a winter resort. There is only one remedy, and that is to bring the charms of Egypt to the notice of the present generation by a carefully planned advertising campaign. Whether the authorities can be prevailed upon to adopt this method or not is another matter, but it would seem certain that, if they fail to do so, Egypt must be prepared to regard her tourist season as a lost source of wealth.

American Enterprise.

Those who are familiar with the districts bordering the Red Sea will probably find some cause for amusement in the American Consular report on motoring in those regions which we give this week. Most things are possible, but it would be difficult to visualise the development of a market for motors in the Red Sea district that would really repay commercial enterprise. The writer, it must be pointed out, does not suggest anything of the kind, but he does say that there is an immediate opening for a limited number of motors, and therein lies the significance of the report from our point of view. You would not find a British representative taking the trouble to discuss at considerable length a restricted market. He would, on the contrary, confine himself to really promising openings. It is the American all over not to neglect any prospect of business, however small or unremunerative, and that is one of the secrets of success that British commerce will have to adopt if it is to keep abreast of trade enterprise in the future. In the present case, with a little care, a British firm might well find a permanent market in the Red Sea district for a few motors each year. Regarded as an isolated transaction, it would be small, it is true, but it is the little additions in this kind of way that help to swell the balance-sheet to a really respectable total at the end of the year.

Roumania's Industries.

A recently issued report on the industrial situation in Roumania at the end of last year gives anything but an encouraging view of the outlook for Roumania's industries. Great damage was done during the war to the various industrial installations, and reconstruction and development have been hampered, among other things, by the difficulty of replacing machines and accessories on account of the depreciated currency and the lack of credits; the increase in the cost of labour, the lack of fuel, transport difficulties, and the lack of capital and internal credits. A survey of the principal causes preventing progress in individual industries shows that among the chief difficulties are the lack of markets and foreign competition, and the frequent recurrence of these factors suggests very forcibly the doubtful advisability of attempting to develop industries for which, for one reason or another, the country is unsuited.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, March 10.

The Coming Budget.

At the last Minister's Council, which took place on Sunday morning, the principal discussion was the coming Budget and the new Fiscal Reform Bill. M. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance, on this occasion, made some interesting statements, saying that after the reduction of 20 per cent. was applied by every department, excepting the Ministry of Communications, the total State expenditure would amount to about 5½ milliard lei: and that by applying the existing taxes as well as the new taxes emanating from the new Fiscal Reform Bill, the revenues would exceed 8 milliard lei. In view of the enforced reduction in the expenses, a large number of Government clerks whose services can be dispensed with will be dismissed from the different departments.

M. Titulescu's efforts to reduce expenses have already begun to show results. As an example, the War Office presented on March 1 a Budget showing a reduction of 230,000 million lei, and has also cancelled the War Fund. They further recalled from abroad 49 officers on various missions, and cut down the number of motor-cars used by this department from 1,230 to 118. The expenses for the upkeep of these motor-cars have been reduced from 50,000 to 25,000 lei per car per annum. The first new tax to be put into force, and which, at the same time, is expected to bring in the largest collections, will be the proportional and progressive income-tax.

The Ministry of Finance is also now working on the unification of taxation throughout Greater Roumania, for it is interesting to note that at present four systems are in use in the country: In Transylvania, the Hungarian system; in Bukovina, the Austrian; in Bessarabia, the Russian; and in the Old Kingdom, the Roumanian system.

Foreign Currency Regulations.

The "Valuta" Committee at the Ministry of Finance has taken the following decisions concerning the export of foreign currencies. No foreign currency is allowed to be taken out of the country without the authorisation of the "Valuta" Committee. Exception is made for amounts that do not exceed 1,000 lei, 1,000 French francs, 1,000 Swiss francs, 1,000 Italian lire, 1,000 German marks, 1,000 Austrian, Czechoslovak, or Polish crowns, 100 dollars or 40 pounds sterling. Foreigners on no account are allowed to take lei out of the country. Stocks and shares may be removed by such foreigners who owned them before the war, but in no case by Roumanians.

Miscellaneous.

The Government has decided to export 40,000 tons salt from the production of the salt mines of Transylvania, at the rate of 6,000 tons per month.

The Minister of Finance, in view of the large number of Roumanian treasury bonds circulating abroad, has given orders that in future no more treasury bonds shall be issued.

The Ministry of Finance has approved the following export taxes for petroleum and its by-products: Heavy and light petrol, 11,000 lei per wagon; paraffin, 4,000 lei per

wagon; light mineral oil, 3,500 lei, and heavy mineral oil, 7,000 lei per wagon.

According to the *Monitorul Oficial* of February 20, the Cyprus Oil Trust, Limited, London, has been granted the right to establish a branch house in Bucharest.

The Roumanian Commission that was sent to visit the London Exhibition has now returned and is reported to have stated that the British Government has authorised them to inform the Roumanian Government that it intends opening in Bucharest in the course of this year, as well as in all the Balkan States, a large exhibition of British manufactured goods.

GREECE.

ATHENS, March 12.

Export of Olive Oil.

After much controversy the Government has at last authorised the export of olive oil of this year's crop, providing a special licence is previously obtained from the Ministry of Supplies. These export licences will be issued for lots of or over 500 okes, and are only granted on payment of a fee in favour of the Public Treasury, which is imposed on the highest bidder in a public auction. One-tenth of this fee is allotted to the funds for combating olive disease. Once the export licence fee is paid it cannot be refunded, and export licences issued by the Ministry of Supplies, if not used by the holders within the stipulated time, will be cancelled and put up to auction again. The quantity of olive oil which may be exported from each area will be fixed by the Minister in proportion to the production of that area.

ALBANIA.

DURAZZO, March 10.

Negotiations with Italy.

An Albanian delegation, under the presidency of M. T. Zurani, the Minister of Finance, has been at Rome for the past three months for the purpose of concluding certain conventions. The Italians have not shown any readiness to enter upon the conversations, but they have at last begun, and already an agreement has been reached regarding the posts and telegraphs. There will be other economic and financial questions to be settled, and the Albanians have firmly decided to grant no concession that would affect the interests of the country.

The Anglo-Persian.

Mr. L. W. Wallace and Mr. T. S. Barnes, representatives of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, arrived at Durazzo from London the day before yesterday, and left immediately for Tirana. After coming to an arrangement with the Albanian Government, the company will undertake boring operations in the hope of finding important deposits of oil.

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TRANSPORT ACROSS THE SUEZ CANAL.

By Victor L. Trumper, M.R.A.S.

Few who travel by the Suez Canal route ever realise that there has always been a considerable traffic across it. What is now the canal zone used to be Egypt's eastern frontier, which was contiguous with the North Sinai Desert, and Kantara, which is simply the Arabic name for the "bridge," was the main entrance on that side. This has been a highway from earliest times, but, of course, until the canal was cut, the Bedouin could enter Egypt when and where they chose, and the place they chose often did not coincide with a custom house station. However, with the making of the canal, entry into Egypt was somewhat regulated, and with the placing of ferries at different parts of the canal the customs' officials had their duties more confined to their own localities. In pre-war times the Bedouin used to bring droves of young camels to sell in Egypt, and after they had settled matters with what they professed to consider a most extortionate demand for duty, but which the custom house officer said was most reasonable, the next business was to get them across the canal. I have heard that a mule is a docile lamb compared to what a camel can be, and having witnessed the attempts of these professional camel drivers to get a mob of young camels on to the ferry I can quite believe it.

When the war with Turkey broke out and it was necessary for the military to hold the canal in force, each encampment had one or more pontoon bridges, none of which were of the orthodox military bridging material, but made up of what could be obtained on the spot. One was made of the flat-bottomed boats which were used on Lake Men-



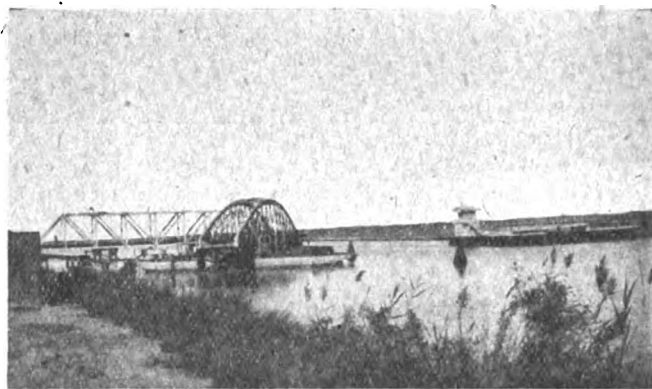
Pipes for pipe-line being unloaded from dhows at Kantara and put on to camels.

zaleh. Another was formed of groups of nine or twelve empty barrels in a frame, with planks put across, while the flotation power of yet another was formed of the cylinders which supported the flexible pipe of one of the Canal Company's suction dredgers. It was evidently a new experience for many of the horses to cross a floating bridge, and their nervousness was great, though those who were constantly crossing soon got used to it. The north bridge at Kantara was formed of pontoon lighters which had been moored in front of Navy House, Port Said, for many years. The arrangement for this bridge was that it opened in the middle, and the two parts went parallel with the canal banks when it was opened to let a ship pass. Previous to this, however, men and material were ferried across the canal in lighters. The iron pipes for the famous pipe-line by which the water of the Nile flowed into Palestine were brought over in the same manner, and the accompanying illustration shows how they were conveyed from the canal bank to their places in the line. Two for each camel was a fairly good load.

When the Turks made their great attack on the Canal they chose an excellent spot between Lake Timsah and the Great Bitter Lake. The desert is very broken on each side of the canal by hillocks and sand dunes, which afforded excellent cover for infantry. Also if they had been able to cross in any force, if only for six hours, they could have done great damage to the railway junction west of Ismailia, and have entirely destroyed the water supply of the canal zone.

When the railway was commenced on the east side the first engines and trucks were taken across the canal slung on a floating sheer-legs, and it was rather a startling sight sometimes to see a familiar L. and S.W.R. engine suspended high in the air being slowly moved across the canal.

Later, special lighters were built which carried rails: they went into a small bay cut in the canal bank, and the engine or trucks were then run on to them; they were then hauled across to the other side, and the rolling stock run off on to corresponding rails. This was efficient as far as it went, but it was soon found to be too slow for the requirements of the campaign, and a bridge by which a train could go straight across was found necessary. It is needless here to go into all the pros and cons discussed, for the difficulties were great. In the first place no bridging material was available from home, and no one knew whether the necessary pier could be built to take the weight of the bridge. However, two or three bridges were dismantled in Upper Egypt, and the girders brought to the canal. Piles and reinforced concrete pillars were made on the edge of the deep-water channel of the canal, and the bridge was constructed. It was a very fine piece of work, especially considering the difficulties to contend with, and the material at hand. Our photo gives a good idea of its appearance. The straight girder on the left is fixed, and merely carries the line from the bank to the pier on the west side of the channel. At that point the curved span is pivoted, and on the right of the picture is the pier on the east side of the deep channel. From there to the east bank are various odd girders, etc. When the bridge is to be opened to let



Railway bridge at El Hersh, three miles north of Kantara, open to let steamers pass. View from west bank, looking north.

ships pass through the east end is raised by powerful screws on the ferro-concrete lighter underneath till the end is clear of the pier on the east side. When the lighter has got the weight it is hauled over to the west bank, either north or south, according to the current, the bridge pivoting on the pier on the west side. When it is well out of the way of traffic the floating end of the span is over some specially placed piles, the jacks are then lowered, and the span rests on the piles, the lighter floating freely underneath. When the bridge is to be prepared for train traffic the end of the span is jacked up till the lighter has the weight: it is then swung across until in position, the jacks are released, the rails connected, and the bridge is ready. It is very simple and apparently extremely efficient. The bridge can be ready for train traffic within eight minutes after a ship has passed through.

As our readers know, the Canal Company requested the authorities to remove the bridge owing to the danger to traffic, and, till a permanent bridge can be built, a kind of floating ferry will be used, similar to the one described previously. At one time it was thought that a tunnel under the canal would solve the problem of through rail-

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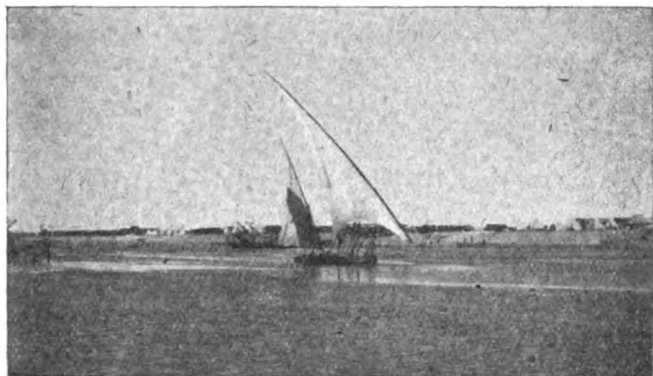
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way communication, but extensive borings have shown that the sub-soil or, rather, sub-sand, is so extremely unstable that a tunnel could not be made satisfactorily. A permanent fixed bridge to carry the railway above any possible masts of passing steamers would need an eight-mile ramp, which is out of the question; so probably there will have to be some sort of a swing-bridge, but to allow for probable extensions of the canal the middle will have to be at least two hundred feet wide, as larger ships are coming through than ever before.

The demolition of the present railway bridge will force passengers for Palestine to cross the canal by the pontoon bridge from Kantara West to Kantara East, but, to minimise the inconvenience as much as possible, the Palestine



Arab dhow just passed through the south bridge at Kantara, opposite the station.

railway is being extended so as to bring the departure platform quite near the present floating bridge opposite Kantara West Station of the Egyptian State Railway. An official of the E.S.R. who was sent to America to study the question of moving bridges there, has, it is said, recommended the construction of a bridge in which the two sides are raised to allow of the passage of vessels, in the same way that the Tower Bridge is worked on the Thames.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia, is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

107. Old established Turkish firm handling general stores situated in Smyrna and having branches in the interior invites exporters to quote prices for groceries. The firm also acts as agents for articles of general consumption in Asia Minor.

108. Hemp manufacturer in Croatia wishes to get into touch with rope manufacturers who would purchase hemp.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

112. An Alexandria firm wish to enter into business relations with United Kingdom firms dealing in the following exports:—Beers and stout; salmon, sardines, tinned fruit and vegetables; coconut oil; gunny bags; pepper, rice, flour and soap.

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

TRACTOR TRIALS IN BULGARIA.

Conditions of Entry.

H.M. Commercial Commissioner in Sofia has forwarded a copy of the conditions of entry in the competition for motor tractors to be held in May under the auspices of the Bulgarian Ministry of Transport. The object of the competition is to determine which types of motor ploughs and agricultural tractors are best suited to Bulgaria, in order that they may be recommended to agriculturists, and eventually be partially bought by the State should the Bulgarian Government so decide.

Entries must be addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural Section, before April 15. Applications for entry should contain:—(1) Full name and address of the applicant; (2) the name of the factory where the motor ploughs and agricultural tractors have been manufactured; (3) the mark of the company; (4) manufacturer's number; (5) particulars of representative of the company in Bulgaria; (6) information as to whether the local representative keeps a stock of spare parts; (7) information as to whether the local representative has any experienced mechanics on his staff.

When submitting the application, firms should forward to the Ministry in Bulgarian or French a detailed description of the motor ploughs and agricultural tractors, pointing out the most recent improvements in their construction. Firms or their representatives should submit to the Ministry before 6 p.m., April 30, a sealed statement in French or Bulgarian giving the price (in Bulgarian levas c.i.f. Lom, Bourgas, or Varna) of the motor ploughs and tractors taking part in the trials. The trials will begin on May 5 at a place to be announced later. Should weather conditions be unfavourable, the opening day will be postponed by decision of the jury. All entries must be assembled, ready for work, and transported to the place indicated on the appointed day. The trials will be conducted by an official specially appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and State Lands, who will make all the necessary arrangements in accordance with the present conditions. Representatives of firms, their mechanics, and drivers must follow these conditions, and must apply to the director for all information concerning the trials.

The first days of the trials will be devoted to studying the construction of the motor ploughs and agricultural tractors. On completion of such inspection, each firm will begin to manoeuvre in accordance with a definite programme and in the particular spot allocated. Competitors will pay for their own petrol or other combustible. The trial of the motor ploughs and agricultural tractors will begin the day following the manoeuvre, in accordance with a definite programme. The trials will be carried out at a time to be fixed by the jury, under direct supervision of the Commission. All combustibles and other material required for the trials will be supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture and State Lands and debited to the competitor.

The objects of the trials are to determine:—(1) The working capacity; (2) the details and system of construction; (3) the strength and staying power; (4) the quality of the work done; (5) the quantity of the work done.

The trial will consist for each individual firm (by means of petrol or benzine as combustibles) of the following tests:—(a) Ploughing an 8 cm. furrow, (b) ploughing an 18 cm. furrow, (c) ploughing a 25 cm. furrow, (d) drawing waggons (all on level as well as undulating ground); (e) drawing harrows, (f) drawing sowing machines, (g) drawing both harrow and sowing machines simultaneously.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 22:—

During the week ended March 12 standing crops fair to good generally, except in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, where rain badly wanted. Bombay cotton market crisis virtually over. Contractors with Government sanction have fixed minimum rates on basis of Rs. 255 for Broach cotton. Market reopens on March 22, to which date settlement further postponed. Piecegoods market improving, demand being chiefly for staple style, particularly whites. Calcutta jute market lifeless; Hessians dull. Heavy goods show some improvement, with fair business in heavy C1 and Twills. Some mills have proposed extension of short time agreement to end of current year. No change in bank rates. At Tea sales on March 15 quality showed no improvement, offerings consisting mostly in plain-medium and common kinds. Autumnal flavoured teas were unusually scarce; general demand was better. All markets appear to be at an average price of 5 annas 4 pies per lb.

MOTORS IN THE RED SEA DISTRICT.

A LIMITED MARKET.

An interesting account of the use of motors in the Red Sea commercial district is given by the United States Consul-General at Aden, Mr. Addison E. Southard, in a recent report, from which we give the following extracts:—

In the province of Hejaz there is only one constructed highway suitable for the use of motor vehicles, and that is the 42-mile road from the port of Jeddah to Mecca. Only Mohammedans may go into the Hejaz, and consequently the European officials and business men residing in Jeddah who might be expected to introduce the use of motor vehicles have not had the opportunity to make use of the Jeddah-Mecca highway. Thousands of pilgrims go over this road each year, travelling on camels, mules, or by foot.

The use of motor vehicles would greatly improve or facilitate the travel of the many thousands who go between Jeddah and Mecca during the annual pilgrimage season, and some Mohammedan firm would doubtless find it profitable to develop the use of motor vehicles on this highway. The principal obstacles would be: first, the objections of the Bedouin camel owners, who would not willingly have their very profitable caravan trade thus interfered with; second, the possible prejudice of some of the religious fanatics who live in Jeddah and Mecca. There are no other main roads or highways suitable for wheeled vehicles in the Hejaz south of Medina, and it is improbable that there will be any developed in the immediate future. In the flat desert coastal plains light motor-cars can be used with little, if any, preparation or construction of roads.

Asir Province has no made highways, and there are no definite indications that any will be planned or attempted in the near future. Konfidah is the port for the province. The Idrissi, ruler of this province, has two or three light American cars which he uses along the hard, sandy beach between the small ports of Loheia and Chizan. This practical demonstration of the use of motor-cars may result in the construction of sand roads in the desert coastal plain of this province and in a demand for a limited number of cars.

Yemen Province has no highways suitable for wheeled vehicles, but there are incentives which may result in some highway development as soon as the political future of the province is determined by the peace treaty with Turkey. Hodeidah is a Yemen port of some importance, and is the outlet for a considerable trade from the fertile Yemen highlands. The construction of a highway fit for motor vehicles across the desert hinterland from Hodeidah to the Yemen foothills, a distance of about 50 miles, would be a great help to trade. Produce from the Yemen mountains could then come down to the edge of the desert coastal plain, and be carried into Hodeidah in but a fraction of the time and at but a fraction of the cost involved in the present tedious and unsafe method of camel caravans. And the transportation of imported goods from Hodeidah to the interior would profit likewise.

A railway over this route has long been planned, and indications are that either the railway or a highway suitable for wheeled vehicles will be constructed within the near future. The narrow streets of Hodeidah offer but little inducement for the use of motor vehicles. Motor vehicles could be used for running over the hard, sandy surface of parts of the desert coastal plain of this province without actual construction of roads, as in Asir Province.

On the opposite side of the Red Sea, in the Italian colony of Eritrea, there promises to be a market for motor vehicles. Highways are being built, or planned, which will offer a field for the sale and use of motor vehicles on the inland plateau between Asmara, Keren, Agordat, and other trade centres. There is at present a railway from Massowah, the port, to Asmara. This railway is being built on to Keren, and will probably be extended to Agordat. If railway plans are carried out, it may mean some curtailment of highway construction, but it is apparent that the Italians are going ahead with the opening up of this colony in a way which will demand the construction of both highways and railways. There are as yet very few motor vehicles in use in Eritrea. There are more than 300 miles of completed motor roads.

Jibouti, in French Somaliland, has broad streets and some roads extending a few miles outside the port which afford facilities for the use of a few motor-cars. There are at present two cars in use there. It is not probable, however, that highways will be built from Jibouti to the interior. The hinterland is desert, and is already crossed by the Franco-Ethiopian Railway, which runs 500 miles inland to Adis Abeba. The railway affords all necessary facilities for interior trade and travel in the present undeveloped state of the country. The beach and interior desert plains offer comparatively long stretches of natural motor roads.

In British Somaliland there are the ports of Zeyla, Bulhar, and Berbera, and although there is no immediate prospect of the building of highways into the interior from the two first-named ports, there are possibilities. A road suitable for wheeled traffic has been built from Berbera inland to the higher plateau at the back of the coastal desert plain; two or three small cars are in Government use over this road. The development of British Somaliland is, however, at present uncertain, and unless there is some important attempt to open up the interior it is not likely that highways will be built within a reasonable future. This country at present offers no real possibilities for the sale or use of motor vehicles. The hard, sandy beach between the ports of Berbera, Bulhar, and Zeyla affords a fair natural road for motor vehicles.

In Abyssinia there is at present no highway development. In and around the towns of Dire-Dawa and Adis Abeba streets and roads could very easily be brought to a state fit for the use of a limited number of motor vehicles for local travel, and it is not improbable that this will happen soon. The materialisation of the present prospect of an active foreign interest in the development of Abyssinian trade will undoubtedly result in the building of highways suitable for the use of motor vehicles. Some definite developments in this situation should take place in the near future.

In Aden, the commercial centre of the district, exists the greatest use of motor vehicles at present. There are now in use in Aden upward of 150 motor-cars, thirty-three motor-cycles, and seven motor-lorries. On the small Aden peninsula there are several miles of good roads or streets, but the longest straight run for a motor vehicle would be five miles from one side of the peninsula to the other. One part of Aden is on the west side and another on the east side of the peninsula. These two parts, five miles from each other, are connected by a frequent taxi service maintained with American cars. Just beyond the joining of the isthmus with mainland is the Arab village of Sheikh Othman. From the two parts of the town and port of Aden, and over the isthmus, is a good motor road to this Arab village. From East Aden, known as Steamer Point, the distance to Sheikh Othman is 10 miles; from West Aden, known as Aden Camp, the distance is 8½ miles.

Beyond Sheikh Othman the desert continues to the Yemen foothills, which are an average distance of more than 75 miles inland. Road building into the desert would not be too difficult, but there is as yet no real need for it. Considerable stretches of this desert afford a natural road for motor vehicles. A railway runs from Aden via Sheikh Othman to the town and oasis of Lahej, 30 miles inland, and many camels are available for the comparatively small amount of transport over the desert between Aden and the fertile Yemen highlands. There are at present no plans for road extension from Sheikh Othman into the desert.

The Arab Sultanate of Makalla is on the Arabian coast about 275 miles east of Aden. There is no actual highway development in this territory, but by the use of a little labour to remove obstructions and smooth over rougher places of the hard sand floor of the beach and desert coastal plains light cars can be used for transporting passengers. The ruling Sultan has recently obtained four American cars from Aden. The promising mineral prospects of this territory may result in more rapid development of motor roads, and such demand for motor vehicles as may be created could be best met by Aden dealers.

Although the development of made highways is yet in its infancy in this district, there is expected to be an increasing market for motor vehicles. Nature has provided long stretches of hard sandy beach at various places up and down both the Asiatic and African sides of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden which, in the absence of rainfall, offer reasonably good ways over which to run motor-cars. A little labour to clear away rocks or other obstructions and to fill the occasional ravine or gully, scooped out by the wind, or made by some lost stream, is all that is necessary to supply a reasonably good road for light motor vehicles. The more intelligent and enlightened natives generally live in the little coastal towns and ports, and commerce naturally centres in these places. Under the influence of the conditions or circumstances indicated the use of motor vehicles need not await the actual building of highways or roads. There would, of course, have to be actual building to make the more fertile interior highlands accessible to and for the use of motor vehicles. The Aden-Red Sea district may be considered as having immediate possibilities as a limited market for motor vehicles.

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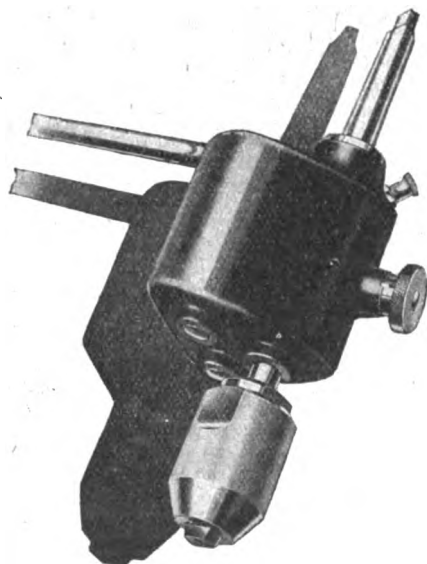
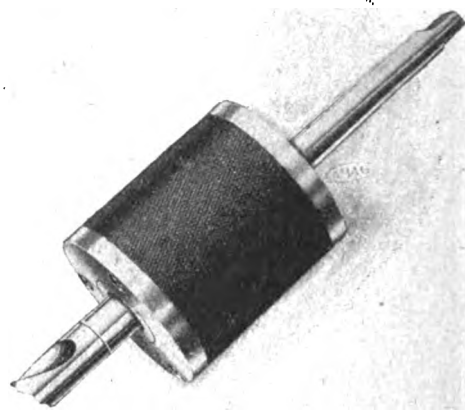
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ENGINEERING.

Marine Oil Engines.

In spite of the slump in shipbuilding, which has had a temporary effect on the iron and steel trades generally, great progress continues to be made in the construction of vessels fitted with internal combustion engines, and at the beginning of the year, so I am informed by an authority, there were nearly fifty vessels of that kind being built in British yards. Even so, for some reason this rate of development appears to be being exceeded in certain European countries. In Scandinavia, for example, the trade is very busy, and I hear that shipowners who had placed orders for steam vessels have in many cases given instructions for Diesel motors to be installed in place of the steam plant. By the way, I understand that the first commercial oil turbine ever constructed has now been completed and is at work, and I hope at an early date to be able to give full particulars of its design and construction. Should this turbine prove as satisfactory in operation as is anticipated, it is intended to manufacture it on a large scale for installation in ocean-going ships.

Whilst on the subject of the use of heavy oil engines of the Diesel or semi-Diesel types in marine engineering work, I note that, according to the March issue of the *Motor Ship*, there were launched or completed during the past two months 13 large ocean-going motor ships with a total cargo-carrying capacity of 140,000 tons. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that many of these vessels were of the largest and fastest class of cargo ship, two of them being 13-knot vessels carrying 14,000 tons, whilst two others were 13,500-ton craft with a speed of 12 knots. It is satisfactory to note that a large proportion of the new motor ships are of British construction, five out of the thirteen mentioned above having been built in shipyards in the United Kingdom.

Steel Barrels.

The specification for iron or steel drums or barrels of from 20 to 100 gallons capacity, as drawn up by the various railways, states that all drums or barrels must be of soft iron or mild steel of the best quality. It seems a pity that so admirable a requirement should be drawn up in so loose a manner. What precisely is "best quality" soft iron or mild steel? Every engineer knows what is meant, but with a condition of this kind who, in the case of any eventuality, is to be the judge as to whether or not it has been complied with? For example, a particular class of material could be used, and in the event of trouble ensuing a maker could say that he held the view that that material was the best quality that could be used for the purpose. His hearers might not agree with him, but under the circumstances what could they do but record their disagreement as a matter of opinion. I note that the rest of the specification is almost equally vague in parts. For instance, all joints must either be riveted and soldered or electrically or otherwise autogenously welded. Nothing is said as to how this work should be carried out nor as to the tests it should undergo. It is perfectly possible to rivet parts together in a very slipshod manner; soldering can be done in a far from efficient way, and every engineer knows what a fearful botch can be made by an inexperienced hand with any system of autogenous welding. I am moved to these reflections by a correspondent who asks for details of the railway requirements. I may confess that I had never read them through before; now that I have done so, I am quite convinced that the lay mind should not occupy itself with technical matters. But to continue and to give the details required. The drums must be strengthened and protected at each end by a strong iron or steel hoop welded, riveted, or shrunk on to the body of the drum, and must have two runners or rolling hoops welded or securely shrunk on to the body of the drum. Steel barrels of 33 ins. in length must have a bilge of not less than 2½ ins.—one wonders why 2 3-16 could not be permissible—and other sizes in proportion, and must be protected at each end by a strong iron or steel hoop welded or riveted to the body of the barrel, and such barrels need not have rolling hoops. The thicknesses of sheet metal to be used for the body and the ends of barrels of various capacities are specified, and range from 14 to 9 Birmingham wire gauge for the former to from 16 to 10 B.W.G. for the latter. This part of the specification is exact enough to satisfy the engineering mind, and is beyond criticism. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for the next clause, which specifies that each drum or barrel must be provided with a well-fitting screw bung. What is a well-fitting bung? Obviously, again, it is a matter of opinion as to whether a bung can or cannot be regarded as being well-fitting. The requirement should have been for a bung of a certain material, of not less than certain dimensions, and capable, when screwed in place, of holding for so long a period against a gas pressure of so many lbs. to the square inch. It may

be said I am too critical. In reply I simply point out that these drums are to contain toluol, xylol, benzole, benzine, ethyl alcohol, acetone, naphtha, and so on, and with substances of that kind it is impossible to be too careful. By the way, the boss of this bung must be electrically or otherwise autogenously welded or riveted, and soldered to the body or end of the drum or barrel.

A glimmering of common-sense is to be found in the next clause, which specifies that each drum or barrel must be tested by hydraulic or air pressure of 10 lb. per square inch without showing signs of leakage or injury. Also whenever it shows signs of damage or deterioration, and the test must be repeated at least once a year. The only objection to this is that the pressure is not sufficiently high to show any inherent defect, and that the words, "whenever it shows signs of damage, etc.," are too loose and give openings for certain abuse. A man may, for example, say he notices signs of damage or deterioration, and so put a user to the inconvenience of having to have a drum tested. On the other hand, he could say that he had not noticed any signs of damage or any faultiness. Such drum or barrel must be externally painted or galvanised to prevent it from rust, and must be periodically re-painted or galvanised as required. To this I would ask: "As required by whom?" This remarkable specification concludes by saying that when filling the drums or barrels an air space of at least 5 per cent. must be left, and that the screw bung of each empty drum or barrel must be securely fastened in place before the empty drum or barrel is returned. Regarding this, I would advise all readers interested to get into touch with the Steel Barrel Co., Ltd., who turn out the finest productions of this kind that I have ever seen. Provided with barrels or casks made by this firm, no one need have any fear as to their behaviour under even the most trying conditions.

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All motorists who have been looking for cheaper tyres will welcome the announcement of a reduction of approximately 20 per cent. in the cost of Dunlop covers and of 15 per cent. on Dunlop tubes. In the case of the 815 by 105 Magnum cover, for example, the price drops from £10 4s. 3d. to £8 3s. 6d., and a tube of similar dimensions from 30s. 9d. to 26s. 3d. There is no question that now is the time to buy Dunlop manufactures, as a little calculation shows that at the moment a purchaser can secure five tyres complete for practically the price of four.

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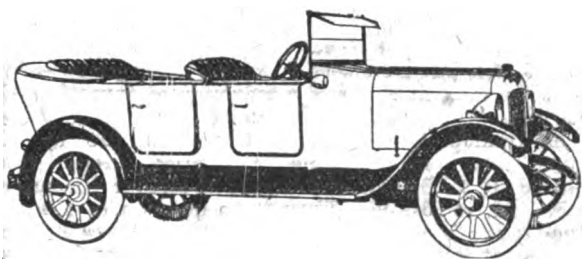
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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—The home refined has been in good demand at unchanged prices. West Indian Crystallised has come to business at 60s. 6d. to 62s. 6d., while American Granulated is quoted at 40s. 6d. White Java has been done at 32s.

Coffee.—The market has been quiet but steady. Quotations are:—March, 37s.; May, 38s.; July, 38s.; September, 40s.; December, 41s.

Oilseeds.—Prices have risen all along the line with the exception of Indian linseed, which is 6d. down at 17s. 6d. Rapeseed has increased 3d. in each case, with Toria at 17s. 9d., bold Ferozepore 16s. 9d., and brown Cawnpore at 14s. 9d. Cottonseed has risen, with Egyptian black at 12s. 9d., an increase of 3d.

Seed Oils.—There has been little change in prices. Linseed oil is 1s. 6d. lower at 28s. Rape oil is unchanged at 46s. Cotton oil has been quiet. Refined at 40s. and the Egyptian crude variety at 31s. are both unaltered. Turpentine is the same at 50s.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

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

Gum.

Kordofan Province.—14,248 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during January, 1921, as against 11,837 kantars during the same period last year. The average price was 807 m/ms per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos.). Arrivals from Nahud were 6,106 kantars, as against 13,930 kantars. 1,658 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at 80 PT. per kantar, as against 3,105 kantars last year. 4,845 kantars were sold at Rahad at 77 PT. per kantar, as against 5,602 kantars last year.

Cotton.

Red Sea Province.—A light railway between, Tokar and Trinkat, under the direction of the general manager, Sudan Government Railways, is now under construction, and it is hoped that this railway will be ready for use to transport the anticipated heavy arrivals of cotton on the Tokar market at the beginning of April. The Tokar cotton market will be opened on February 7, and the heaviest months of the season are April, May and June. The Inspector of Agriculture, Tokar, reports that the cotton generally is looking very healthy, and a record crop is expected. The probable area flooded is about 120,000 feddans. The percentage of land sown with cotton is higher than usual this year; about 90,000 feddans being under this crop. The probable yield will be at least 79,000 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned). The Sakellarides cotton brought from Kassala has done very well indeed, and is fully as promising as the Assili which has become acclimatised to Tokar conditions.

Dura.

Khartoum Province.—Rain crops in the province have now all been assessed, the total ushur amounting to 7,000 ardebs, as against 83 ardebs last year. The average yield was high. The price of dura was 123 PT. on November 1, and 80 PT. on December 31 per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos.).

Upper Nile Province.—The dura crop appears to be about three-quarters that of last year; the area sown is approximately the same as last year, and the rains were good, but vast flights of dura birds have destroyed large areas, and, in Melut district, there was in addition a serious plague of field mice. The crops there are reduced 80 per cent. Kodok district is satisfactory.

White Nile Province.—An ushur of some 57,000 ardebs is now assured. The best crops were in Geteina Merkaz, where the assessment has yielded 24,052 ardebs, a result doubtless due to the fact that for several years previously the majority of the land has been lying fallow owing to lack of rain. The price of dura has risen slightly during the month and now stands at 75 PT. for the ardeb of 384 rottles, and dukhn is at 110 PT. for the same ardeb (173 kilos.).

Darfur Province.—Dura and dukhn crops are excellent in all districts. No pests are reported.

Red Sea Province.—The dura and dukhn crops are poor owing to locusts.

Sesame.

Kordofan Province.—30 ardebs of sesame were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of 125 PT. per ardeb of 330 rottles (148 kilos.).

Nuba Mountain Provinces.—Simsim has suffered in places from too much rain. Natives generally, however, have reaped an exceptionally good harvest.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Morning Post* telegraphs that a record Budget has just been issued for Egypt, receipts and expenditure being estimated at a little below £E37,000,000. The Finance Minister's statement forecasts a deficit of £E11,000,000 for the closing financial year.

Reuter's Constantinople correspondent, in a message dated March 26, states that the dispute between the Ministry of Finance and the Tobacco Monopoly regarding the accounts of the various Turkish armies during the war has been settled. The Monopoly will pay the Ottoman Government £T1,880,000, part of which will be used in paying arrears of salaries to civil and military officials.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Improvement Maintained.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

The improved tone in the market experienced towards the end of last week has been well maintained, and business to a certain extent has developed. Although operations have been rather patchy, it is a noteworthy fact that more orders have been booked during the last few days than for some time back. The general opinion is that a turn towards better times has been made, and in support of that statement one has only to study the trend of raw cotton values during the last fortnight to see that the price of the staple has gradually hardened, until at the present time some spinners are even advancing their prices in anticipation of increased business. With regard to cloth for the Near Eastern outlets, buyers for Egypt have certainly shown more interest in prices, and here and there a certain amount of business has gone through, but the total sales have not been large. Apparently stocks of dear goods out there are by no means liquidated, and we shall have to await developments. Trade with the Levant has not been extensive. During the past few days Egyptian yarns and cotton futures have been unusually active. Quotations are considerably higher than for some time back, and spinners are not so eager to sell as was the case ten days back. With regard to cloth, Calcutta has been the most prominent outlet, and big lines of dhooties have been booked. Buyers for China are gradually awaking to the fact that a period of increased activity is about to commence. A strengthening tendency has been in evidence in American yarns, and buying has been on a freer scale.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in their report for the week ended March 24, state:—

A wave of optimism has spread over our market latterly, and we only hope that subsequent events will justify its existence. At the moment, however, it is as well to face facts. This change in tone dates definitely from the recent helpful measures introduced by the Egyptian Government. These measures have been followed by much speculative buying in Alexandria, where sentiment is notoriously "bullish," and rumour succeeds rumour with extraordinary rapidity as prices soar. So much for that side of the picture. On our market, however, in spite of a much improved inquiry, there has been no appreciable increase in the amount of actual cotton sold to spinners, and this, after all, is the true index finger pointing to the state of the trade. The immediate danger, therefore, lies in the possibility that the enthusiasm of the Egyptian operator may carry him away, and a false position may be created which can only result later in another serious decline. We do not say this will happen, we merely point out the possibility. Manchester reports have been consistently cheerful this week, and undoubtedly there has been more doing in that quarter. Some spinners have seized the opportunity to unload quantities of old high-priced stock, and although this means a serious loss if incurred now, it certainly produces a more healthy situation in the market. C.i.f. business continues to show a slight improvement, and spot prices all round show a considerable stiffening again. Sales, 700 bales for four days. Quotations of Sakellarides are raised 2d. per lb., and those of Brown and Upper 1½d. per lb.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for fortnight ended March 12:—

The sales during the past two weeks amount to 26 cases of extra selected Carahissar, and the last prices paid are equivalent to 10s. 6d. to 11s. per lb., c.i.f. The exchange per pound sterling for cheque is now Ps. 578—and 0.67 dollars for one Turkish pound of Ps. 100. The arrivals amount to 1,275 cases, against 1,506 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second hands is now 1,235 cases.

Fares on the Paris-Strasbourg-Prague route have been reduced by one half in favour of officials and journalists on duty by the Franco-Roumanian Aeroplane Company.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, March 19.

The situation here remains the same. The fall in prices continues, and sales are insignificant. There is no demand for articles of export.

The fall in the price of cotton continues, and the general depression has brought about a new decline in the prices of manufactures, and sales are becoming more and more difficult.

Produce.—Sugar.—The position is the same as last week. The intervention of the banks who have consented to make advances has stopped a new fall in prices. The arrivals of the week, amounting to 400 wagons, have been for the most part warehoused.

Coffee.—Despite a marked improvement in countries of production, our market remains very quiet. Prices are unchanged.

MORUMS ORIENTAL STORES.

The directors of Morums Oriental Stores have issued a circular stating that, as anticipated by the chairman in his speech at the annual meeting in November last, the turnover of business for the half-year ended December last showed a satisfactory increase as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. This is particularly gratifying having regard to the acute world depression of markets. Now, however, owing to the severe fall in the value of Egyptian cotton and the great difficulty of realising the crop, upon which the prosperity and purchasing power of the community chiefly depend, manufactured goods accumulated in the country are being thrown on the market at heavy losses, with the result that retail establishments are forced to realise their stocks at prices in many cases below cost. The returns which have been received from Egypt for the six months to December 31 last show that the profits then earned would have justified the payment of an interim dividend on the preference shares, but, in view of the circumstances mentioned above and the impossibility of foreseeing the conditions which may prevail during the next few months, the directors feel that it is advisable to defer the consideration of a dividend until they have received the accounts for the complete financial year.

ANGLO-PERSIAN ISSUE.

Allotment letters of the recent issue of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., have been posted. Applications from the public up to 200 shares will, it is understood, receive full allotment; but applications over 200 shares will receive allotments on a decreasing percentage, the larger applications receiving 25 per cent. to 30 per cent.; applications received from shareholders in the company and in the Burmah Oil Company, Limited, will receive somewhat larger allotments.

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ON 'CHANGE.

Tone Generally Firm.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Thursday Night.

Owing to the approaching holidays, business has been very restricted this week. On the whole a much better tone has been in evidence, which is somewhat surprising, as there have been various new unfavourable factors to take into consideration.

The gilt-edged section has been firm. War Loan Fives at 87 3-32 and Consols at 48½ both show substantial advances. The Sudan Loan is now quoted at a discount of 1½. Foreign bonds have been firmer than of late.

Industrials have been a comparatively strong feature. Oils, too, have been brighter, but Rubbers remain much the same.

Near Eastern securities have been strong. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are 1¼ up at 63½, at which there are buyers. Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 are 2½ up at 63½, but Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. are unchanged at 68½.

Greeks are about the same. The 5 per cent. 1881 and the 5 per cent. 1884 Loans are unchanged at 43, while the 5 per cent. 1890 Loan is the same at 42. Fundings and the 1910 Loan are unaltered at 43 and 42 respectively. The 5 per cent. 1914 has lost a point at 41 and the 1902 Loan is also 1 lower at 36.

Land shares have been variable. Beheras have gained ½ at 9, while the preference shares are the same at 3½. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are unaltered at 3½, but Egyptian Consolidated Lands are ½d. up at 1s. 4½d. Delta Lands are unchanged at 8s. 9d., while Gharbieh Lands have gained ½ at 1¼. New Egyptians at 23s. 6d. are 1s. up, and Union Foncierres at 221-32 have gained 5-32, at which there were buyers. Sudan Plantations are 1-32 up at 315-32.

Oils have been fairly firm. Anglo-Egyptians are 3.32 up at 21-32, and Phenix at 13s. 3d. have gone up 1s. 5½d. Roumanian at 14s. and Steaua Romana at 15s. 9d. have both lost 6d.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are unaltered at 3s. Alexandria Waters have lost ½ to 6½, while Morums have come to business at 12s. 6d. Egyptian Salt and Sodas have been done at 30s., an increase of 6d., and Egyptian Markets are the same at 18s. 6d.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmae to £	25·22½	50·75-51·25
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25·22½	—
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·3½-1·3½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25·22½	283·287
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·3½-1·3½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	—
New York	Dollars to £	4·86½	3·91½-3·92
Paris	Francs to £	25·22½	56·47-56·60
Prague	Kronen to £	24·02	296-298
Rome	Lire to £	25·22½	98·15-98·50
Sofia	Levas to £	25·22½	—
Teheran	Krans to £	50	—
Vienna	Kronen to £	24·02	1,500-1,550
Warsaw	Marks to £	20·43	3,000-3,100

In some cases quotations are nominal.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

Equipment, etc.—The Director of Stores, Egyptian Ministry of the Interior, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of stores required by that Department for the year 1921. The material required includes:—Arms, ammunition, accoutrements, ordnance stores, clothing and necessaries for the police and "Ghaffir" services; harness and saddlery; fire-engine equipment; barrack and other furniture; tools; general stores. Tenders, which can only be submitted by firms established in Egypt or having a representative there, must be received in Cairo by April 18. Copies of the specifications, etc., may be inspected by United Kingdom firms interested on application to the inquiry office of the Department of Overseas Trade, at 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Paper.—The Controller of Printing and Stationery, Old Ismailia Palace, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 600 reams of paper. April 14.

Weighing Machinery.—The Physical Department, Sharia El Insha, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of balances and weighing machinery. April 15.

Yugoslavia.

Hospital Equipment.—The General Sanitary Department of the Yugoslav Ministry of Health invites tenders for the supply of the following hospital equipment:—10,000 convalescents' dressing-gowns (cotton), 2,000 doctors' white hospital coats, 500 overalls for male attendants, 5,000 aprons for nurses, 2,000 convalescents' winter dressing-gowns (wool), 3,000 burial shirts, 3,000 burial caps of black satin, 3,000 burial socks, 6,000 metres of calico sheeting for making covers for the dead, 2,000 metres of canvas for stretchers. Prices should be quoted per piece and a deposit of 20 per cent. must accompany the tender. United Kingdom firms intending to quote are advised to arrange for the appointment of a representative in Yugoslavia to deal with the details. Tenders, which should preferably be in Serbian, or, failing that, in German or French, should be submitted to the Ministry of Health (Ministartvo Narodnog Zdravlje), Belgrade, by April 4.

Electric Lighting, etc.—The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade reports that a prominent business man and proprietor of flour mills in Serbia is contemplating the installation of a complete electrical lighting and power station, and is asking for tenders for the necessary plant, which includes one steam-engine of 150 h.p., generators, etc., for power for 4,000 to 5,000 lamps (about 90 kilowatts), and overhead cables and conductors for 60 kilometres of circuits (to provide lighting for about 1,400 houses). The name and address of the inquirer may be obtained by United Kingdom firms interested, on application to the Department of Overseas Trade.

Malta.

Coal.—Sealed tenders will be received at the Treasury, Valetta, Malta, up to 10.30 a.m., on April 14, for the supply of coal to the Government of Malta. Tenders received after the said date and hour will not be considered. Printed forms of tender, and of the conditions, may be obtained on application from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1. Each tender must contain the name of the surety whom the tenderer intends to propose for securing the performance of the contract and the payment of the penalties therein provided. The tenderer whose offer is accepted shall incur a penalty of £500 should he or his surety fail to attend to sign the contract within three days from the date of an intimation to that effect. Provided that the said tenderer and his surety shall be held to have bound themselves to an agreement, and may be compelled to carry out the obligations arising from the acceptance of the tender, although a formal contract was not executed. Tenderers shall not retract or withdraw their tenders for a period of fifteen days from the date of expiration of that period fixed for the delivery of the tenders, so that the tenders shall remain binding and may be accepted at any time during the said period of fifteen days.

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BEYROUT CUSTOMS SCANDAL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BEYROUT, March 4.

A great stir has been caused, particularly among the trading community, by sensational revelations in connection with the Beyrout Customs. The anarchy that reigned in this department, as it never did before, even in Turkish times, was beginning gravely to disturb the public mind, more especially as the recent appointment of a French inspector did not seem to improve matters.

It needed an audacious robbery recently committed, when one night one of the gates of the Custom House was found open with the locks forced, to stir the higher authorities finally to vigorous action. The inquiry of the Chief of the Parquet, a Druse official delegated by the Haut Commissariat, has already resulted in the discovery of very serious abuses, and has led to the arrest of the French Inspector-General of the Syrian Customs and of several other Syrian officials of the Beyrout Custom House, who are under grave suspicion. Very wide powers have been given to the Chief of the Parquet, who has already seized the books of many leading merchants. Another French official who is taking part in the inquiry, and who has been examining the manifests of the various steamship agencies, declared that the Customs manifest copies were found by him lying on the ground in a state of indescribable disorder, as though they were so many heaps of emptied wastepaper baskets.

It is already apparent that the malpractices of the delinquent officials are not mere Customs frauds, but present the much graver aspect of what is termed in French "délit de droit commun." The Haut Commissariat deserves to be congratulated on its moral courage and impartiality in having started by the arrest of the French head inspector.

The Beyrout Custom House has a special interest not only for the population of the town itself, but also for that of the whole country, especially the territory now known as the Grand Liban, which receives its commodities through Beyrout, because the Customs receipts form one of the most important items of revenue. The local Press has lately been criticising a measure that was reported to be under consideration by the Haut Commissariat, and according to which the Customs receipts are to be distributed among the budgets of the different zones, including the Grand Liban, in proportion to the deficit to be covered by the Haut Commissariat, without account being taken of the proportional consumption by these respective zones of goods that have paid the duty. It is contended that each of these territories should receive its share of the Customs receipts in proportion to the amount of duty paid by the goods estimated to have been consumed therein.

SHIPPING SERVICES TO MOROCCO.

There is at present no direct service between Tetuan and ports in the United Kingdom, but the Maindy Steamship Company has announced its intention of making Tetuan a port of call for their steamers, and have appointed a British protected firm as their agents (says H.M. Consul-General at Tangier in a recent report). The Moss Line have also appointed the Belgian Honorary Vice-Consul as their agent in case they should send any vessel to Tetuan. The Bland Line, of Gibraltar, maintains an irregular service of small steamers with this port and Ceuta for bringing United Kingdom goods transhipped at Gibraltar. Much loss to

British trade ensues, however, from the delays and damage to goods occasioned by the process of transhipment.

There are now no regular services between Tetuan and foreign ports. Goods come to a large extent from Spain through the ports of Algeciras, Malaga, and Cadiz by small steamers and sailing boats. The Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, Amsterdam, maintains an irregular service between this port and Holland, as circumstances permit, and the line will in all probability resume its pre-war monthly sailings, goods for return being unloaded at Ceuta when the east wind makes the operation too dangerous at Tetuan. There are no fixed charges for freight as regards any of these companies. It is a matter of bargaining with the agents in each case.

The Compania Transmediterranea maintains a regular daily service between Algeciras and Ceuta, and a weekly service between Ceuta and Seville. The Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, of Amsterdam, and the Oriental Navigation Company, of New York, both run regular monthly services. Small steamers belonging to Cadiz and Seville maintain irregular services between those ports and Ceuta. As regards freight, the same remarks apply as in the case of Tetuan.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Magdapur, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 11); s.s. Holywell, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 16).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Antigone, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Swansea, April 1); s.s. Phrygia, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Glasgow, April 7, and Swansea, April 7).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. City of Oxford, for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, April 1); s.s. Grodno, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, April 16).

Ellerman City Line.—S.s. City of Milan, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 4); s.s. City of Calcutta, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 19); s.s. City of Cairo, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, April 20).

Ellerman's Hall Line.—S.s. City of Genoa, for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, April 1).

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenavy, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 7); s.s. Glenshane, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 21); s.s. Glenade, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 5); s.s. Glenluce, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 19); s.s. Glenogle, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 24).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Defender, for Calcutta (Liverpool, April 5); s.s. Architect, for Calcutta (Liverpool, April 21).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Chindwin, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 20); s.s. Martaban, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 4).

Holt Line.—S.s. Bellerophon, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 1); s.s. Anchises, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, April 8); s.s. Oanfa, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, April 8); s.s. Deucalion, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Incemore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 9); s.s. Venice, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 23).

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy, transport for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, early in April).

Moss Line.—S.s. Karnak, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, April 23).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Naldera, for Bombay (London, April 8); s.s. Sardinia, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 8); s.s. Plassy, for Bombay (London, April 15); s.s. Nore, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 22); s.s. Dongola, for Bombay (London, May 6).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Warfield, for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 2); s.s. Nardana, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 9); s.s. Chanda, for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 16); s.s. Manora, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 22); s.s. Neuralia, for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 29); s.s. Gambada, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 7).

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 517.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The War in Asia Minor.

At the moment of writing the Greco-Turkish War (1921) has resolved itself into a struggle for the possession of Eskishehir. Reports of the fighting are, as usual, contradictory. The Turkish statements are palpably exaggerated, but from the reserve of the Athenian *communiqués* it has to be inferred that the Greek army has encountered more determined resistance than it had been led to anticipate. Reinforcements, however, are being sent from Greece, and in view of the numerical superiority of the Greek troops it would be a matter for surprise if the Turks succeeded in arresting the invasion at this point. The aim of the Greeks is not so much to capture territory, even though it be Angora itself, as to overwhelm the Turkish army. They will, therefore, prefer to have the enemy stand up to them than withdraw into the interior. The Greek Government would seem to have staked all on this warlike venture. King Constantine is proceeding to Smyrna, and his presence at the front will hearten his troops to a great effort. M. Gounaris has become Prime Minister in place of M. Kalogeropoulos, presumably with the idea of strengthening the Government's position, as the late Prime Minister remains in the Cabinet. There would seem to be a general consensus of opinion that the struggle against the Turks has helped materially to heal the political breach that has so long kept the Hellenic people divided against itself.

The Allies and the Campaign.

One reason why the Allied effort to draw up terms of peace for the Near East proved such a complete failure is, that the attempted settlement was purely opportunist and not based on principle. It would be equally hard to discover on what principle the Allies, as the arbiters for the time being of the peace and destinies of Europe, having summoned Greeks and Turks to a Conference in London, allow them to resume fighting while the recommendations of the Conference are still under consideration. War, however, is in progress in Asia Minor, and while the Turks are being induced to believe that Great Britain is actively assisting the Greeks in the struggle, the Greeks are, no doubt, equally convinced that the French and Italians are supporting the Turks. Thus,

the day of peace and goodwill in the Near East is rendered still more remote, by the fatuity of those who ought to have taken care that, whatever else might happen in Europe, the old causes of friction and unrest which made the Balkans the storm-centre of the Continent, should be eradicated. As things are, the different peoples are being encouraged to perpetuate their bitter-nesses, and the Allies are losing the prestige that their victory in the Great War had secured them. And to what end? Given a Greek victory, is it supposed that the Turks will remain quiescent? If the Greek army is driven back, or fails to bring the Turks to book, has the settlement of the Near East been advanced in any way whatever?

The Coup That Failed.

If, as is stated, the ex-Emperor Karl was encouraged by the turn of events in Greece to make his bid for the Hungarian throne, he is not the only one who has failed to appreciate the strength of King Constantine's position. The latter returned to Greece only when recalled by a substantial majority of the Greek electorate, and probably to the secret satisfaction of most of those who had voted against his restoration. The ex-Emperor never enjoyed the measure of popularity accorded to King Constantine, and by trying to force the hands of his late Magyar subjects has possibly subjected their loyalty to a severe strain. The success of his attempted *coup* called for a popular stampede in his favour. None was forthcoming; on the contrary, he has experienced an unmistakable rebuff even in quarters theoretically monarchist. Moreover, he has called into activity a new force in European politics—joint action by Hungary's neighbour States, Italy, Yugoslavia, Czecho-Slovakia, and Roumania, who have presented the Magyar Government with an ultimatum demanding that the ex-Emperor should leave Hungary within three days. Such a message, there can be little doubt, will have for Magyar ears a harsher ring about it than any communication from the Entente Powers. Accordingly the ex-Emperor Karl, when he has recovered from his indisposition, will have to leave Steinamanger, unless his military entourage is ill-advised enough to challenge an appeal to force.

France, Britain and the Arabs.

From Palestine comes the reassuring intelligence in a message to *The Times* that there is increasing probability that the Emir Abdullah, whose visit to

Jerusalem coincided with that of Mr. Churchill, will eventually arrive at an understanding with the French "whose attitude seems decidedly more conciliatory towards the Shereefians." If this should prove to be the case, the London Conference will have borne fruit in an unexpected direction, and France is to be congratulated on abandoning a policy which must eventually have led her to disaster in the East, and, by its hostility to British interests, have endangered the permanence of the Entente. When it is believed among the Arabs that "the Crown of Mesopotamia" has been offered by the British Government to the Emir Faisal, there is evidently a misconception regarding the relationship of Great Britain to that country. It is unlikely that the British Government will impose any ruler upon the Arabs of Mesopotamia, but it will be prepared to accept as ruler the chieftain who is shown to command the larger measure of support among the Arabs. Unfortunately, anything like a unanimous choice is out of the question. The Emir Faisal, as was pointed out in these columns several weeks ago, will probably be the Arab nominee, and he has been assured that Great Britain will cordially welcome him as ruler of Mesopotamia, but the invitation must come in the first instance from the Arabs. It bordered upon the ridiculous that Great Britain should contemplate agreeing to the appointment as ruler of Mesopotamia of a man who was the object of the sustained hostility of the French. A revision of the French attitude towards the Emir is, therefore, a salutary measure.

Zaghloul Pasha in Egypt.

Zaghloul Pasha has arrived in Egypt, and has received a popular welcome of the most demonstrative kind. If he failed to be moved by such evidence of his hold upon the imagination of the Egyptians and of the position in their affections which he has acquired by his work of the past two years, he would be either more or less than human; and his worst enemies are not likely to accuse him of that. He is entitled to feel satisfaction at having won such a position for himself. But his sincerest friends and well-wishers will hope that he will, at this critical stage of Egypt's affairs, remember that a popular leader has enormous responsibilities; and that unless he is prepared to run the risk of leading wrongly he must be prepared if need be to forfeit some of—or even all—his popularity for the good of the country. Having been among the first, if not the first, to suggest that he might be given a hearing by the British Government, we hope that we may now say without offence that to us one of the greatest misfortunes that could befall the Egyptian Nationalist cause would seem to be that Zaghloul Pasha should fail to co-operate in all sincerity with Adly Yeghen Pasha and his Government. The fear that he may do so, to which we referred a fortnight ago, is so widespread, and the reasons for it are so notorious, that it would be absurd to ignore it. But we shall hope that it will prove baseless, and that Zaghloul will play a part which will win him not only the applause of the Alexandria or Cairo mob to-day, but the blessings of future generations of Egyptians.

The New Spirit in Persia.

Some very interesting details of the new state of things in Persia are given by the Teheran correspondent of *The Times*, who records it as his opinion that the coup of February 21 "was more important than any of the events of the constitutional revolution which began sixteen years ago." Early though it be to venture such an opinion, it would seem to be warranted by what has been accomplished already by Seyyid Zia ed-Din and his colleagues, and, more especially, by the new spirit of confidence which, all reports agree in saying, is abroad in the country. Everybody in Persia, except a handful of notables, appears to be pleased by the changes wrought; and it is indeed a significant fact that the arrest and imprisonment of some 200 of "the most notable figures in Persian society and politics" has aroused no protest at all—"not a single man at arms has taken the field for his overlord, nor a single tenant telegraphed to protest to Teheran." With a few, a very

few, of the prisoners some sympathy will be felt in this country; the others, it must be admitted, only too richly deserve a fate at least as bad as that which has overtaken them. Some of them, it is only fair to add, will doubtless have met that fate with a grim smile and a secret sigh that they were born a few years too late.

Sages—and Soviets.

The most satisfactory thing about this Persian revolution—for that is what it is in effect—is that it is of a purely national character, and in no way inspired by poisonous doctrines of the Moscow type. On this point all reports are agreed; and the correspondent referred to above believes that the movement holds out hope that "the East will find the antidote to Bolshevism." "Here," he writes, "is no industrial population and none to preach or conceive possible a proletarian Government, but many who cherish Plato's ideal that philosophers should be kings and kings philosophers. The East seems turning its back on parliaments and seeking sages." It remains a fact, nevertheless, that sages, like lesser men, find financial problems painful things to tackle, and it seems probable that Zia ed-Din's Cabinet will ere long find itself in trouble of much the same kind as that which confronted its predecessors. Again, the withdrawal of our troops, and the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Resht neighbourhood, are enough to cause anxiety to any country placed as Persia now is. It is true that a Treaty has actually been entered into between Persia and the Moscow Soviet, but it remains to be seen how far this will bind the "Reds," whose record hardly inspires confidence. The Persian Government is clearly not prepared to accept all Moscow's assurances at face value, and it is to be hoped that whatever happens it will not be caught napping. Soviets have no respect at all for sages.

The Mystery of Rahmy Bey.

During the presence in London of the Turkish Nationalist Delegation negotiations were opened for the mutual exchange of prisoners of war; and a telegram from the Malta correspondent of the *Morning Post* announces that several Turkish prisoners interned on that island are expected to leave shortly for Turkey. It would be interesting to know whether Rahmy Bey, the unfortunate ex-Vali of Smyrna, is one of the number selected, and, if not, why not? The mystery surrounding his detention remains unsolved, and the authorities maintain a silence which may be dignified, or may be merely due to their inability to give any good reason for the detention of one who showed himself a chivalrous foe, and won the gratitude of numbers of British subjects, who now earnestly desire to see him released. If for any reason he cannot be released unconditionally, why cannot he be allowed to reside either in London or in Paris, on parole, as he has asked permission to do?

Indian Politics.

With the prorogation of the Indian legislature, the interest of politics shifts from the capital to the country, and Lord Chelmsford did well to remind the departing members in his closing speech that they have duties outside Delhi, and that their constituencies will want to know what they have been doing. Under the old régime constituents did not count, and we fear their requirements will be regarded as a nuisance just at first; but it is a nuisance which will have to be endured, and at the moment there are particular reasons for maintaining the closest possible touch with the country. While legislators have been debating, the enemy has been sowing tares, and there is plenty of hard spade-work—or, rather, hoe-work—to be done if the new crop is to be saved. To drop metaphors, the mischief-makers have been exceedingly busy during the last few months among the peasants and the factory hands, and if the supporters of the new constitution do not counter their activities, the position may again become thoroughly dangerous; it is hard work, but India has never been an easy country to govern, and the men who aspire to rule must learn to shoulder the burden.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

Another Coal Strike.

The miners, or their leaders, or both, have taken the bit between their teeth, and bolted, and another coal strike is upon us. On the day that coal was decontrolled the strike began. Unfortunately it seems to have started, at least officially, in an extremely bitter spirit, for the Miners' Federation has instructed the pump men and others who have hitherto maintained the safety of the mines during a strike to come out as well as the coal-getters. This indefensible order has been condemned, as it was bound to be, on all sides, and it has not been generally obeyed. Had it been obeyed everywhere, it would have permanently ruined a large number of collieries. The fact that the order was given has encouraged the suspicion in some quarters that the Miners' Federation, finding itself in a critical position, has determined to stake everything on one throw.

The rights and wrongs of the case, so far as they have been published—and both sides have been reticent—may be briefly stated. The industry is bankrupt, because it has asked too much money for its goods; it has killed the export trade, and seriously handicapped all home industry by its greed; it has been the main factor in forcing up all industrial prices. Its critical position, brought about by its own folly—for which both masters and men must share the blame—has no public sympathy whatever. The cure is simple. The masters' profits have practically disappeared through the collapse of the export trade; the only road to economy is therefore a reduction of wages, which have been increased several times since the miners struck in 1915, at a critical moment of the war, and enforced their claim during a national emergency. With the fall of prices, such reductions of wages are being made in other industries, notably among the railwaymen, without friction; the miners would not consent.

They complain that the employers' schedule of reductions is too drastic. This is quite possible; only experts in mining conditions can decide the point. Certainly the public cannot, for all sections of the public are prejudiced against the miners, remembering that every increase in wages has been followed by a decrease in production of coal. However, it should not have been impossible to carry on the industry while the point was being discussed, as is done in other trades; the Miners' Federation preferred to call a strike, and the only remedy it has suggested was made by Mr. Frank Hodges, who proposed that the State should subsidise the industry. Seeing that coal has practically blackmailed the public for the last five years, this amounts to a proposal that the country shall no longer be blackmailed as individuals but as a nation. The proposal has everywhere been regarded as impertinent, and as a final proof of the utter selfishness of the miners' executive. Apparently they expected the Government to intervene at the last moment, but it has not done so.

What course the struggle will take cannot be foretold. I am not hopeful of a speedy settlement. Those who know tell me I am wrong. But I cannot forget that six months ago they assured the whole world that the result of the last coal strike would be permanent peace, better feeling, and mutual understanding of master and man. I could not see anything more than a truce, and a badly-drawn truce, in the terms, but I was denounced for prophesying more trouble this year as one who did not understand the position. But sometimes one's nose is a surer guide than other folk's eyes.

In the present case the trouble may last a long time; it is a matter of life and death to the Miners' Federation to hold out. If they give in they are smashed; if they hold out indefinitely they are bankrupt. For that reason they are appealing to the Triple Alliance of railwaymen and transport men to make common terms, and come out on what would in effect be a general strike. If the invitation were accepted, the Government would be faced with another attempt at "direct action" and, in effect, a revolution; but it will pro-

bably be refused. If refused, it means that the Triple Alliance, which has never proved effective yet, is a failure, and the Miners' Federation would be left to exhaust its funds and make what terms it could.

I doubt if its demise, or reduction to impotence, would be any loss to other trade unions. The solidarity of Labour is a true doctrine, but, like most doctrines, more honoured in theory than in practice, and for this reason, that the miners always appeal to it when they are in a hole, but never do anything for other workers. There are, of course, some employers who regard the present as an opportunity to smash all trade unions; these are mostly small men and bad employers of the sweating type. And there are sections in the trade unions which regard the present trouble as an opportunity to spread Bolshevism; there are an equally small minority on the other side. The decent and sensible majority in both camps sees that wages depend on cost of living, that as one rose with the other, both must fall together, and at approximately the same pace; and that in the present condition of industry, which is not flourishing, there is more to be gained by negotiation than by a fight.

The Political Consequences.

Some of the miners' leaders have complained of the apathy of the public over the coal crisis. They are apathetic in the sense that anybody who is impotent to avert a disaster is apathetic, but their real feeling is that of disgust.

The political consequence of the strike will be quite inevitably a further set-back for Labour. The public takes its revenge in votes. In the first six months of 1919 Labour won at the polls; then the railway strike gave it a period of losses. It no sooner began to recover popularity than the coal strike of last autumn and direct action appeared on the field, and again Labour lost its by-elections. After that its political leaders seemed to learn their lesson, and nobody was more carefully constitutional in its speeches than they. The party had its reward, and won several by-elections. This certainly frightened the Government, and ten days back Mr. Lloyd George, in a very expansive after-luncheon speech, denounced them as Bolsheviks in disguise, wolves in sheep's clothing, and all the rest of it.

The speech did not have much effect, because the average Labour politician in the House of Commons, so far from imitating Trotsky, is as orthodox (and as dull) as a Parish Clerk. But this sudden strike, with the suffering and loss it must cause to the community, seems to make the cap fit, and I think it will take political Labour six months to get over the prestige it will lose with the general public.

The trouble is not in the least that the Labour leader is a wolf in sheep's clothing; he is a very decent fellow, with as many ideas in his head as the average politician, and with no desire whatever to bathe in the blood of employers. He is very often a respected figure in his local chapel, or a brotherhood preacher, and akin to the sturdy Radical of the old days. He fails less in principles than in personality, and sometimes in pluck; he is too much the mere mouthpiece, and not sufficiently the leader, who will choose his own policy and methods. As his job depends on keeping in with his followers, and the extremer opinion naturally dictates the pace, he cannot be blamed too much. But it is not a particularly good thing for politics in general, or



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the Labour Party in especial, that it should be in this position.

The Government Changes.

The changes in the Cabinet, which were inappropriately announced on April 1, were more numerous than had been expected, but on the whole there is little the critics can quarrel with, and it is very probable that the Government will be rather stronger than before. Sir Robert Horne has, of course, still to prove himself at the Exchequer, but to rise to what is generally considered the second position in the Cabinet after less than three years in Parliament is astonishing; in fact, it has only been done once before, in the case of the younger Pitt. Mr. Illingworth, who was not a particularly successful Postmaster-General, retires on the ground of ill-health in favour of Mr. Kellaway; Dr Addison at last disappears from the Ministry of Health, although why he should be made Minister without Portfolio passes human comprehension, and nobody knows what are the duties, if any, attaching to the post. The fact that Sir Alfred Mond goes to the Ministry of Health is generally interpreted to mean that the excessive activities and expenditure of that department are to be curbed. The public, which believes in the possibility of a Health Ministry but has resented the way in which Dr. Addison has tried to feel its pulse, will be relieved at the change.

In some ways the most important change is the retirement of Lord French as Viceroy of Ireland, and the appointment of Lord Edmund Talbot in his place. For the first time a Roman Catholic becomes Viceroy—this is the first result of the new Home Rule Act in practice. Whether that of itself will have any effect on the position in Ireland remains to be seen. A few years ago it would have had considerable weight; it will still, of course, ensure the approval of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. But Sinn Fein has shown an independence of Rome in political and other action which has caused much searching of the heart the last two or three years, and it is possible that the mere fact of the religious bond will not by itself do so much as was anticipated in the more violently republican circles.

At the same time, it is universally recognised that Lord Edmund is a man of sterling character whom everybody likes, and, what is more, respects. One of the old Catholic nobility, he has no showy parts, and he probably disdains mere brilliance. But he is absolutely straight in his dealings with friend and foe, and his appointment will restore some of the moral prestige that the Government has come increasingly to need in its Irish policy. It will be almost his first duty to superintend the convocation of the new Irish Parliaments this summer.

The Prince as Jockey.

The Prince of Wales won a very popular victory in the Guards Steeplechase at Hawthorn Hill, riding his own horse, and covering a by no means easy course without mishap. He rides gamely, and has been in the saddle very often of late; one supposes he is getting accustomed to being followed by the photographers on these and, apparently, all other possible occasions. The King and Queen were among the spectators at Hawthorn Hill; the Queen appeared to be a little anxious, but both were obviously very pleased at the Prince's success.

Falling Wages.

Prices having fallen, a good many wage agreements calculated on the cost of living are also falling. Railwaymen's wages, for instance, are down 4s. a week. It was said in some quarters that they would protest against honouring the agreement. The idea was preposterous; railwaymen are men of their word, and held to the bargain.

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In the Civil Service there are also similar reductions of the war bonus on account of falling prices. These reductions will probably lead to a further fall in the cost of living; the vicious circle, of which we heard so much last year, is beginning to prey on its own vitals. Deflation is not a very enjoyable process, but it is essential to national health; it is likely to last some considerable time, and the whole of 1921 will probably be a period of stringency. I gather from a house agent that even seaside landladies are trying to curb their natural rapacity, and asking more moderate rents. But house agents are proverbially optimistic, and a statement like that takes a great deal of believing.

The Boat Race.

Cambridge won, as was expected all along. But it was by no means such an easy thing as had seemed probable at one time—a one-length win on the Putney-to-Mortlake course is not a very great margin, and the Oxford crew obviously made considerable progress in the last few days of training, while Cambridge, being already at the very top of their form, could not expect to get anything more out of themselves, and could only pray not to go stale.

All the same, I doubt if the one length which separated the boats at the end really represented the differences in the crew. Oxford made a gallant effort, but they had not another ounce left in them, and nearly collapsed afterwards: Cambridge had plenty of strength for another mile, and would have probably increased their lead considerably had the course been longer.

To make things even, Oxford beat Cambridge at golf on the same day. But University golf is a select and not a popular sport.

There has been a rather animated discussion this week over the next Test Matches. Mr. C. B. Fry has suggested that we are too haphazard over our methods; the M.C.C. appoints the captain and picks the team, but the men never play together as an eleven until they meet on the ground. The result is that the batsmen do not know each other's peculiarities, the captain is not quite sure of his bowlers or where to place his field to the best advantage. Mr. Fry thinks that the cure for this is to pick the England team early in the season, and for the eleven to play one or two trial games together, to find out each other's—and one may add, the captain's—peculiarities. Other cricketers have supported or criticised the idea; the most telling argument against it seems to be that the Douglas team in Australia was playing together all the time, and yet managed to lose every Test match.

An unspoken criticism which has been at the back of the minds of a good many is the feeling that if these men were picked and set apart and trained separately—fatted up, so to speak, for the event—it would tend to increase the professional element in the national sport, since few amateurs could afford the heavy additional tax on their time. That might help us to beat Australia, but it would not help English cricket in the long run.

The Week's Books.

A curious little book which I shall add to my war library is "Gun Running for Casement" (Collins), by Lieutenant Karl Spindler, the German officer who escaped from Donnington Hall and brought Casement over from Germany to Ireland. He has good reason to remember the British police. After his escape, he was walking about Nottingham with a comrade. "I learned that a detective had watched us for a long time without noticing our identity with the wanted men. Then he suddenly remarked that whenever we chanced to get out of step we quite mechanically regained step, and he said to himself, 'Those are certainly two German officers.'"

Serious readers will be interested in the very thoughtful essays which Miss Alice Gardner has published under the title of "The History of Sacraments in Relation to Thought and Progress" (Williams and Norgate). Her analysis of sacramental life is very suggestive; one quotation will show the trend of her thought. "Belief in sacraments and belief in direct divine communications which render sacraments superfluous are nearer to each other than either is to the crude belief in an autocratic Creator or a 'great non-natural man.'" OCELLUS.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 20.

The New Cabinet.

Since Thursday last Cairo has been to all intents and purposes *en fête*. The trams have been bedecked with banners and branches of trees, the public establishments have all flown their flags, and throughout the day throngs of students have passed through the streets carrying banners and shouting "Long live the Sultan," "Long live Adly," "Long live Zaghloul," etc. This is all due to the acceptance of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers by Adly Pasha Yeghen, to the constitution of a new political Cabinet to take the place of the Ministry of Affairs presided over by Mohammed Tewfik Nessim Pasha since last May, and to the publication by Adly Pasha and his colleagues of their programme.

When I penned my last letter considerable difficulties had arisen in the matter of the constitution of a new Cabinet and it looked very much as if, at this vital moment in the history of Egypt, personal considerations were going to bring everything to shipwreck. Happily, at the eleventh hour wiser counsels prevailed, and, Mazloun Pasha having found it impossible to form a Cabinet responding to the needs of the situation, the Sultan invited Adly Pasha Yeghen, the one man really indicated for the task, to assume the premiership and form the new Cabinet.

Within a very short time Adly Pasha had accomplished the task allotted to him, and on Thursday the 17th the decree was signed. The cables will have advised you of the constitution of the new Cabinet. There is, therefore, no need for me to deal with it, and all that I would say is that the choice made by Adly Pasha seems to have met with the warm approval of all sections of the community, and that he appears to have gathered round him a team which should pull together very satisfactorily. Likewise, the programme which the new Premier outlined in his letter of acceptance of office has met with general acceptance.

The Cabinet will work for a political settlement which will establish beyond doubt the independence of Egypt. In this it will seek the co-operation of Saad Pasha Zaghloul and his colleagues. It promises that the elections for the Constituent Assembly, which will be called upon to ratify the agreement, shall take place with the fullest guarantee for the expression of the country's views, and that none of the great reforms so needed by the country shall be introduced until the new Constitution, which the Cabinet will elaborate, has been put into operation, and the country has had an opportunity of expressing its opinion through its properly elected representatives. Finally, it holds out a hope that it will be possible within a very short time to return to a normal régime and do away with martial law and the censorship. This, in short, is the programme which the Cabinet has before it. It responds fully to the nation's aspirations, but the new Ministers will need the whole-hearted collaboration of the country in order to bring their very important task to a successful conclusion.

Adly Pasha's Fine Work.

Adly Pasha Yeghen fully deserves the confidence which his Sovereign, by entrusting to him the formation of the Cabinet, and his fellow-countrymen, by the manner in which they have received his nomination, repose in him. He has during the past two years worked indefatigably and at the same time unobtrusively towards a satisfactory settlement with Great Britain, meeting the Egyptian aspirations and also our own special requirements. It was thanks to him that the breach between Zaghloul Pasha and the Milner Mission was repaired; it was likewise thanks to his tact and his influence with his fellow-countrymen that agreement was come to on the lines of the draft proposals of August 18, 1920; and his influence and his personality have undoubtedly had a good deal to do

with the granting of the recent concession made by the British Government in the matter of the abolition of the Protectorate and of the promise contained in his letter of acceptance of office with regard to the removal of administrative restrictions.

It is, therefore, but fitting that he should be at the head of the Government which will have to control matters during the forthcoming negotiations, and that he should preside over the official delegation to whom will fall the task of discussing the situation with the British Government and drafting the Treaty of Alliance which will constitute the charter of liberty aspired to by the Egyptians, and, it is hoped, a bond of amity between the British and Egyptian nations.

The Outgoing Cabinet.

One final word with regard to the outgoing Cabinet, and particularly to its head, Mohammed Tewfik Nessim Pasha. The retiring Ministers took office as a Ministry of Affairs at a critical moment, and they have pluckily carried on the administration of the country under most difficult conditions. To Nessim Pasha as Prime Minister has naturally fallen the heaviest part of the burden, but he has fully lived up to the expectations created when he was appointed, and has throughout displayed remarkable patriotism, a patriotism which finds eloquent expression in his letter of resignation. When the time comes for the history of Egypt since 1918 to be written by the impartial historian we can be certain that he will single out Nessim for his able and courageous administration and his self-effacement when the time came for the adoption of a line of action dictated by, and considered more responding to, the new situation created by the British Government's declaration regarding the Protectorate.

Tomatoes, Economics and Politics.

One of my editor friends was somewhat surprised this week to receive a telegram from a village not far distant from Cairo clamouring for "Government control of tomatoes for other than economic reasons." With such far more important questions as cotton the political future of the country, cereals, etc., so prominently before the public, this seemed to him a strange demand, especially as the village itself was known to be a somewhat large producer of market garden produce; and the remark "for other than economic reasons" greatly intrigued him.

Before publishing the telegram he, therefore, made some inquiries, and eventually he was very thankful that he had taken this precaution. The explanation for this sudden concern for the control of tomatoes turns out to be that a recent delegation from the provinces which had come to congratulate the Sultan on the British Government's recent declaration, and which included members of the village in question, had on arrival in Cairo been much mishandled by a body of students who had pelted them with tomatoes. Doubtless some wag in the village had seized upon this as a good opportunity for pulling the leg of the vernacular Press, which is generally only too pleased to publish telegrams from the provinces on any subject.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, March 19.

Political.

After a week of party intrigues behind the scenes and of "rows" and scandals in Parliament, the political situation still remains practically unchanged. M. Jorga has resumed the leadership of the Federalist *bloc*, but on condition that M. Stere should not be admitted in the group.

M. Bratianu (the leader of the Liberal Party), in a speech delivered at the Liberal Club, has announced that the work of reorganisation of their party throughout the country has been completed, and that they are

now ready to take over the reins of Government when the occasion arises. M. Averescu's party, on the other hand, have just celebrated their first year's anniversary of their coming into power, which they were quite justified in doing, considering that theirs is the only party that has been able to remain in power for such a length of time since the war. They have a good chance to do so still, for though they have some weak points, there is no other party to take their place for the moment. The Liberals have still to regain among the masses their popularity; and the Federalists, although comparatively numerous, are still unable to amalgamate sufficiently to pull together.

Agrarian Reform.

In the Senate the Agrarian Reform Bill is making slow but sure progress, especially since the Opposition has abandoned its negative attitude, and has voted for the Bill in its general form, upon condition that when the different clauses are discussed their proposed amendments are taken into consideration.

At the same time the Agrarian Committee is also working very energetically in dividing up the land among the peasants, and it is reported that almost 5 per cent. of this work has already been accomplished.

Coronation Preparations.

The special committee charged with making arrangements for the coronation of King Ferdinand and Queen Marie has been hard at work, and it has now been decided that the Coronation shall take place at Alba Julia (Transylvania) on September 24. It has further been decided that a church shall be erected at Alba Julia similar to the one at Targoviste for use in the religious service in the crowning of King Ferdinand as King of All Roumanians, and in memory of the great battles which brought Greater Roumania into being. The church, it is expected, will serve for the crowning of all future kings of Roumania. On the outskirts of the town, where Michael the Brave entered Alba Julia after a victory over the Hungarians 500 years ago, a

monumental arch, with reliefs commemorating events in Roumanian history, will be erected. On the coronation day, after a service at the new church, at which all the Roumanian bishops will be present, the King and Queen, crowned, will proceed to the new triumphal arch, where the troops will parade. In the afternoon and evening there will be various entertainments, including a banquet in the hall in which the union of Transylvania with Roumania was proclaimed in December, 1918. The next day the Sovereigns will arrive in Bucharest and make a triumphal entry into the capital. Here also an arch will be erected to commemorate the day for future generations.

Tudor Vladimirescu.

This week the centenary of the death of Tudor Vladimirescu, a former Roumanian ruler, was celebrated by festivities in the capital, at which delegates in national costumes from all parts of the country assembled to express their gratitude for the good done to the Roumanian nation by this national hero.

Tudor Vladimirescu, although the son of Roumanian peasants, was able, through his intelligence, bravery and love for his fellow-peasants to rise to the rank of ruler, although for a very short time. During his time the Roumanians were oppressed by a number of Greeks, called Phanariots, sent by the Sultan of Turkey to rule over them. The oppression got so unbearable that Tudor Vladimirescu put himself at the head of a revolt to free the country of these foreign usurpers. Roumania being then under the Turks, the Sultan, thinking this revolt directed against him, sent troops to suppress this rebellion; but, on finding out the real cause of their discontent, allowed the Roumanians from that time forward to choose a ruler from their own people, thus beginning a new era for the Roumanian nation. Vladimirescu, however, was treacherously murdered by the Phanariots.

The Hungarian Plot in Transylvania.

After several isolated cases of Magyar chauvinistic manifestations, the Roumanian authorities have at last

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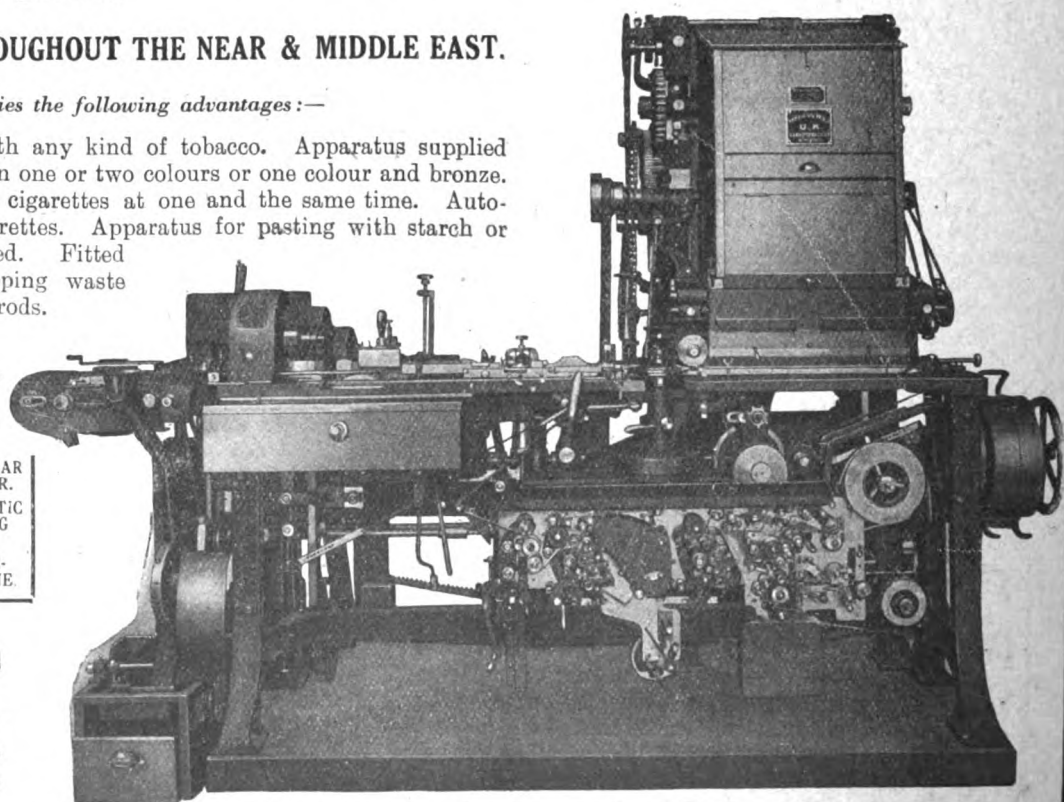
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been able to get to the bottom of a well-organised plot directed against the State, encouraged and financed by the Hungarian Government. By keeping a close watch on a certain Hungarian Society (the "Emke") the authorities were able to lay hands on the principal agents, who include a number of Magyar priests, town councillors, State officials and others; and on searching their houses letters, reports and pamphlets were found that proved indisputably that they were spying and plotting against the safety of the State.

General News.

Prince Alphonse of Bourbon, who represented the Spanish Royal Family at the wedding of Princess Elisabeth, after having visited several towns in the country, left on March 11 by the Simplon express for Paris and Madrid.

Beginning on April 1, 1921, the army will be placed on a peace footing. At the same time, martial law, censorship and military courts will be abolished.

GREECE.

ATHENS, March 20.

War Clouds.

The country is once again on the war-path. Persistent rumours of a partial mobilisation were rife throughout the week, but were repeatedly denied by those who are in the know. Last night, however, a telegram received from M. Gounaris, whose inexplicable silence during the week had caused considerable anxiety to official circles in Athens, proved how well founded these rumours had been. M. Gounaris pointed out in his telegram that in view of the recent concentration of fresh Kemalist troops in Asia Minor it would be necessary to reinforce the Hellenic front by at least three classes of reserves. The Prime Minister *ad interim*, M. Protopapadakis, immediately communicated the contents of this telegram to the King, and at eleven o'clock last night the Royal Decree calling up the 1913b, 1914, and 1915 classes was signed and published in to-day's official gazette. At the same time the King issued a proclamation to the people, stating that the calling up of the above three classes was necessary in order to protect the Christian populations in Asia Minor from Mustapha Kemal's savage hordes, also to bring about definite peace in the Near East.

The papers are full of enthusiastic articles, and assure us that Mustapha Kemal's career is at an end. To-day's *Ephimeris*, in a special one o'clock edition, states on good authority that King Constantine himself will shortly proceed to Smyrna, where he will take command of the Greek armies.

In Thrace.

The newly appointed Governor of Thrace, M. Vozikis, prior to taking up his duties, conferred with the deputies of Thrace, with whom he discussed all matters of importance connected with that region, and particularly the question of providing accommodation for the refugees. The question of adopting certain measures ensuring an adequate supply of foodstuffs for the Thracian population was also discussed. M. Vozikis left Athens for Adrianople on Thursday morning.

The Allied Commission representing the League of Nations has arrived in Gumuldjina to superintend the mutual exchange of the Greek and Bulgarian populations. The members of the Commission were received by the Prefect and the Mayor of Gumuldjina, and at their invitation paid a visit to the new orphanage of the town which serves as a home for about 200 children

whose parents were exterminated by the Bulgarians prior to the Greek occupation of Thrace.

The Moslem inhabitants of the Arcadioupolis district have despatched a telegram to the Athens Press condemning the attitude of certain Turkish deputies of Thrace who refused to sign the memorandum submitted by the National Assembly to the London Conference, declining to accept the proposal to send a commission of inquiry to Thrace and Smyrna. The telegram adds that the Moslems are very happy under Greek administration. A similar telegram was sent by three Turkish deputies from Kirkilisse, who, owing to private affairs, have been unable, so far, to attend the meetings of the Constituent Assembly.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 23.

Return of the Wanderers.

The event of the week has undoubtedly been the sudden reappearance of the much-advertised Mission under Izzet Pasha, which proceeded from Constantinople to Angora about sixteen weeks ago for the purpose of eliminating the regrettable "duality" that had arisen within the body of the Turkish state. Izzet Pasha was at once besieged by journalists and others whose hunger for news is never appeased, and it would appear that the Mission had a most difficult and uncomfortable journey back to Constantinople on account of the state of the roads being such as to make travelling irksome in every way. The journey is said to have taken fifteen days, and the question why the Mission had left Angora at such a moment was quite natural; but Izzet Pasha's reply to the effect that there was no longer any reason for him and his companions to prolong its sojourn in the capital of Nationalistan was somewhat ambiguous; and in view of the reasons which he cited to explain the lengthy stay of the Mission in Angora, his reply to the first question gives food for thought. It will be remembered that as soon as the Mission arrived in Angora

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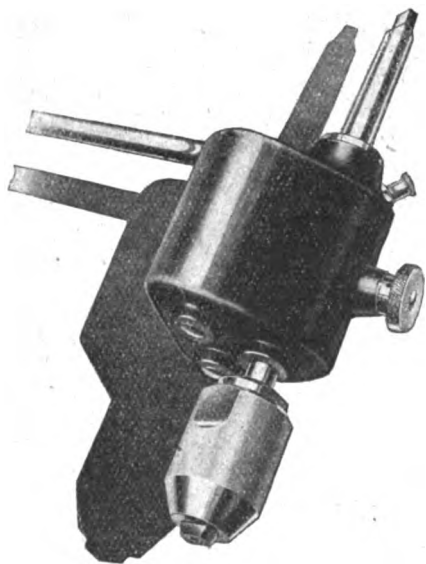
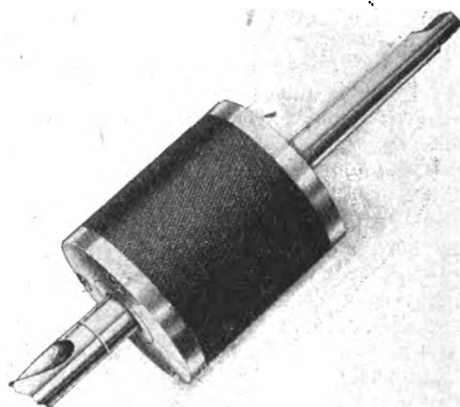
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the Anatolian Press announced that Izzet Pasha and his companions had devised the plan of a conference in Angora as a subterfuge whereby to escape from the tyranny of the British and to join the Nationalist cause. This action on the part of the Nationalists, Izzet Pasha asserts, was necessitated by the attitude of the Bolsheviks, who regarded the advent of the Mission as a mark of hostility to themselves. How, then, it may be asked, will the return of the Mission be interpreted? And why was it considered necessary for it to brave the rigours of the Anatolian winter in order to return to Constantinople? It had been away for sixteen weeks, and its absence has made practically no difference to the administration of affairs. Another week or so would surely have made no difference.

There are, in fact, grounds for believing that there were very good reasons for the return of Izzet Pasha to Constantinople at the present moment. The Nationalists now consider that official recognition has been accorded to the Great National Assembly as the legal Government of Turkey by the very circumstance of the conclusion of agreements between its representatives in Europe and the French and Italian Governments. Further, the reception accorded to the Nationalist Delegation by the British Government is taken as a sign that Great Britain is prepared to follow the example of her Allies. Hence the Nationalist demand that the Sultan should recognise the Great National Assembly is regarded as having added force to-day. This is in all probability the key to the mystery of the Mission, and it is probable that Izzet Pasha has been charged with the task of persuading the Sultan to reconsider the matter.

Nationalist Policy.

At the same time, there is no indication whatever that the Nationalists have in any way changed the policy which has been described in previous letters. Those who hold power in Anatolia have no intention of relinquishing it; and so far as the Angora Administration is concerned, the Sublime Porte and the Imperial Cabinet do not exist. How this attitude is reconcilable with the protestations of loyalty to the Sultan it is somewhat difficult to understand, but the Nationalists are still apparently of the opinion that they are covered by asserting that the Sultan is virtually a prisoner and not a free agent. Nevertheless, if they succeed in carrying out their avowed intentions, the Sultan will be less of a free agent than ever—which will, perhaps, please the Bolsheviks, whatever the Islamic world may think.

The Results of the Conference.

So far as one can judge, the opinion of the home Press with regard to the prospects of a speedy settlement of the differences with Anatolia is generally optimistic; but there are many indications that this optimism is not altogether well founded. True, agreements have been signed with France and Italy, but these agreements are of considerable value to the Nationalists in that they permit the concentration of forces hitherto employed elsewhere upon the Ionian front. Further, there is very faint hope indeed of the Nationalists agreeing to any peace which leaves a Greek garrison in Smyrna and does not touch the status of Thrace. On the other hand, the Greeks have been preparing for the renewal of an offensive against Eskişehir for the last six weeks, and those preparations having been completed, there is good reason to believe that fresh operations are imminent. How will this assist in bringing about the settlement so ardently desired? The most optimistic estimate of possible Greek success does not extend beyond the possible capture of Angora, and there is considerable doubt whether that will achieve the end in view, apart from doubts whether the estimate itself is justified. A reverse suffered by the Greeks will only render the existing confusion worse confounded. However, *bakallem*.

The Caucasus.

It is reported here that the Turks, after having been forced by the Georgian forces which had turned Bolshevik to withdraw from Batoum, have come to an agreement with the Bolsheviks by which the all-important port remains Russian. There are no other details concerning the agreement, but it is practically certain that the Turks, preferring half a loaf to no

bread, have perforce been satisfied with promises of autonomy for the coveted province of Ajaristan. It would thus appear that the Bolsheviks and the Turks still find some use for each other, and it is therefore still more unlikely that peace is to be established in the East within the near future.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, March 5.

The Greek Enosis Movement.

No positive decision has been arrived at as to the next steps to be taken. The visit of Mr. Churchill to Egypt has suggested that it should not be allowed to pass without another effort being made to advance the cause. Some suggest that a deputation of all or some of the members of the Legislative Council should proceed to Cairo and seek an interview with the new Secretary of State; or that a telegram should be despatched begging that he will visit Cyprus, as he did some years ago, and see for himself how strong is the desire for union with Greece. The general feeling, however, seems to be that nothing could be gained by such a course.

The Judicial Department.

The advocates of Nicosia have presented a memorial to the Government and to the Chief Justice, Mr. Stanley Fisher, requesting that additional judges may be appointed to deal with work in the Central Courts. It is represented that the congested state of work involves constant adjournments of cases to the great detriment and loss of time of suitors. It is considered by the bar that three more judges should be appointed.

General News.

Nicosia has again been under snow, as it was once last winter, though not so thickly. Such an event is rare, and only occurs, as a rule, at long intervals.—There has been a decrease in cases of typhus and also of influenza, from which many have been suffering, especially in Limassol and the west of the island.—At Limassol football and cricket matches are being played on the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday, on the English Club grounds between English and Greek teams, Major Bolton, the Commissioner, often attending. They are very popular, and are witnessed by large numbers of residents.

NICOSIA, March 15.

The High Commissioner, Mr. Malcolm Stevenson, is proceeding by this week's mail steamer to Egypt to meet Mr. Winston Churchill.

The Legislative Council was opened on March 7 by His Excellency with the usual formalities. In the opening speech the High Commissioner was able to congratulate the Council and the island on the prosperity which marked the past year, and which is continued in the present, on the satisfactory state of the public health, and of exports and imports, in spite of various economic drawbacks. He mentioned various draft laws which would be submitted to the Council, including measures to regulate or amend laws relating to the landing and residence of foreigners, to motor traffic, and to cruelty to animals. He then left the Chamber, and the Chief Secretary having taken his place the speech was translated into Turkish, and a resolution was passed thanking His Excellency for his address. The Greek members have absented themselves from this and from all succeeding sittings.

The "Unionist" Programme.

After holding several meetings, the Greek members of Council decided to despatch a memorial, signed by the Archbishop and themselves, to Mr. Churchill, in which, after stating that they had been again elected by votes which expressed the feelings of all the Greek Cypriots, they express the hope that the British Government may reconsider its decision regarding the island. They remind the Secretary of State of his visit to Cyprus in 1907, and trust that he will be the advocate of their cause with the Imperial Government. On March 11 they requested the High Commissioner to transmit to Mr. Churchill a telegram inviting him to visit Cyprus. It was decided that, should the Secretary of State not be able to visit the island, some of the members should proceed to Egypt in the hope of obtaining an interview.

It has been decided that the Greek community in Cyprus shall be represented at Athens during the celebrations of the Tercentenary of Greek independence.

OFFICIAL NOTICE.

NOTICE.—To ROUMANIAN SUBJECTS.—The Roumanian Military Attaché in Great Britain brings to the knowledge of all Roumanian male subjects that the Class 1922, composed of:—(a) All those born in 1900 as well as those who have been previously temporarily exempted for reasons of ill-health or through having a brother serving in the Roumanian Army belonging to former classes inclusive of 1921; (b) All Roumanian male subjects of former classes that have not yet been recruited for no matter what reason, these two above categories must present themselves at the Royal Roumanian Legation, 4, Cromwell Place, S. Kensington, between the 20th and 25th of April, 1921; (c) All those temporarily exempted and rejected of former classes must be re-examined in Roumania, otherwise they will be considered as "absentees."

HELLENISM IN EGYPT.

At a meeting of the Egypt Exploration Society, held on March 17, at the Royal Society's Rooms at Burlington House, the Chairman, Colonel H. G. Lyons, F.R.S., gave a few details of the work now being carried on at Tel-el-Amarna by this Society, under the superintendence of Prof. T. Eric Peet. He pointed out that excavations at the present day are slow and elaborate owing to the necessity for publishing strictly scientific reports of all work done, and every object found. Although it is unlikely that the present season's work will yield any very important finds in the way of Museum specimens, yet everything which tends to advance our knowledge of the period of Akhnaton is of great value and interest. The Chairman went on to say that in a certain portion of the site, which was believed by the Germans who worked here before the war to be a cemetery, Professor Peet had found remains of houses where the upper portions of the structures had fallen in and were still in a good state of preservation, not having been attacked by the white ant, and there were wooden rafters, reed coverings, ropes, and implements of domestic use all *in situ*. Also many pieces of Minoan pottery, probably brought from Thebes, and one clay tablet had been recovered inscribed in Assyrian. The work now being carried out on sites in Egypt, together with such information as Professor Reisner has recently gathered from his work in the Blue Nile Province, and the Rev. John Roscoe from his travels among the present natives of Uganda and neighbouring countries, all tend to throw light on many problems of the early civilisation of Africa and the history of the early movements of man.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. H. I. Bell to deliver a lecture on "Hellenism in Egypt." Following upon a lecture delivered before the same Society last year on the Historical Importance of Greek Papyri, Mr. Bell now reviewed in fuller detail the evidence afforded by papyri of Hellenic culture, its growth, dominance, and decay. The earliest dated Greek papyri bring us into a thoroughly Greek circle, soldiers, merchants, etc., with Greek names, keeping in touch with their relatives in Greece, retaining a keen interest in poetry and literature, reading Greek authors. But the setting is Egyptian, the religion is intermixed, the political and social organisations are un-Hellenic, the peasants and artisans are semi-serfs.

A change is to be noted about the end of 3rd cent., B.C.; the settlers have acquired permanent interest in the country; there is more intermarriage, and Egyptian customs are gradually being adopted by the Greeks. Then came the Roman conquest; its first effect was the strengthening of Hellenism, an increase of civic pride, and the dominance of the gymnasia, education in them became the hall-mark of social superiority. But this increased pride of capitals led to lavish expenditure, which sealed the fate of the urban middle class, and brought about the ruin of Hellenic culture. Christianity, too, was inimical to Hellenism, asceticism, and monastic influences were opposed to the gymnasia and the cult of bodily fitness. Christianity in the East was strongly national, the Egyptian language was revived in Coptic, and Greek began to die out, being retained only as the official language. The fate of Hellenism was finally settled by the Arab Conquest. It could not live in the new atmosphere, and Egypt reverted to the Orient.

Earthquake shocks were felt at Malta on March 28 between 9.2 a.m. and 11.31 a.m. There was no damage.

Nizam Bey, son of Nizam Pasha, is now in Brussels, and has informed *The Times* correspondent that he is appealing to the Turkish Government to arrest the assassins of his father. Nizam Pasha, at the time Minister of War, was murdered on January 23, 1913, as he was leaving the Sublime Porte, by agents of the Committee of Union and Progress, instigated, as is believed, by Enver and Talaat Pashas.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

THE ENGLISHMAN ABROAD.

To summarise the musical sentiments of the Englishman living abroad is not an easy matter; but, broadly speaking, it would seem that his attitude towards English music is either hostile or friendly, according to whether it be based on ignorance or on standards other than musical. There is the one who is unaware that English music exists; and there is the other whose patriotism swamps his æsthetic faculties.

I propose to take as typical of the feelings of the educated Englishman in the Near East some remarks recently made by a pianist well known in Egypt, Mr. Frederick Kitchener. The April number of *Musical Opinion* contains an article called "Some Impressions of an Anglo-Egyptian," in which the former musical critic of the *Sphinx* appears to me to illustrate well the friendly, but very vague and in part unsound, attitude to English music. Here are some of his sentences:—"The worst feature of musical life here (i.e., England) is the running about after every new foreign development, however absurd it may be, at the expense of our best composers. Why should we rave about such a man—for instance—as Stravinsky, when we have ourselves such a sane, noble and heart-feeling composer as Elgar?" Again: "Why should we always be imitating these foreigners, as though they were better than us?" "Let us stay at home. After all, there is no country like England, and no people can compare with the English." Now, this sort of thing is often written down, but one really does wonder sometimes whether the people who are content with these platitudes believe what they say. What would Mr. Kitchener have said if he had been writing, say, seventy years ago? Was not the dreadful state of music in England then due to the very fact that we did stay at home, that we were, in fact, isolated, without even being natural? And as for the increased interest in foreign developments being indulged in at the expense of our own composers, when, may we ask, was it, that our own madrigalists were discovered, that Purcell was performed, that "The Beggar's Opera" was revived, that song recitals wholly devoted to British composers were given? That time is the present. Of course, there is foolishness in all crazes, whether they be for British or for foreign music, but they at least are evidence of vitality; their subjects, moreover, are not always exclusive, and one often finds advanced people "backing" three or more composers, one of whom at least may be English. Many people despise the later works of Stravinsky as much as Mr. Kitchener appears to, but that is no reason why they should curl themselves up and say, "Out upon these freakish foreigners! Let us henceforth bask in the sun of our Elgars and Smyths."

Attention to contemporary foreign music by no means supposes a disregard of all domestic efforts; on the whole, indeed, I should say that English composers now are having a very good time. Even the three composers who, according to Mr. Kitchener, "matter"—Ethel Smyth, Elgar, Delius—even these have had some of their major works frequently performed in recent years; but why our respect for them should inhibit our taking an interest in our young composers is to me incomprehensible. One can but presume that living much abroad produces reaction; and that when the Englishman returns home he expects only the recognised to be thought worthy.

There is one last point in Mr. Kitchener's article, profoundly true, but charmingly (or, if you will, pathetically) irrelevant, on which I will close. He says: "Let us stay at home. After all, there is no country like England, and no people can compare with the English." This remark, which I fear many others would make in similar circumstances, seems to typify that vagueness which enshrouds the Englishman's æsthetic feelings. It is as if one, having inquired into the relative merits of two cricket teams, had received the answer, "Twice two are four." Of course they are; and of course no people can compare with the English. But what has all this to do with it? Quite apart from the extremely doubtful implication that a nation's virtues (and vices) are reflected in its music, this imposition upon music of a philosophic or patriotic rule would rob the judge of any æsthetic standard whatever.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"THE DAY OF THE CRESCENT: GLIMPSES OF OLD TURKEY."
G. E. Hubbard. (Cambridge University Press. 15s. net.)

THE DAYS OF THE "GRAND SINYORI."

Whatever we may think of present-day Turkey, there can be little doubt that Old Turkey, viewed from a comfortable armchair through the wizardry of Mr. Hubbard's fascinating book, was an extraordinarily interesting country. But while we are ready to admit that it would have lost none of its interest at closer quarters, so to say, we have no anxiety—having come to years of discretion, and learned to appreciate comfort and security—to find ourselves amid such adventures as many of those that befell those travellers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries whose journeyings are here recorded. The "Grand Sinyori" of those days was no doubt a very wonderful and awe-inspiring person, but a visit to his Court seems to have been attended by almost as many risks as, say, walking into the lair of a tiger. He held even the Ambassadors of powerful foreign States in supreme contempt, and made no bones about imprisoning them if the fancy to do so happened to take him; and the contrast between the condition of a foreigner of lesser importance in Turkey in those days and in these might almost make even a Greek or an Armenian feel some sympathy for the Turk's fall.

Mr. Hubbard takes his material from a collection of old books on Turkish travel in the 16th and 17th centuries, which he was fortunate enough—and enterprising enough—to unearth from "some of the dustiest bookshelves of the Foreign Office library." Dipping into them, he soon found himself "rapidly engrossed in a quite fascinating study"; and in this book he gives us, we may believe, the cream of the stories he read, sometimes allowing his originals to speak for themselves, at others helping us by his judicious compression of their tales. As he says: "Their stories of how they travelled, painted, plotted, or fought, according to their several capacities, are full of colour and romance and worthy products of the age of adventure in which the actors lived." Colour and romance, indeed, are here, and we are grateful to Mr. Hubbard for enabling us to enjoy them.

The first traveller whose adventures are set before us, though briefly, is Master Thomas Dallam, an organ-builder in Queen Elizabeth's reign, who was sent to Constantinople to erect an organ sent as a gift to the Sultan by the Queen—but paid for, as Mr. Hubbard remarks, in parentheses, by the Levant Company. This worthy's account of the ordeal he had to pass through when the Sultan inspected the gift very quickly gives us the true atmosphere. The great man was attended by 200 pages, 100 "Dum men who could neither heare nor speake," and 100 "dwarffes, big-bodied men, but very low of stature"; and he kept the Englishman standing "nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of an houre" before he deigned to notice his presence. Moreover, when ordered to play the instrument, Dallam "refused because the Grand Sinyori satt so neare that I could not come at the place and must needes turne my backe towards him and touch his knee with my britchis, which no man in paine of deathe myght doo save only the Cappagan." The poor man was in such a nervous state before he got to work that it is a wonder he could play at all; but his British pluck carried him through the ordeal, and he was rewarded, in truly "Arabian Nights" style, with a handful of gold coins. Thereafter he had the good luck to watch the ladies of the Sultan's harem for some time, and later nearly lost his life for being in the way of "the Grand Sinyori and his conquibines" when they took the air. After being chased by two blackamoors, who would have hewed him "all in peecis" if they had caught him, Master Dallam was probably not sorry to bid goodbye to Turkey and return to old England.

Other travellers of whose doings we read include a Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, a French artist, a Flemish diplomatist, a Venetian dragoman, and a Polish soldier, and they are all good company. Lack of space forbids our even glancing at their adventures, but they will well repay reading in Mr. Hubbard's pages. We can here only refer briefly to one or two points that have particularly interested us. There is, first, the fact that these early travellers all bear testimony (when they touch the subject at all) to the efficiency of the Turkish military organisation as contrasted with the shortcomings of the non-Moslem nations. Thus, while the Turks originally borrowed artillery from their Christian enemies, they "soon outpaced the original inventors, so that by the fifteenth century they were better equipped with heavy artillery than any of their rivals" (p. 47). Again, we find Busbequius bearing testimony to "the high efficiency of the Turkish army, the abstemious-

ness and hardihood of their troops, the admirable organisation of their auxiliary services (such a striking contrast to the happy-go-lucky methods of European armies of that time), and the unwavering discipline of the men." This is contrasted with the Christian soldiers' scorn of homely fare, their readiness to mutiny if they are not pampered, and their intemperance (pp. 84, 85). Again, on page 113, we read: "Judged by the standards of the day . . . the Turkish armies were a model of organisation." Not less admirable than their military organisation was their way of accepting news of victory, as set out in Chapter XII. Indeed, it would seem that there was some warrant for the opinion of "Hy. Blunt, Gent.," which is quoted on p. 107: "I was of opinion that he who would beholde the present times in their greatest glory could not find a better scene than Turkie." Alas, poor "Turkie"!

It is interesting to find that in the fighting of the early part of the seventeenth century there were often night attacks that "bore a singular resemblance to the organised trench raids which were a marked feature of the fighting on the western front during the Great War." The Turks, however, seem as a rule to have scorned "to quarter themselves within Ditches," as one of their enemies bears witness. It is not, perhaps, surprising to find many indications that in those days Turks and Englishmen "hit it off very well together."

The details regarding the recruiting, training, duties, and privileges of the Janissaries are extremely interesting. It will surprise many readers to learn that "humility was the keynote of the system" of training them, and that they were "bred in exemplary modesty." They had their faults, of course, even in their early days, but they had their virtues, too, undoubtedly; and when we read that "side by side with the spirit of democracy there existed an iron discipline within the corps," the existence of both is explained. Nor was it the discipline that made the Janissaries an untrustworthy force at last.

Mr. Hubbard, we repeat, has given us a fascinating book, and though we think we detect one or two slight blemishes about it, it would be ungracious to call attention to them. The illustrations, which are from old works, are very well reproduced, and type and binding and paper are all that we expect from the admirable Cambridge University Press.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A Collection of Ghosts: Eleven Indian Fantasies." By C. Elnith Bevan. (Amersham: Morland. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Cairo: How to See It." By Alexander R. Khouri. With Maps and Illustrations. (Alexandria: Anglo-Egyptian Supply Association. 15 piastres.)

"The Early Hours." By Marmaduke Pickthall. (London: W. Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Early Travels in India, 1583-1619." Edited by William Foster, C.I.E. (London: Humphrey Milford. Oxford University Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

"La Démocratie Géorgienne." By Wladimir Woytinsky. Preface by M. E. Vandervelde. (Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan. 12 frs.)

"A Moslem Seeker after God." By Samuel M. Zwemer. (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company. \$2.25.)

"Glimpses of Bengal." Selected from the Letters of Sir Rabindranath Tagore, 1885-1895. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"When Turkey Was Turkey: In and Around Constantinople." By Mary A. Poynter. With an Introduction by the late Sir Edwin Pears. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner, and Co., Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

According to a *Temps* report from Durazzo a force of Montenegrins put to flight not far from Cettigne a Yugoslav detachment, at the same time capturing a coffer containing 2,000,000 dinars and important documents.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

April 7 (New Style).
March 25 (Old Style).
Ragab 28, 1339, of the Moslem Calendar.
Adar II., 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Admiral Sir Ernest Troubridge has left for Paris.

M. George Cretziano has arrived in London from Paris.

Colonel Lord Loch and Lady Loch will return to London in a fortnight from Algiers.

Viscount and Viscountess Ennismore are returning to London this week from India.

The Hon. Cecil and Mrs. Campbell have returned to 41, Upper Brook Street from Tunis.

Captain and Mrs. Gerard Leigh will return to London about the middle of April from the Sudan.

M. Constantin Constantinesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from Paris.

Sir Charles and Lady Greenway and Mrs. Dalzell Hunter have left for the Continent, and will be absent for some weeks.

A Reuter telegram announces that the Maharao of Cutch is to represent India, with Mr. Sastri, at the Imperial Conference in June.

Major-General the Maharaja of Patiala, who represented the Indian Princes at the Imperial War Cabinet in 1918, arrived this week from India.

M. Geordania, Prime Minister of Georgia, who has arrived in Rome from Constantinople, will, after consultation with the Italian Government, visit Paris and London.

Commander Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, and Madame Costiesco-Ghyka left town last week on a visit to the Duchess of Norfolk at Arundel Castle.

Sir Henry Dobbs, the head of the British Mission to Afghanistan, who has been on a flying visit to Delhi, has now returned to Kabul. It seems unlikely that the Mission will return to India before May.

The Archbishop of Selefke has arrived in London from Constantinople for the purpose of superintending the conveyance to Constantinople of the body of Archbishop Dorotheos, Locum Tenens of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, who died in London recently.

The engagement is announced between Major Heron, C.I.E., Indian Medical Service, and Nesta, daughter of the late Captain Pennell Hill, Indian Army, and Mrs. Hill, 22, Melcombe Court, Dorset Square. The marriage will take place at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, on April 26.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Cairo on April 15, between H. Elliot FitzGibbon, third son of the late Henry FitzGibbon, M.D., F.R.C.S.I., and Mrs. FitzGibbon, of Dublin, and M. Kathleen Wordsworth Jameson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wordsworth Jameson, of Hedon, East Yorkshire.

A marriage has also been arranged between Captain F. Robert W. Jameson, D.S.O., M.C., the son of the above Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wordsworth Jameson, and Violet (Wallagh) FitzGibbon, daughter of the above Dr. and Mrs. FitzGibbon. In this case the wedding will take place on April 18, in Cairo, Egypt.

Princess Xenia, the second daughter of the Grand Duchess Marie of Greece and of the late Grand Duke George Michailovitch of Russia, and a niece of King Constantine, has been betrothed to Mr. William Leeds, son of Princess Christopher of Greece. Princess Christopher was formerly the wife of Mr. Leeds, an American millionaire.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in June in London, between Arthur Carrington Tyndale, M.A. Oxon, Military Accounts Department, India, eldest son of Walter

Tyndale, R.I., and Mrs. Tyndale, 88, Fellows Road, Hampstead, N.W.3, and Lesley, only child of Charles Pette Triscott and Mrs. Triscott, of Chesham Bois, Bucks.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in April, between Major A. H. Muir, 15th Sikhs, son of the late Colonel A. M. Muir and Mrs. Muir, 11, Grimston Avenue, Folkestone, and Edith May, widow of Captain H. S. Wright, 2nd Manchesters, and daughter of the late Luke Hansard and of Mrs. Hansard, Hans Crescent Hotel.

The Emir Faisal left England on April 1 on board the P. and O. Malwa on his way to Mecca, where he will report to his father, the King of the Hejaz, concerning the negotiations with which he has been occupied during his stay in London. General Haddad Pasha will remain in this country for the present to take charge of the interests of the Hejaz Government and of the Emir Faisal.

The theme of the next discussion (April 15) by the Central Asian Society will be "Mesopotamia, 1914-21," and the principal speaker will be Lieut.-Col. Sir Arnold T. Wilson, K.C.I.E., who will deliver a lecture illustrated by lantern slides. On this occasion the Society will not meet at 74, Grosvenor Street, but in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House. The time is, as usual, 4.30 p.m.

The marriage was celebrated on March 2, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Calcutta, by the Rev. Canon Cecil G. Stokoe, assisted by the Rev. D. B. Ottley, between Alexander Metaxa, younger son of F. Metaxa, Esq., and of Mrs. Metaxa, 98, Westbourne Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W., and Kathleen Mary, only child of Sir William Maxwell, K.C.I.E., M.V.O., I.C.S., retired, and of Lady Maxwell, 8, Middleton Street, Calcutta.

Mr. Tomyns Reginald Browne, M.B.E., M.I.M.E., of the Oriental Club, Hanover Square, W., late locomotive superintendent, East Indian Railway, who died on September 14, leaving £21,511, gives the residue of his estate, after payment of a number of legacies, to be divided between:—The Clergy Widows Fund, the Guild of Aid for Gentlewomen, the United Kingdom Beneficent Association, the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Benevolent Hospital, the Dreadnought Hospital, Greenwich, and the R.N. and R.M. Orphanage, The Nore.

The King has granted permission to wear the following decorations, conferred in recognition of valuable services rendered during the war:—

GREECE.

ORDER OF THE REDEEMER

Cross of Commander.—Lieut.-Gen. Sir Edmond Roche Elles, G.C.I.E., K.C.B.

Cross of Officer.—Henry Geoffrey Elwes, M.B.E., Percy Winn Everett, Major Alexander Gawthrop Wade, M.C.

Cross of Chevalier.—William Ayling, M.B.E.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. D. Vikedas has been appointed Secretary to the Greek Legation.

Major W. H. Hodgson, Indian Army, has been appointed Commissioner of Police and Inspector-General of Prisons for Baroda State, India.

Mirza Abdol Ghaffar Khan, Minister Resident at the Persian Legation, leaves London this week to take up his appointment as Minister at Stockholm.

The King has been pleased to approve the conferment of the dignity of a Viscounty of the United Kingdom upon the Right Hon. Baron Chelmsford, G.M.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.M.I.E., G.B.E., on his relinquishing the appointment of Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the following officers of the Royal Households to the Order of the Indian Empire for services rendered in connection with the visit of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught to India.

TO BE A KNIGHT COMMANDER.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Cromer, C.V.O.

TO BE COMPANIONS.

Lieut.-Col. Sir Malcolm Donald Murray, K.C.V.O., C.B.; Colonel Sir Edward Scott Worthington, K.C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G.

OBITUARY.

Mr. G. Vergottis, a shipowner, of Argostoli, Greece, who was on a visit to this country, died suddenly last week at Claridge's Hotel, at the age of 40. His body will be removed to Cardiff for conveyance to Greece in one of his own steamers.

A correspondent writes from Egypt:—

"The sudden death of Mrs. Ruby Josephine MacDonald, daughter of J. Boyd Love, Esq., J.P., and Mrs. Love, of Outlands, Devonport, at Bulkeley, Ramleh, Alexandria, Egypt, on January 19, at the early age of thirty-three, came as a great shock to her many friends in Egypt and the United Kingdom. About 150 persons were present at the funeral, and great sympathy is felt for her husband and family in their sad loss. She leaves a baby daughter.

"Mrs. MacDonald's bright and vivid personality, her witty talk, full of the joy of life, her kindness and abounding sympathy, her gift of comradeship, made her presence a welcome one wherever she went, though it was in her own home that her charm was especially manifest.

"During the war Mrs. MacDonald served first as a V.A.D. in Stoke Military Hospital, Devonport, and then as an officer in the W.R.N.S. when that was formed, with the rank of Assistant Principal, being employed as a coding officer on H.M.S. Apollo at Devonport. Later she was transferred to the Admiralty, and remained there until the return from abroad of her husband, Lt.-Col. L. T. A. MacDonald, O.B.E., formerly R.A.S.C. and Asst.-Director Department of Local Resources, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, who was recently appointed Director of the Cereals Bureau, Alexandria, under the Department of Supplies of the Egyptian Government."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

General Gouraud sailed from Constantinople last week for Beyrouth.

General Sir Percy Cox, British Commissioner in Mesopotamia, has sent from Baghdad to the Zoological Society a pair of young Persian gazelles.

It is learnt from the Hellenic Legation that the Orthodox Metropolitan of Sokia, near Aidin, has been arrested and expelled from the town.

It was announced from Rome last week that the evacuation of Dalmatian territories attributed to Yugoslavia was to take place between April 3 and April 7.

Bekir Sami Bey, Foreign Minister in the Angora Government, who represented the Turkish Nationalists at the recent Conference in London, has arrived in Rome.

Correspondence between the Secretary of State for India and the Indian Government on the Government of Burma Bill has been issued as a White Paper (Cmd. 1194).

The Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs has despatched a Note to Chicherin, says a Moscow wireless message, denying that any "White Guard" or other Russian political organisation exists in Roumania.

The death is reported of Mohammad Hamuda, the Algerian brigand, who carried on hostile operations against France and the Sultan of Morocco. During the Great War Hamuda succeeded in establishing relations with German agents at El Arish, in Morocco, and the Canary Islands.

The Committee of the London Moslem League has written to the Prime Minister to protest against the action of the Greeks in renewing the war in Anatolia, and expresses the opinion the Greeks will continue to keep the Near East in a ferment until they have been turned out of Thrace and Ionia.

It is stated that during a violent thunderstorm which lasted throughout Sunday the Egyptian obelisk (brought from Heliopolis by Caligula), which stands in the middle of the great square in front of St. Peter's, at Rome, was struck by lightning. Only the base of the obelisk was damaged, and that but slightly.

Twenty-eight Hungarian Bishops of Transylvania, who on the attachment of that province to Roumania had refused to take the oath of allegiance to King Ferdinand, have now given their allegiance, the ceremony taking place in the Royal Palace at Bucharest in the presence of the Sovereign and General Averescu, the Premier.

A Commission has been appointed to consider the best means of preserving the ancient buildings of Jerusalem. The restoration of the Damascus Gate has been completed, at the expense of the Pro-Jerusalem Society. The restoration of the Roman masonry in the walls of the Citadel (Tower of David) is nearing completion.

Reports received by missionary societies at home indicate exceptional aggressiveness on the part of Islam, especially in Central Africa. North of the Equator (writes a correspondent of the *Morning Post*), the majority of the African peoples have long been Mohammedans; now Islam is spreading southwards, and in West Africa is making great progress.

APPOINTMENTS WANTED.

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

DISTURBANCES AT NAGPUR.

A communiqué issued by the Indian Office on April 2 states:—The Secretary of State for India has received further news from India regarding disturbances at Nagpur, in the Central Provinces. On March 28 a mob destroyed the contents of six liquor shops, but was dispersed by the police, thirty arrests being made. Next day the police, under a European magistrate, made further arrests, but they were attacked by a mob, and the prisoners were rescued. As the attacks continued, and the police received injuries, the magistrate ordered them to fire. Reports indicate that nine deaths were caused and about thirteen persons were wounded.

On March 30 the city was still in a disturbed state, but there was no serious collision. On that and the following day the city was patrolled by strong bodies of police, and the excitement is reported now to be somewhat abating.

GALLIPOLI GRAVES.

The cemeteries on the Gallipoli Peninsula containing the graves of British soldiers are now all in good order, and the work of permanent construction will be undertaken immediately. There is no objection to relatives of the dead visiting these cemeteries. It should, however, be clearly understood that there is no accommodation for visitors on the Peninsula itself. The nearest point where such might be obtained is Chanak, on the Asiatic shore, at the Narrows. Visitors, therefore, should make their own arrangements with regard to accommodation, and also for transport across the Straits from Chanak to Kilia. Visits to most of the cemeteries entail a considerable amount of walking over hilly ground, the paths and roads, however, being good in fine weather. Motor and horse transport is practically unprocureable. As no steps had been taken with regard to the burial of the Turkish dead on the Gallipoli Peninsula, this work was undertaken some little time ago by the Imperial War Graves Commission. Its representative on the Peninsula now reports that the work will be completed by the end of this month.

On April 1, 1921, the payment of leave pay and pensions under the Civil Service Regulations, India, and of family pensions from the various Indian Civil Funds, was transferred from the Accountant-General, India Office, to the High Commissioner for India. The staff dealing with these payments remains at the India Office, and all communications on the subject should be addressed to the High Commissioner for India (Leave Pay and Pension Branch), India Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1921.

GREAT BRITAIN AND PALESTINE.

Mr. Winston Churchill's outspokenness during his visit to Palestine comes in welcome contrast with the manner in which most of the complicated problems of the Near East have been approached by the Allied Powers. The future of the country depends on the Jews and Arabs pulling together; but as there is little likelihood of their doing this of their own accord, it rests with the British Government in the first place to keep peace between them, and, secondly, to use all the powers of persuasion at its command to promote friendly co-operation. A proper appreciation of the shortcomings of these two important sections of the community is not incompatible with a real sympathy for both, and the task of the mandatory Power will be simplified if Jews and Arabs alike understand that in the case of Palestine at least the British authorities have full knowledge of the problem for which they have made themselves responsible. As far as can be judged from the reports of his speeches, Mr. Winston Churchill left nothing to be desired in this respect. He informed a Moslem deputation that he considered their address partly partisan and incorrect. The Balfour declaration was not going to be repudiated; the British Government thought it good for the world, good for the Jews, good for the British Empire, and also good for the Arabs dwelling in Palestine that the scattered Jews should have a national centre and a national home in Palestine, and the British Government intended it to be so. The Arabs were not to be supplanted nor to suffer, but they should share in the benefits and the progress of Zionism. The establishment of a national home for the Jews did not mean a Jewish Government to dominate the Arabs. Great Britain as the mandatory Power, Mr. Churchill implied, would keep the reins of government in her own hands. The sacredness of the civil and religious rights of the Arabs was guaranteed by the Balfour declaration, and the fact that the deputation waiting upon him chose to regard the pledge as valueless would not alter the position. Subsequently, in reply to a Jewish deputation, the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Mandate Territories reminded his audience that the establishment of a national home for the Jews was to be without prejudice or unfairness to the Arab and Christian inhabitants, who together formed an overwhelming majority. The success of Zionism would depend upon the good that it bestowed upon the whole country. He pointed out that the Arabs had expressed alarm at the Bolshevik character of some of the Jewish immigrants, and added that, whatever they might believe on this point, the duty of the Jews was to dispel such fears by a good and friendly attitude, and to propagate peace between all.

It is to be hoped that those who affect to have misgivings in regard to the British mandates will not find in Mr. Churchill's straightforward attitude fresh confirmation of their particular bogeys. In the case of Mesopotamia, a homogeneous population should make it possible to instal immediately an Arab administration, which will fall short of self-government only in so far as it has to supplement its own inexperience by consultation with British advisers. Mr. Churchill declared in regard to Palestine that "step by step we shall develop representative institutions leading to full self-government, but our children's children will have passed away before that

is completed." Prophecy in a matter of this nature is at best superfluous; but Mr. Churchill's point is clear. The latent antagonism between Arab and Jew, not to mention the Christian section of the community, will prevent the mandatory Power for a long time to come from transferring its responsibility for good government and the maintenance of law and order in the country. There is no reason, however, why this closer hold on the administration should prove a greater burden to the British exchequer than the lighter hold that it is hoped to exercise in Mesopotamia. A number of people find it difficult to share the anxiety frequently expressed by some over the surrender of British sovereign rights to the League of Nations. Great Britain helped to create the League in the belief that it was to be an instrument for good; if by chance she is disappointed in this respect, her withdrawal would certainly not leave the League vested with the same authority. She has drawn up the terms of her own mandates, and will submit each year a report on her stewardship to the Council, of which she is also a member. Most people will see in this procedure a mere matter of form for the conscientious and honest mandatory, while it does provide a check on abuses of the mandate system. Neither in Palestine nor in Mesopotamia has Great Britain gone out of her way to obtain mandates; she could not divest herself of responsibility for the future of these countries, and in the League of Nations she has merely stereotyped what has hitherto been her custom, and has agreed to that custom being held up to the world as the standard of conduct to which the civilised States should conform in their dealings with less advanced peoples. It is not likely that—to take one illustration—a single word in any of the annual reports on British administration in Egypt would have had to be altered, even if Lord Cromer had been obliged to address the covering letter to the Council of the League instead of to his Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

There is no reason to suppose that the Moslem deputation will have left Mr. Churchill altogether dissatisfied with their visit. They had pitched their fears in a high key, because between Bolshevism and Zionism on the one hand and the agitation against the mandate in Great Britain on the other they felt, no doubt, that they might at any moment be left at a disadvantage, unless they made the most of their case. They will at least have been reassured on the subject of Great Britain's attitude towards the mandate, and when once they are satisfied that the British will remain in the country to hold the balance even between the different sections, they will not be long in discovering that the mandatory system has its advantages. The Beersheba Arabs, according to report, have already made this discovery, and as a protest against the Haifa Congress, which appears to have inspired the delegation to Mr. Churchill, have placed on record that since the occupation of the country by Great Britain they have enjoyed freedom, adding that they "are thankful for its just rule, a rule which has respected Arab customs." Mr. Churchill was also right in reminding the Jews that the future of the country rests largely in their hands. They have claimed and quite justly obtained a privileged position in Palestine. The draft mandate provides that the Zionist organisation, so long as its organisation and constitution are, in the opinion of the mandatory, appropriate, "shall be recognised as a public body for the purpose of advising and co-operating with the administration of Palestine in such economic, social, and other matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish national home and the interests of the Jewish population in Palestine." In this connection we welcome the latest movement among the leaders of British Jewry, which has for its aim definite measures for the development of the country with a view to showing that there can be a practical side to Zionism. Theoretical Zionism might be tempted to ignore the Arabs, and could hardly fail to create misgivings among them. The practical steps which are now contemplated should quickly convince all the inhabitants without distinction of creed that the recognition of Palestine as a national home for the Jews may well prove an invaluable asset to the country.

IN TRANS-CAUCASIA.

By C. E. Vulliamy, F.R.G.S.

Dr. Johnson's remark about the Giants' Causeway—that it was worth seeing, but not worth the trouble of going to see—may well have occurred to those who have visited Caucasasia within the last year or so.

At Constantinople the traveller would be ushered on board some filthy and questionable tub, in which he had to traverse the Black Sea. This horrible sea lies in a vast basin, over whose brim the winds of heaven rush together, making sport on its turbulent waters. And let it be remembered that the distance from Constantinople to Batoum is something like 600 miles. On a voyage of that length, in an ill-adapted, under-sized boat—designed, say, for short trips down the Clyde—one has time to be exceedingly uncomfortable. The present writer, who crossed the Black Sea under these conditions not very long ago, looks back on his voyage with sentiments of profound disgust.

Coming from the yellowness and aridity of the Balkans in summer, the sight of the Caucasian coast is a pleasant one. The green hills stand with mist about their heads and forest on their flanks. The air is soft and balmy. In clear weather (in the evening especially) the toothed outline of the Range can be seen to the north and east.

The writer's mission took him to Tiflis, which, at that time, contained an enthusiastic and vigorous administration of Georgians.

Tiflis is certainly an astonishing town. It is built on both banks of the Kura—a torrent of snow-thaw in summer—and straggles up the side of a steep and forbidding hill. Round it lies a country wild in every sense of the word; and yet it has an enormous Opera House, large hotels, handsome clubs, and two really fine thoroughfares. At the period of this account it was manifestly Georgian: the Georgian flag flew everywhere; Georgian staff cars rattled over the *pavé*; the troops of the Georgian Republic patrolled the streets—swarthy, sturdy men, wearing red epaulettes; and Georgian policemen, girdled with cartridges and armed with rifles, blew signals to each other on bird-like whistles, and at night made free use of their firearms. Indeed, the sound of firing was quite as inevitable as, and coincided with, the fall of darkness: sometimes only a few rounds, and sometimes a joyous outburst of rapid fire. Republics have their trials.

It was the fashion to go about fully armed—the fuller the better. At the railway station, nearly every second man had an automatic pistol and a serviceable knife stuck in his belt. Armoured trains, painted green, rumbled about on the line, with little field-guns sticking out of them here and there. And the warlike effect was intensified by the Georgian aeroplane, which, if it flew slowly, certainly flew with a great deal of noise. Racial hatreds had their play in the streets, and there were frequent reports of murder. Yet people lived in their villas on the hillside in luxury and elegance. Wealthy Armenians (whose ladies strummed their pianos with an exasperating perseverance) resigned themselves placidly to the strange conditions of life.

The climate of Mid-Caucasia is intolerably hot in summer. Towards evening, when the big hill throws its shadow across the Golovinskya Prospect, folk come out into the streets. Fierce men in black Astrakhan caps and long-skirted coats swagger on the pavement. The tall, blond Cossack makes an odd contrast with the Georgian, who is usually a middle-sized or small man, finely featured and dark-haired.

The traveller is glad enough to turn his back on the heat and hubbub of Tiflis and return to Batoum, with its misty green hills and sea breezes.

Those who remember the British occupation of Trans-Caucasia will not have forgotten the question of sea bathing at Batoum. Our administrators were shocked by the custom of the place. The absence of bathing dresses filled them with dismay. Official prudery raised the hand of protest. The result was that the portion of the beach from which the women bathed was made

to resemble a prisoners' camp, with stakes and barbed wire even to the water's edge; while military policemen (discreetly placed within the enclosure) kept guard. For this, and for other reasons, the inhabitants of Batoum regarded our period of military residence as something which, if annoying at times, had compensating gleams of humour.

On a breezy morning you occupied a deck chair on the shingle; and there, in company with bald-headed Russians and dressy Jews, you surveyed the scene. The amateur Bolshevik, with pistol in belt and gold epaulettes on the shoulders of his blouse, would loll in one of the communal chairs or stroll about the pathways. Troops of Russian girls—refugees from Odessa—were shepherded to the beach by the grim and good ladies who were caring for them. The girls wore a delicious uniform of sea-green, with little white caps and aprons.

There were two great attractions for the sport-loving and jocular—the Circus and the Palais Crystal. The former was a huge, circular building of wood; the latter, a restaurant of tawdry appearance and doubtful repute, where, however, the wines and cooking were undeniably good. But the Circus was the thing, and here might be seen some capital wrestling.

In that dusty arena the little nations of the Near East came to grips with each other. The two opponents nearly always represented two nationalities, and the spectators took up the affair as a matter of principle. As their blood warmed, the wrestlers forsook tradition. They snarled, scuffled, jested with the onlookers, hustled the "arbiter" (Mr. Kutateladze), rolled out of the ring, collided with the judge's table, spat, smacked, thumped, swore, and finally appealed to their partisans. The din became terrific. Gentlemen leaped from their seats and rushed into the arena.

There were many worse places than Batoum. It combined not a few of the advantages of civilisation with most of the advantages of barbarism.

MAZANDERAN.

At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society (held on January 10 at the Æolian Hall, Bond Street) Captain J. B. Noel described a recent visit to a part of Persia rarely visited by Europeans—viz., Mazanderan and the other provinces lying between the Elburz Mountains and the Caspian Sea. He said that once they had crossed the mountains the land dropped very quickly down to the level of the Caspian. The rapid descent caused very narrow and deep ravines to be cut by the rivers; it also caused the rains which fell on the northern side of the mountains to come quickly down and flood the plains at the foot. From 7,000 to 10,000 ft. altitude the country was pasture. At 7,000 ft. pine forest began; below that were oak, beech, and maple, and below that a belt of tropical forest like the Terai in India. In this forest was found an extraordinarily valuable wood, the boxwood. The box trees grew to a diameter of 16 ins. or 20 ins., but in the more accessible places the larger trees had all been cut down. Along the seashore the prevailing north-west wind formed sand dunes which held back the rivers, so that the alluvial plain became a marsh. Travelling over this plain, one encountered a river at every 2½ miles on an average, and the plain itself, where cultivated, was crossed by innumerable irrigation canals. There were no roads, and the best method of getting from one part of this country to another was to cross the plain and the sand dunes to the beach and travel along that.

Captain Noel described the lower country as being well cultivated, the principal agricultural products being cotton and rice. Other products were oranges, dried fruits, hides, and skins. In a favourable season oranges sold for 4s. per 1,000; eggs were about six a penny. The people were extraordinarily well off in the matter of foodstuffs as compared with the inhabitants of the plateau on the other side of the mountains, where the climate was dry and famine frequent. The climate of Mazanderan was, however, very trying, even to natives; as to Europeans, it was said they could not live there more than two years. One of the plagues of the country was its insects, especially a poison fly; if this bit you while you slept your next-of-kin would not recognise you the next day. The marshes abounded with wild birds, and the forests with game of every sort—among other animals, tigers were plentiful. The bear and the Caspian stag were also found, and on the higher peaks the ibex. There were coal, iron ore, and other minerals in the mountains; iron was also found in pebbles in the streams; this was smelted by the natives, sometimes with coal, more often with charcoal. The principal town was Amol; older cities had existed on this site, and when people wished to build they did not make their bricks, but dug in the soil for those of the earlier towns. The industries of the country included carpet-weaving. Nearly all trade was across the Caspian to Russian ports; previously to the war the trade of this part of Persia was in effect a Russian monopoly.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Kurdistan.

The *Daily Telegraph* of March 28 contains an interesting message on Mesopotamia from Mr. Percival Landon. He begins by showing the intractability of the Kurds, and continues:—

Compel the Kurds to come into a new constitution we cannot. If, therefore, we wish to avoid a serious aggravation of the situation, which even without this complication will tax our statesmanship to the utmost, we shall do well to administer Kurdistan through political officers directly responsible to the High Commissioner of Irak, until, of their own motion, the Kurds recognise the advantages of closer union with Mesopotamia. Indeed, it is impossible for us to settle the final administration of Southern Kurdistan—all that concerns us for the time—in view of the intentionally vague wording of the Treaty of Sèvres, which decides neither the northern nor the western frontiers, and leaves nearly the whole of what may be called Mesopotamian Kurdistan under the contingency of ultimate incorporation into the new independent State of Kurdistan therein contemplated. There is no real connection between Kurdistan and any of her neighbours, whether Persian, Turkish, Syrian, Irak, Arab, or Chaldean, and their manners, customs, and mode of life appear to be as unknown in the Near East as those of their remote ancestors, the Medes. Their existence has been aptly compared by Major Soane, the one man who knows them and their language really well, to that of Scotland in the fourteenth century. Any attempt to impose a new constitution upon them against their will would merely drive them into the arms of the Turks, whose traditional place, and even claim to respect—though the word must be used with a difference—is by no means as extinct in any part of Irak as might be believed.

The article ends with a statement of the increase in the whole province of Mosul of Turkish influence and suggestion.

The Future of Roumania.

In an article in the *New World* of March, entitled "M. Take Jonesco and the Small Entente," M. Phileas Lebesgue makes clear the cultural connection between Roumania and France. He proceeds to show that Roumania, by her geographical position, her recent formation, and her economic and political interests, "is called upon to be a link between the original circle of the Small Entente and the later group, especially between Czecho Slovakia and Poland."

Through her recent acquisitions, has she not become the chief Danubian Power, the natural link between the Balkans and central Europe? Hungary, walled round in future, can only find an outlet through Roumanian or Polish territory, and her agricultural interests are identical with those of industrial countries like Czecho Slovakia. Greater Roumania has also no advantage in keeping up an enmity with the Yugo Slavs, which never existed in their reciprocal traditions. Only the Russians and Bulgarians must be watched, as well as the Germans whom the Roumanians will not always mistrust now that their power has decreased, but who will always endeavour to benefit by all disputes. Roumania should find the guarantee for her future peace by close union with her neighbours, in the confines of the Small Entente. France would thereby also acquire that support in the East which she has always needed to counterbalance the Germanic Power, failing the help which she should obtain from England and America, as that help is always slow in arriving in cases of sudden conflict. M. Take Jonesco has a splendid mission and he is qualified to carry it through. He is clever, but that alone would not be enough: however, he is in close touch with the Roumanian conscience and that will supply him with the necessary strength and tenacity.

In our day, each nation is supposed to have a definite and clearly defined territory. Thus one's country is identical with its language and the freedom of its soil. This will not be altered. But the restrictions imposed on the sovereignty of the small States by certain clauses in the Peace Treaty, will diminish as confidence between men is restored, when moral laws will once more triumph, and besides this, a definite formula for the League of Nations will have to be found. It does not seem possible that this should depend on the goodwill of a few great Powers who are more or less rivals. A League of Nations should primarily be based on an equality of free and responsible nations. Why should not the Small Entente prove to be the centre for the amalgamation of the New Europe? Without doubt, many political and social changes will have to take place within the confines of each contracting State, but the people of each separate State will have the task of elaborating the pact which should keep them united. And this pact must be a human one. They wish to depend on themselves for their mutual defence, in close union with the West, but without any humiliating sense of subjection. This is surely right, as dignity is the sister of liberty and responsibility.

He concludes by showing how Roumania has become an eminent factor in the balance of European power, and has, in fact, become a Central Power without ceasing to be a Balkan Power.

Balkan Politics.

The *Daily Telegraph* of March 31 contains a short article upon "The State of Montenegro," in which it is pointed out that it is largely a dynastic question, and that Italy's alliance with Yugoslavia makes of the Serbian succession a question of vital interest to the peninsula.

Prague, on the other hand, is very active just now in its endeavours to reconcile Serbia with Bulgaria. In this endeavour Prague is receiving a good deal of support from the Croat element, which has not against Bulgaria the grudge borne it by the Serbians proper. Czecho-Slovakian diplomacy had always been pervaded by a keen sense of Slav solidarity, while there is naturally a good deal of sympathy between the Socialists and agrarians of Bohemia and the corresponding groups in Bulgaria and among the Croats. Italy, it is now clear, no longer views this rapprochement of all the Southern Slavs with anxiety, possibly because of the collapse of Russia, but, in accordance with the advice and prophecy of Mazzini, is asserting her common interests with the new Southern Slav communities. It remains to be seen how far this Italo-Slav policy may tend, in the long run, to the isolation of Greece, whose security in the Balkans, i.e., against Bulgarian aggression, would still seem to depend on the preservation, or rather the renovation, of the Serbo-Greek alliance.

Articles to Note.

"Mesopotamia: A Political Retrospect," in the *Army Quarterly* (April).

"Sidelights on Egypt," by Sir William E. Brunsyate, K.C.M.G.;

"The Challenge of the Mandates," by John H. Harris; and

"King Nikola of Montenegro," by M. Edith Durham, in the *Contemporary Review* (April).

"Railway Accidents in India," in *Chambers's Journal* (April).

"The Report of the Milner Commission on Egypt," by Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, K.C.M.G.; "Egypt, the Protectorate, and the Milner Report," by Sir Thomas Barclay; "M. Venizelos on the Greek Situation," by V. J. Seligman; and "A Memory of Greece," by Sir Evelyn Grant Duff, K.C.M.G., in the *Fortnightly Review* (April).

"Palestine and the Mandate," by the Right Hon. Lord Sydenham of Combe, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G.; and "An Adventure in Morocco," by the Right Hon. Lord Teignmouth, in the *Nineteenth Century* (April).

The Postmaster-General announces that the air mail for Morocco now leaves Toulouse four times instead of three times a week, namely, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at 10.30 a.m. The latest time of posting at the General Post Office, London, is 6.30 a.m. (for printed papers 6 a.m.) on the preceding day, except in the case of the Monday air service, for which the latest time of posting at the General Post Office is 11 p.m. on Saturday, or 6 a.m. on Sunday with an extra fee of 1d. Packets for Morocco, posted on any day of the week, in London or the country, should normally be accelerated in transmission by the use of the air service.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Capitulations.

The report that negotiations are in progress with a view to the abolition of the Capitulations in Egypt has naturally been received with great satisfaction in business circles in this country. The system by which any man could take a business dispute to his own Consul has always been a great embarrassment to traders, and has nothing whatever in its favour. It brought into commercial transactions the possibility of national prejudice, to say nothing of the probability that a Consul might be wholly unqualified to decide the merits of a case. There is no question whatever that it has proved a great handicap to the development of British trade with Egypt, and that the abolition of the Capitulations would be an unmixed blessing to British commercial interests. They would have gone long ago, but for the difficulty of persuading the others concerned to agree to forgo their rights. The conditions arising out of the war have made the question a matter of practical politics, and it would seem that we are now within measurable distance of a highly desirable reform which will establish one authority.

The Coal Strike—

Coming at a time when the first faint signs were apparent of a revival of trade, the coal strike is nothing short of calamitous. Its continuance for any length of time cannot fail to have a grave effect on the position of every industry in the country and on the fortunes of every individual, for the damage done to our export trade will be disastrous in the extreme. High prices, the uncertainty of delivery, and similar factors have lost us numerous important contracts since the war, and Labour could pursue no more certain way of ensuring the success of our foreign competitors than by following its present course of constant and utterly senseless industrial strife.

—And Exports.

I would not have touched upon this question were it not for the fact that the fate of our export trade depends in a very large measure on the future of the mining industry. As things are at present, manufacturers are not able to produce cheaply enough to compete abroad, and the high price of coal has played its part in the prohibitive cost of production. In whatever direction one looks dear fuel appears as the stumbling block to industry. It is not merely at the factories themselves; dearer coal means dearer rail transport, and so it is also in the case of shipping. A reduction in the price of coal to an economic level would instantaneously react on the whole industrial life of the country. It would be followed by an all-round reduction in prices, and would enable our traders to compete confidently in overseas markets.

Our Rivals.

It is not only by its effect on the cost of production that the high price of coal has affected our overseas trade. Countries in the Near East and elsewhere who depended on us for their fuel supplies before the war have been unable to pay the present prohibitive charges for English coal if and when they could obtain it, and have had to obtain their fuel from other sources. Naturally, this has not had the effect of creating exactly a favourable impression with regard to this country; it has, as a matter of fact, had a distinctly prejudicial result, and there is no question at all that traders in many districts have looked elsewhere for their commodities simply and solely because of the ill-feeling that has arisen over the coal question. America, who is in a position to supply fuel on reasonable terms, has thus been given a great opportunity in the Near Eastern markets—an opening which she assuredly would never have had in other circumstances. If the miners adopt a reasonable attitude, and it is again possible to quote terms on which business can be done, we shall have to strain every effort to resume our place as the main supplier of fuel to these countries, but it is not going to be an easy matter, and the longer the delay the more doubtful it will be whether we shall be able to regain our old ascendancy in these markets.

The Egyptian Budget.

The economic depression prevailing in Egypt is reflected in the Budget estimates, which show a considerable reduction on the previous figures, both as regards revenue and expenditure. The revenue is estimated at ££36,701,000, a decrease of ££3,570,000, and the expenditure at ££38,682,000, a decrease of ££1,589,000, and a draft is made on the general reserve of ££1,981,000 to meet the estimated deficiency. There was a deficit on the 1920-21 Budget of over ££11,000,000, and the general reserve of ££6,000,000 is now reduced to ££2,500,000. The principal cause of the shrinkage in revenue during the past year was, of course, the fall in the price of cotton. At the moment conditions do not promise any great improvement in the near future, and the continuance of the trade "slump" would mean that at the end of the year Egypt would be faced with a very serious financial position.

The Outlook.

Egypt is unfortunately situated in being dependent for its prosperity on two sources of wealth. Of one—its tourists—it has been deprived since 1914, but until last year the presence of the troops in the country was a more than compensating factor. In the past twelve months both cotton and the tourist season failed it, the latter because, as I pointed out last week, those of the generation that knows Egypt are no longer sufficiently numerous or wealthy. With the inevitable trade revival cotton will once again play a great part in the revival of Egypt's fortunes; but whether tourists are again to bring wealth to the Nile valley will depend, I imagine, on whether the authorities prove equal to adapting themselves to the times, and, as visitors will not come spontaneously, set themselves to allure them eastwards by fascinating descriptions of the glories of the land of the Pharaohs.

Mesopotamian Oil.

Nothing is more wearisome than an unduly long wait between the acts, and the long interval that has elapsed since the despatch to America of the British Note on Mesopotamian oil has almost enabled people to forget that such a problem exists. Last week, however, presumably by way of a curtain-raiser, we were given just a suspicion of the nature of America's reply, which, it appears, will be on the lines of insistence on the rights of the United States to the Mesopotamian wells and other territories acquired by the Allies as a result of the war. "Rights," it will be noted, but in this demi-semi official pronouncement there is no mention of the simple word "duties." Perhaps to the American mind the one is synonymous for the other, but it would be well for the plain Englishman if that be stated, otherwise America may be done an injustice. Anyway, many good people would like to know the reason for America's extraordinary solicitude with regard to Mesopotamian oil, especially in view of the fact that it is by no means certain that oil exists there in workable quantities. Is it *aut Mesopotam* etc.? Or would it be possible to do a little deal in a sound mining proposition in another area?

COMMENTATOR.

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(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, March 19.

New Schemes of Taxation.

The general interest of the country is centred round the coming Budget and the new taxes to be levied. At the last Ministers' Council, which took place on Tuesday, the Cabinet declared itself very satisfied with M. Titulescu's explanations on his programme for the 1921-22 fiscal year.

Simultaneously with the new Budget, Bills will be brought before Parliament for approval providing for: (1) Progressive income-tax, (2) Ways and means to collect the State revenues, (3) Control of the sale of alcoholic drinks, (4) A luxury tax and a tax on business turnover, (5) An exceptional and progressive tax on capital and on fortunes made during the war (with a specially high quota on fortunes made by State officials, (6) A progressive tax on inheritances.

With reference to the Budget, the Minister of Finance explained that an economy of nearly two milliard lei has resulted by doing away with the war fund of 1 milliard 200 million lei and by reducing the expenses of the different State Departments.

The Housing Crisis.

A Bill to encourage the building of houses, by which prospective builders will be granted various privileges, will soon be brought before Parliament. The housing question, especially in Bucharest, is worse than in many of the other European capitals, for while practically no houses have been built since 1914, the population has increased threefold; and the present rents have risen to such figures that only those with incomes in dollars, pound sterling, and francs can afford to pay them, excepting those tenants with old contracts which have been prolonged by law.

Miscellaneous.

In order to help the gold-mining industry in Transylvania the Government has now decided to allow the gold-miners to dispose of the ingots in the country. The price at which the State will buy the gold has been fixed at 27,500 lei per kilogram.

On Sunday the first wireless telephone trials took place in Roumania between Bucharest and Floesti organised by the Marconi Company.

The International Wagon-Lits Co. will receive for transport on the Simplon Express small parcels up to 30 kilograms each in France, Italy, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, and Roumania.

A new French shipping line has been started between Rouen and the Black Sea ports.

Roumania has issued Treasury Bonds since the war to the value of 350 million lei in the country and about 700 million lei abroad, if the lei were reckoned at par, but as they are issued in dollars, pound sterling, francs, lire, pesetas, etc., at the present rate of exchange they represent about five milliard lei.

At the Economic Convention in Vienna between the delegates of the Central Powers and the States that have inherited their former provinces, Roumania has received about fourteen million Austrian kronen in gold and the

thirteen buildings of the Austro-Hungarian banks existing in Transylvania. Roumania has further been able to come to a settlement with the German representatives with regard to the banknotes issued by the Banca Generala during the time of the occupation, and also with reference to the deposit of 1 milliard 191 million marks and 784 million kronen at the Reichsbank taken by the Germans when they issued the Banca Generala banknotes.

GREECE.

ATHENS, March 20.

Customs Receipts.

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during February last amounted to 5,152,595.80 drachmæ in paper, and to 226,931.05 drachmæ in gold. Compared with the receipts during the corresponding period last year, there is an increase this year of 463,263.05 drachmæ in paper and a decrease of 286,541.70 drachmæ in gold.

Export of Olive Oil.

The Government at first decided to allow the export of one-third of this year's crop of olive oil; subsequently, however, fearing that this quantity, being rather large, would cause an increase in the price of this product in Greece, it was decided to reduce the quantity to one-fifth of the total crop, i.e., to 15-20 million okes. It is estimated that 50 to 70 million drachmæ would thus be imported into this country, which would improve considerably the value of the drachma. The Government has also decided to export large quantities of an inferior quality oil for industrial purposes. The export of olive oil, in addition to being the means of importing foreign exchange into Greece which would relieve the Greek markets, would also assist financially the Government Treasury, which would collect large amounts from fees, duties, etc.

ATHENS, March 27.

Cereal Crop Prospects.

According to information received by the Ministry of Agriculture, the cereal crops in the majority of the provinces will, this year, fall far below those of last year. In the province of Larissa, this year's crops will be about 60 per cent. less than those of last year, while in the provinces of Trikala, Phthiotide, and Arcadia the estimated deficit will be 50 per cent. In the islands of Chio and Samos the cereal crops will be 25 per cent. less than in 1920, and 20 per cent. less in Crete and Eastern Thrace. On the contrary, in the province of Salonika an increase of about 15 per cent. is anticipated on last year's figures. Jannina and Preveza will also show an increase of about 30 per cent., whilst the production of the Drama and Verria districts will be 19 per cent. more than last year.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 14 to February 13, 1921.

	Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper Naxos emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross receipts, January, 1921 ...	Drachmæ. 5,440,228.50	Drachmæ. 4,516,525.65
Do. do. 1920 ...	4,771,084.90	4,938,259.85
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for one month	1921 +3,031,895.17 1920 +2,362,751.57	+3,624,858.98 +4,046,593.18

Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1/5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

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BANKING IN YUGOSLAVIA.

POST-WAR EXPANSION.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN YUGOSLAVIA.)

The liberation from Austria has rather curiously had a more beneficial effect on banking in the new territories than it has on agriculture. The latter has, if anything, gone backwards for a variety of reasons, such as the difficulty and cost of obtaining new machinery, spares, and repairs, and stores, such as oil and benzine, and the great accumulation of heavily depreciated krone notes by the countryfolk, who imagine that they are war-millionaires who need not work any more. This has gone so far that in some cases it leads to deliberate waste of valuable material. One thoughtful Croat remarked that he welcomed the depreciation of the krone, since it would compel the farmers to resume hard work once they realised that they were not so rich as they thought they were. Again, agrarian reform, while in process, discourages agriculture, owing to the uncertainty of tenure pending finality, and the break-up of wealthy estates run with capital, and their distribution among small owners with little capital.

Industry, too, such as it is in this farming country, has suffered from want of raw material, plant, and capital. But banking has undoubtedly profited by the revolution. As a matter of fact, it was not difficult for banking to make progress of some sort, for before the war it was in a primitive condition. The local banks were really little more than branches of Vienna and Budapest establishments, who called the tune. Their chief function was discounting bills. But a change began in the second year of the war. Bills business grew less and less, but as the peasants and country folk began to make money by army supplies, they began to make savings and open deposits. This process went on rapidly, and actually enabled some banks to become independent. At the same time, current accounts began to swell remarkably.

Growing Interest in Industry.

In 1916 the banks began to increase their capitals, as the value of the krone began to depreciate. Some institutions which had a capital of five million krone before the war now have a hundred million, with as much in reserve. They began to wake up and look for new outlets for their energy. A great interest was taken in industries, which is daily growing, and in foreign commerce, especially imports, of which the country was in great need at the end of the war. Belgrade banks dealt direct, while the Zagreb banks formed limited liability companies on purpose. And with the disappearance of the great landowners, the assistance of the banks is more than ever necessary to the agriculturist.

Before the war all foreign trade was in foreign hands—that is to say, in the liberated provinces, for in this respect Serbia was better situated, owing to the emancipation of her trade from Austrian domination, which is associated with the name of the late M. Kosta Stojanovitch. Yugoslav corn was handled from Budapest, and known in the west as Hungarian. Vienna was the Mecca of the merchants, while colonial produce was manipulated at Trieste. The Yugoslavs had little enterprise and less capital. To-day there is a great growth of new trading firms, but all require capital, and all look to the banks to help them.

Local industries, too, are calling for immense sums. A sugar factory, for instance, requires large amounts of ready money in the autumn to buy its raw material, which is realised during the course of the next twelve months. The same thing applies to the big mills, who require hundreds of millions of krone at harvest time. Big capital, too, is required to start timber enterprises at work. The carrying on of the existing industries of the country, few as they were, was almost too much for the resources of the local banks without foreign help. Before the war, most of them were actually in foreign hands, for the Austrians and Hungarians have always been foreigners to the Yugoslavs. Then came the movement for nationalisation, either by sequestration, or by absorption by national institutions. This process has not been invariably successful, and some concerns have suffered accordingly. It is of vital importance to the country to develop those industries for which they themselves provide the raw material, such as agricultural and forest products of all kinds. It makes a difference to the country, for instance, if they grind their wheat at home and export it as flour. In the same way it is to the national interest to encourage spinning, and import the raw material instead of the finished article. It is the development of the national industries alone which can prevent the draining of the country's youth by emigration to the United States and elsewhere, which was so marked a phenomenon before the war in the liberated provinces, though scarcely known in Serbia, where the population was contented and stayed at home.

Not many statistics are available, but we can consider the comparative capitalisation of nineteen of the quoted

Zagreb financial institutions in 1912 and 1919. In the former year their total combined capital was 62 millions of krone; in 1919 it had grown to 380 millions, and to-day is 860,000, while their reserve funds have expanded for the three dates in question from 17 to 206 and 700 millions respectively. Belgrade cannot show such figures. Eliminating the National Issuing Bank, the combined banks of the capital can scarcely show 20 million dinars, equivalent to 80 million krone, or less than the capital of one big Zagreb bank.

Deposits have grown proportionately. In 1912 they amounted to 147 million krone: at the end of 1919 they reached the figure of 757 millions. This is a welcome sign, but the move in this healthy direction is much too slow, on account of the conservatism of the peasants and their shyness of financial institutions. The assets of the nineteen Zagreb banks combined have risen from 528 millions in 1912 to 3,970 millions in 1919, and are by now probably well over the 5,000 millions. Their net profits in 1912 were 5,700,000 krone, and in 1919 51,000,000. It is interesting to note that in an article by Mr. I. Belin, in *Nova Evropa*, from which these figures are taken, the author lingers with satisfaction over these figures, but makes no mention of the depreciation of the krone, which has fallen below one-twentieth of its pre-war value.

Increases of Capital.

To meet the constantly increasing demands for capital the Zagreb banks are continually making new issues, and it is interesting to note that their subscription lists are open in the United States, where they get considerable support from the extensive, and on the whole, prosperous, Yugoslav colony. Last year alone, eighteen Zagreb banks increased their capital and reserve funds from 600,000,000 to 1,500,000,000, or an increase of 900,000,000 krone. But the country is still in the very early stages of modern finance. The bourse and the market can scarcely digest all these new issues. There has been a crisis, because the banks were giving credit very freely at a time of what they call "hose," i.e., hauese, and have pulled their horns in completely on the slump. The fact is that all the banks really want more money, and have exhausted local supplies. Deposits and savings and current accounts are growing, but not rapidly enough, and it would not be possible to make a new issue now with any chance of success. Consequently, many of them are looking for support abroad. The influx of foreign capital has, as a matter of fact, already begun. The attitude of the people, as distinct from the bankers, is, however, xenophobic, more particularly in Belgrade, and the Socialists especially are alarmed and fear partly the growth of a "bankocracy" and partly the exploitation of the country by foreigners, of which they are by no means without experience. But the more sensible ones realise that local resources are totally insufficient, and that foreign influence will counteract itself if spread over several Powers, whose mutual jealousies will prevent anyone gaining too great an ascendancy over the country.

The tendency towards concentration of resources, which is the dominant feature of the West, appears in Yugoslavia in the *zadruga*, or co-operative associations, which have done very valuable work in Serbia, where the spirit of the now almost obsolete patriarchal system of living called *zadruga* has provided a tradition as well as a title to these organisations. There are innumerable *zadruga* dealing with pigs, wine, honey, produce, and all sorts of agricultural lines doing excellent work. Without such co-operation successful agriculture could scarcely exist in a land of small holders. But even these are insufficient, and must be supplemented by the help of financial institutions. In trade, the problem is easier, for limited liability companies are being formed with substantial capital on purpose, but even these require the constant assistance of the banker. These companies are tending to oust the small trader, and are a step on the long road to concentration of resources. Every day some bank buys up some small struggling concern which could no longer carry on for want of funds. The need of concentration and amalgamation is real, for there is scarcely a finance house in Yugoslavia that is capable of carrying out a big transaction unaided, but yet, instead of amalgamation, we see new foundations. A decree of the Ministry of Finance that only companies with a capital of at least four

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million krone could deal in foreign exchange drove every little money-changer to turn himself into a company. Unfortunately, in Yugoslavia the personal element plays a bigger part than it does in the West, and personal animosities do a great deal to prevent a highly desirable fusion in finance as well as in politics. It is only a matter of time, but these antipathies greatly delay many a desirable consummation.

In the old days there were many branches of foreign banks, which have by now mostly been absorbed, which is a good step in the right direction of nationalisation, in the broad sense, and of concentration. Still, there are some entirely foreign concerns, such as the Franco-Serb Bank, the Wiener Bankverein, and now Great Britain is represented by the British Trade Corporation.

In the eyes of a Westerner, banking in Yugoslavia is elementary and scarcely out of the primitive stage. There is a shortage of experienced men, and mistakes have been made, such as too much speculation on exchange, by banks on their own account, and attempts to push up the market value of their shares, and failure in placing their issues in strong hands that will keep them off the market. The banks are heavily engaged, as most of them seem in too much of a hurry, as though to grow rich quickly were more important to them than to establish unshaken confidence. They are in a stage of transition. Many forms of activity in normal Western banking operations are scarcely known, but, still, in spite of many difficulties, very good work has been done, and it may be confidently hoped that with the growth of experience, means, and scope, the time is not far distant when the banks of Yugoslavia will be equivalent to the great resources of the country.

YUGOSLAV TENDERS.

The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade has informed the Department of Overseas Trade that it is almost impossible for British firms not having local representation in Yugoslavia to succeed in securing contracts for the supply of material for which tenders are invited by the Yugoslav Government from time to time. In view of the difficulties in tendering without local representation, the Commercial Secretary recommends that all British firms interested in the Yugoslav market should take steps towards appointing a suitable local agent to act on their behalf. He is prepared to render all possible assistance in this matter.

The Commercial Secretary also states that the date specified for the receipt of tenders is not always regarded as final in existing circumstances, but every effort should be made by United Kingdom firms to adhere to the date given. In such cases, however, where the time available does not permit of this, firms might send in their offers after the expiry of the

appointed time with reasonable hope of their quotations receiving consideration. The appointment of local agents would, however, considerably reduce the difficulties which firms at present experience in this regard.

The Army Clothing Department has informed the Commercial Secretary that tenders are frequently received from British firms who do not comply with the conditions for tendering. Tenders are frequently unaccompanied by any duty stamp and a banker's guarantee of 20 per cent. of the total amount of the contract does not always accompany the tender, which cannot be considered on that account.

MUSIC TRADE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

In a report on the music trade in Constantinople, the Commercial Secretary to the British High Commission says:—"While at the moment music dealers are suffering in no small degree from the depression that is general throughout local business circles, there will eventually be great possibilities for British firms interested in this line. Music is surprisingly well cultivated and appreciated in this city. Concerts, etc., are numerous, good, and well patronised, and in almost all homes musical instruments of some sort, according to the circumstances of the family, are to be found. The arrival during the past year of much talent from Russia has given a further stimulus to this art.

"Unfortunately, British composers and their work are almost completely unknown even in the most cultivated circles. There is not a music dealer in the city who has an even tolerably good assortment to offer, notwithstanding that the local British colony is attaining quite an important size. Large naval and military forces have also been stationed here for two years past, and those responsible for their entertainments have invariably had to send to London for fresh numbers owing to the utter impossibility of obtaining anything of the sort here. British pianos are equally unknown.

"Efforts are being made to induce the Philharmonic Society to take up British music and to offer, presently, at least one all-British programme among their concerts of this season. This society is about the largest and best musical organisation in the city, and it is hoped by those interested in the affair that such action on their part, coming in conjunction with the distinct vogue which things British in general are enjoying, might awaken a real appreciation of modern British work in local musical circles.

"It is understood that certain American firms, both publishers and instrument makers, are actively canvassing this market at the present time, and it would undoubtedly pay an enterprising British firm to canvass this market, both as regards music, musical instruments, and their accessories, such as strings, etc.

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MOTOR "SERVICE" SCHEMES.

One of the most gratifying features in connection with the motor industry of this country is the growth of the idea of "service," a feature which was practically non-existent before the war. It was the petrol companies who first gave tangible form to the necessity for "readiness to serve" in this country, and when motorists grumble, as they do periodically—the writer amongst the number—they should remember that the organisation built up at so much cost, whereby motor fuel can be obtained anywhere, just when wanted, is one of the greatest boons the motorist can have. Service is worth paying for, just as are commodities, and quite a number of firms are now organising distributing agencies throughout the country whereby their specialities can be obtained as and when desired, without trouble and without delay.

Something was said in this column some time ago as to the growing popularity of dynamo and battery ignition in the car world, and whilst it is too early as yet to speak of the magneto as being obsolete, there are signs that its day is numbered as a means of ignition, and that car builders generally are recognising that there is no need to fit two separate and distinct generating stations on a car or lorry. Where an electric lighting and starting system is fitted, there is no need for any other electrical system to be installed, and one of the first firms to recognise this was Messrs. C. A. Vandervell and Co., Ltd., of Acton Vale, who have just completed arrangements for making the famous Willard storage batteries at their Acton works. In connection with both lighting and starting, and with ignition systems, these batteries are being used in increasing quantities, and a few days ago I was privileged to spend a considerable time at the company's works, examining and testing the new productions.

C.A.V. "Service."

In connection with this the C.A.V. people are developing a very complete "service" scheme, which I am now permitted to describe. The connection which has been formed during the past few months with the Willard Storage Battery Co., and the arrangements whereby the firm mentioned act as their agents throughout the country, have enabled the Acton organisation to formulate a comprehensive working plan for rendering battery service throughout the Empire, with the exception of Canada, which covers "C.A.V.," "C.A.V.-Willard" and "Willard" batteries. Certainly the interchange of ideas which has taken place between the two companies with a view to effecting improvements in battery construction will prove of the greatest value to the motoring community, and should go a long way towards dispelling the suspicion and mistrust with which batteries have hitherto been regarded. The firm, in writing to me on the subject, outline their proposals in such complete form that I cannot do better than quote their letter *in extenso*. They say:—
"The immensely important part which the battery now plays in the electrical equipment of the modern automobile is such that the adoption of new and efficient ignition systems and the whole future of motoring are bound to be largely dependent upon the consistent efficiency of the battery equipment.

"With these conditions prevailing, it must be conceded that progress must continue, and as one of the largest manufacturers in the world, so far as electrical equipment is concerned, we have spared no pains nor efforts to increase the general efficiency and usefulness of our manufactures.

"In many aspects, however, the problem of the battery progress has presented difficulties which have appeared insurmountable. The active forces within the battery have been brought to a state bordering perfection as a result of persistent effort, yet without the corresponding efficiency in insulating these forces the attainment of battery perfection could never be realised.

"Rubber has always been considered pre-eminently the best material for battery-plate insulation. Certain characteristics of rubber, however, made its use impracticable in ordinary lighting and starting batteries beyond a limited extent. Until a few years ago the only material that partly answered this purpose was wood, chemically treated to withstand the acid solution, but owing to its rapid deterioration, its comparatively short life when in use, and the increasing difficulties in obtaining the right kind of wood, it has never been regarded as satisfactory.

"As the life of the battery depends mainly upon the quality of the insulation between its plates, it was obvious that for this purpose some more effective material must be found to withstand the deterioration both in regard to its dielectrical and mechanical properties as evidenced in wood.

"For years research has been carried on by many experts in respect to this problem of more efficient insulation, and

it was not until 1914 that Mr. T. A. Willard concluded a series of experiments by successfully producing an insulator of rubber incorporating the principle of capillary attraction.

"On completion of the necessary machinery, Mr. Willard was finally able to commercially produce insulators of thin rubber sheets pierced transversely with tens of thousands of cotton threads, each of these threads acting as a capillary channel allowing the acid solution to percolate through the insulator without in any way destroying its qualities.

"The tremendous superiority of this insulator over all other types was early foreseen, and the success of the idea has been amply proved by the fact that hundreds of motor-car manufacturers throughout the world now standardise threaded rubber insulated batteries as part of the initial electrical equipment upon their cars.

"We have obtained the exclusive rights to manufacture batteries fitted with this new Willard insulator throughout the British Empire (with the exception of Canada).

"In view of the foregoing, in which we have endeavoured to explain briefly and concisely the great difficulties which manufacturers have striven to overcome, it will be noted that we—as the largest automobile battery manufacturers in the British Empire—have not hesitated to look beyond our own organisations for improvements in batteries. We now confidently assert that the newly-designed 'C.A.V.-Willard' battery, incorporating the Willard threaded rubber insulator, is the most consistent and efficient unit of its kind in the world. Our plan is intended primarily to educate the car owner to appreciate the value and purpose the battery has to function, and by so doing create more battery satisfaction than has hitherto existed.

"The modern automobile battery does not impress the lay mind of its importance in comparison with the rest of the electrical equipment, and consequently fails to convey that it is essentially an electro-chemical apparatus dependent upon certain operating conditions and treatment for its maintenance and general efficiency. Misuse and abuse are conditions against which the best batteries in the world are unable to stand, and it would not be regarded as incorrect to assert that the vast majority of batteries which fail to function in a satisfactory manner fail owing to apparent indifference and lack of proper knowledge.

Misuse of Batteries.

"Literally speaking, the battery has a well-defined period which might be called its infancy, which finds a very interesting parallel in the babyhood of the average person. Mortality during infancy is very high on account of the ignorance of the parents, lack of proper attention and expert medical advice. Most batteries that have collapsed during the first few months of their existence have done so for the same reasons, i.e., ignorance of the car owner, want of proper attention and lack of expert advice. Generally the car owner knows little of his machine as a whole, and very much less about the battery. In consequence, his battery suffers immeasurably, and it is always regarded with doubt as to its reliability.

"In our service plan we are providing a means for the owner to place his battery in the immediate care of experts, who for a definite period of the battery's life will test it at frequent intervals—say, every two weeks—to maintain the electrolyte at proper gravity and level, and with the knowledge gleaned from his battery record chart kept at the service station, will be able to instruct the owner as to whether the conditions under which the battery is being operated are conducive to long life.

"If a battery receives this expert and regular attention during the first few months of its life, it is practically assured of a long and vigorous life. Without this service it is apt, in a very short time, to become incapacitated for further work. Our plan is to guarantee every 'C.A.V.' and 'C.A.V.-Willard' battery for a period of ninety days, provided the owner registers the battery within five days from the date of delivery at a battery service station.

"For the period of ninety days following date of registration the service station will assume complete responsibility for the battery, provided it receives fortnightly inspection by the service station, which has the authority to adjust all matters, make repairs, and, if necessary, to replace a battery by a new one when any fault exists which prevents the battery from operating in an entirely satisfactory manner.

"It is with much pleasure that we record the fact that this policy has met with the entire approval of those manufacturers who standardise 'C.A.V.' lighting and starting equipments on their cars. It is not unreasonable to assume that the policy will also receive the hearty support and co-operation of all motor-car traders, as both the car manufacturer and the trader will realise that the battery product of the 'C.A.V.' Company, backed by such comprehensive service support, will ultimately have the effect of removing difficulties which hitherto beset their path, and leave them free to extend their energies in other and more productive directions.

"Apart from the fact that 'C.A.V.-Willard' service stations will carry ample stocks of new batteries and spare parts for repair work, they will also carry a stock of rental batteries, which can be hired out to users at a standard uniform rate throughout the country, i.e., 2s. 6d. for the first day, and 1s. per day afterwards.

"These rental batteries will enable the user to use his car at any time when his regular battery is under repair or being recharged, and thus enable him to have the fullest use of his car on all occasions when otherwise, under different circumstances, delay and disappointment would be occasioned. The 'C.A.V.-Willard' scheme is planned to be everywhere operated by entirely independent traders in preference to branch premises owned and staffed by the company. Service thus designed gives greater value to the user, inasmuch as the service trader is in a position to regard all transactions from an independent and entirely different angle to that of the manufacturer, consequently in the wider application of business he possesses that freedom of action which secures the confidence of the customer in his purchases and in the realisation that quality goods alone could be supported by such a comprehensive policy."

The Austin Tractor.

In considering the report of last year's tractor trials at Lincoln, the Austin Motor Co., Ltd., request us to mention that the reference to the Austin concerns a type which has been superseded; indeed, before the judges had completed their labours, a new model lightweight had been produced. The 1921 Austin tractor has a drawbar pull 30 per cent. greater than that of last year's machine, and is built with a differential and back axle of more than double the strength, thus providing amply for the worst strains likely to arise when working under colonial conditions. At home the Austin goes from one success to another at the rate of one award a week in competitions under the observation of critical everyday farmers.

An Austin Model at Brooklands.

Although the "Austin Twenty" is not a racing model, and the firm has not laid itself out specially for competitions, it is interesting to note that when this reliable family car does take to the track it puts up an excellent record. Mr. Felix Scriven drove the first "Austin Twenty" sports model to leave the works at the Brooklands meeting on Easter Monday, and secured first place in the 75 m.p.h. Short Handicap event, winning easily at 69½ m.p.h. Mr. Scriven, who is secretary of the Bradford Automobile Club, is to be doubly congratulated—on his own skill and on the performance of his car, which did not leave the works until March 24, three days prior to the race.

The public who wish to obtain a small car which is a real car and not a makeshift, will be pleased to hear that the Austin Motor Co., Ltd., having completed its organisation for the manufacture of the 20 h.p. car, is shortly placing on the market a 10 h.p. replica of its famous "Twenty," to be sold at a popular price.

The Automobile Association has instituted arrangements whereby tourists and country members can be met in any part of London, or its outskirts, by competent pilots having an intimate knowledge of the Metropolis and London traffic conditions. The men will be available for guiding members' cars, by the best routes, through or around London. Full particulars concerning this new "A.A." service, for which a very moderate charge is made, may be obtained upon application to the Secretary, A.A. and M.U., Fanum House, Whitcomb Street, London, W.C.2, or to any of the Association's Area Offices.

So that Moroccan farmers may obtain superphosphates more readily, the Government has arranged for a manufacturer to establish works in the country, where a minimum of 20,000 tons will be produced annually.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railway for the week ended March 10 amounted to £E8,995, making the total for the year £E463,869. For the corresponding periods of last year the receipts amounted to £E12,490 and £E372,213 respectively.

The directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance have appointed Mr. Robert Connow assistant fire manager at their head office as from March 25 last. Mr. Connow has, in order to take up his new appointment, relinquished the position of general manager for South Africa of the Corporation, which he has held since 1911, prior to which he occupied a similar position for the "Alliance."

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

At the Ordinary General Meeting of the National Bank of Egypt, held in Cairo on the 29th March, 1921, a FINAL DIVIDEND of £1 2s. 6d. per share was declared, PAYABLE on the 1st APRIL, 1921, making 30s., equivalent to 15 per cent., for the year ended 31st December, 1920. Coupon No. 20 is therefore now payable.

Forms for listing coupons may be obtained at the NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C.4.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business in currants has been brisk during the week. Sultanias are in very short supply, and values are bound to increase. The demand for figs has continued, and rates are higher.

Sugar.—The home refined has been in active demand at the official rates. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 6s. 6d. to 6s. 6d., while American granulated is quoted at 40s. 6d. Czechoslovakian has been done at 42s. 9d., and White Java at 32s.

Coffee.—The futures market has been steady but easier. Quotations are:—May, 40s.; July, 41s.; September, 42s.; December, 43s.

Oilseeds.—Prices have declined all along the line. Indian linseed March-April has lost 1s. at 16s. 6d. Rapeseed is lower with Toria at 17s. 6d., bold Ferozepore at 16s. 6d., and brown Cawnpore at 14s. 6d., being 3d. down in each case. Indian cottonseed has come to business at 9s. 9d., and Egyptian black 1s. lower at 11s. 9d.

Seed Oils.—There has been little change in prices. Linseed oil is 1s. 9d. down at 26s. 3d. Rape oil is unchanged at 46s. Cotton oil has been quiet. Refined is 2s. lower at 38s., and the Egyptian crude variety at 30s. has shed 1s. Turpentine is again lower at 48s. 6d., which has declined eighteen pence.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 172s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 298s. 8d. cwt.; cheese, 167s. cwt.; chillies, 105s. cwt.; eggs, 20s. 9d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 79s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 100s. cwt.; East India bold, 113s. cwt.; Mocha longberry, 95s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 37s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 160s. cwt.; lard, 105s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 117s. 6d. cwt.; sultanias (Smyrna), 114s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 88s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 68s. 9d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 73s. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 66s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 22s. cwt.; sago flour, 13s. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 17s. 6d. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), £5 ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; Ceylon, 6½d. lb.; Java, 2½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 86s. qr.; wheat (English white), 92s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 78s. 9d. qr.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 5½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb. Second, 90 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 4d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 4d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 3½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 2½d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 3½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under 3½d. lb.; cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 2½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 2½d. lb.; bulls (first), 2½d. lb.; bulls (second), 1½d. lb. Casualty Hides: Kips (first), 3½d.; kips (second), 2½d. lb.; kips (third), 2d. lb.

Chemicals.—Acids: boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 9½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 8½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £24 11s. 3d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £47 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 132s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: bi-chromate, 1s. 0½d. lb.; chlorate, 6½d. lb.; caustic, £47 10s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 9d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £30 ton; Sodium: crystals, 150s. ton; bicarbonate, £10 15s. ton; bichromate, 7½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 5s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £20 12s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £34 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 5½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 6½d. oz.; red lead, £36 10s. ton; white dry lead, £41 15s. ton; white ground lead, £52 ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulus), £39 2s. 6d. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £68 15s. ton; copper (electro), £71 15s. ton; gold bars, 104s. 11d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 150s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 180s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £19 12s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 7½d. unit; molybdenite, 55s. unit; nickel, £200 ton; platinum, 325s. oz.; plumbago, £27 10s. ton; quicksilver, £12 12s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 34d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 5s. ton; wolfram, 13s. unit; zinc sheets, £37 ton; tin (standard), £16½ ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 26s. box.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 8.80d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £16 10s. ton; rape (Toria), £17 10s. ton; soya beans, £11 10s. ton; palm kernels, £18 5s. ton. Oils: linseed, £28 10s. ton; soya, £32 ton; cotton (crude), £31 ton; olive, 12s. gallon; ground nuts, £36 ton; palm, £37 ton; rape (crude), £46 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 4d. gallon; turpentine, 50s. cwt. Rubber: Plantation No. 1 crepe, 1s. 0½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 11d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. lb.

The forthcoming Roumanian Budget will include taxes on doors, windows, firearms, dogs used for sport, all luxury articles and animals, furnished apartments and rents. The Customs rates on oil are to be as follows:—Benzine, 11,000 lei per wagon; paraffin, 4,000 lei per wagon; light oils, 7,000 lei per wagon.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

During the past week Lancashire trade has shown signs of a steady improvement, but at the moment of writing a cloud is hanging over the market. The threatened coal strike has become an actual fact. Plentiful supplies of industrial fuel are available. Just before the miners downed tools the market was full of favourable signs, raw cotton values were keeping steady, inquiry was on the increase, demand was broadening, in fact everything pointed to a revival of improved trading relations with the outlets abroad. But now it looks as if the labour troubles will thrust back the market to a state of depression. With regard to cloth, although the bulk of the demand has been for India, quite a good inquiry has been met with on behalf of the outlets of the Near East. Printing and bleaching descriptions have been in demand for Egypt, and here and there fair lots have gone through. Buyers for the Levant, Constantinople, and Persia have not been altogether idle, and some useful orders have been obtained. In the Egyptian yarn section prices have remained stiffer, and a moderate trade has been done. It cannot be said, however, that producers have been able to improve their position very much. The Masters' Federation has decided to continue short time in all the mills on the present basis. With regard to cloth for India, buyers for Calcutta have been prominent, and fair lines of dhooties and other light cloths have been booked. Business with China is slow in developing. American yarns have continued firm in price, but business has been rather patchy.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, in the report for the week ended March 31, state:—The three business days which have elapsed since we last wrote have not witnessed any material change in the situation. The improved inquiry noticed last week has been fairly well maintained, and had it not been for the sudden collapse of prices in Alexandria we are inclined to think that considerably more business would have resulted. Unfortunately for all concerned the break occurred just as the trade was showing signs of a returning confidence. Nevertheless, there was certainly a little more doing on the spot, and the sales for the three days show a slight improvement on the recent average. The inquiry has been pretty general, with rather more interest being displayed in best Sakellaridis cotton, and prices keep very steady, with a tendency to harden. A new "bearish" feature has arisen, owing to the action of the American Government in imposing a seven cents duty on all staple cotton over 1½ inch imported into that country; but it is perhaps a little too early yet to judge the effects of this. C.i.f. business continues to show a slight improvement, and Manchester reports are still rather encouraging. Sales (three days) 800 bales. Quotations unchanged. Fully good fair Sakel 17.50d.

ROUMANIA'S GRAIN STOCKS.

Messrs. Watson and Youell report as follows under date March 30:—There is a diversity of opinion concerning the stocks of grain in the country at present. Some people consider that these have been over-estimated, and it is reported that a good deal is being absorbed by Transylvania, also that a considerable quantity is going into the distilleries. On the other hand, some 250,000 tons of shipping have been chartered from Roumanian ports since January, and a small inquiry for tonnage continues, and if the transport conditions could be improved, there would no doubt be a larger volume of exports. Unfortunately there appear to be occasional interruptions in the railway traffic, which made an encouraging start early in February, and the water in the Upper Danube is reported to be low, which prevents lighters from loading full cargoes or necessitates lightening over the shallows.

We are informed that the proposals of the two groups of contractors, one British and the other French, have been accepted by the Roumanian Government after certain modifications had been agreed upon, and it is now expected that good progress will be made in the repairs of rolling stock. As, however, material for these repairs will have to be ordered and shipped from this side, too much optimism must not be indulged in.

A considerable amount of improvement will undoubtedly be experienced during this year with regard to despatch of steamers arriving in the Danube with general cargo by the addition of certain new equipment at Galatz and Braila Docks in the shape of new cranes, sheds, etc., which are being ordered this year, and about which we may have more to say later on. Of course, everything will depend upon the railways doing their part in transporting the goods from the docks to interior points.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

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

Livestock, etc.

Halfa Province.—Exports during the month of December were as follows:—3,451 catt.e. 9,877 sheep, 46 hides, and 1,470 skins.

Darfur Province.—755 head of cattle and 51 sheep were imported from Wadai during December, and the following number of animals were sold in El Fasher Market:—353 cattle, 1,273 sheep, 20 goats, 227 donkeys, 90 camels, 18 horses. The average price of bulls and sheep were respectively £E.8 and £E.1.025 per head, as compared with £E.5.400 and 600 m/ms. in December, 1919.

Sugar.

Nuba Mountains Province.—Experiments in sugar cultivation have been promising, and it is hoped a little later to encourage natives to grow same.

Tobacco.

Darfur Province.—It is reported that owing to the excellent crops which have been harvested the price of tobacco has fallen to 150 pt. the kantar. 495 kantars and 13 rottles of tobacco were sold in El Fasher market during the month, as compared with 88 kantars and 74 rottles in December, 1919.

Oranges.

Dongola Province.—The "Yusef Effendi" crop, Merowe Garden, is a record one. To date 54,000 of this fruit have been gathered and sold locally.

Nuba Mountain Province.—During the month oranges grown at Talodi have been sold in the market for the first time on record.

Cultivation.

Khartoum Province.—Riverain crops are satisfactory. The crops planted on the Gebel Bowser scheme are doing well, but labour has been difficult to obtain.

Halfa Province.—Reports confirm that the Dameira crops have been the best for many years. The area of land now being sown for the shitwi crops with wheat, barley, beans, lentils, etc., is greater than that sown for some years. In spite of warnings, seeds have not been got in as early as they should have been. The "Sirsar" has done slight damage in the lupines crops in villages in Sukkot district.

Bahr el Ghazal Province.—The rainfall for the present month is nil. Total rainfall for year was 54.24 inches, which is just 10 inches above the average of the last six years.

Dongola Province.—A January report on Gureir states that Spanish sparrows have done practically no damage this year owing to their late arrival and scarcity of numbers.

Labour.

Dongola Province.—The general exodus of labourers to Makwar continues. Consequently labour in the province is becoming scarce. Average wage is now PT.5 per diem.

White Nile Province.—There is still very little labour available, as a great many people are still engaged in threshing their crops. There is no labour available for export.

Bahr el Ghazal Province.—1,618 carriers and 207 labourers were used during the month, average rate of pay being 20 m/ms. daily.

Khartoum Province.—Labour has been extremely difficult throughout the two months owing to the enormous demands for agricultural labour. There are no signs of it easing appreciably owing to the immense demand for labour at Gebel Aulia and Makwar in addition to the local demands.

Halfa Province.—The demand for labour from Makwar is being felt. Labour which was available for here from elsewhere is not coming here now. Daily wages have gone up from 5 and 6 PT. a day to as much as 10 PT. A strong boy of 15 years or thereabouts can earn in Halfa PT.8 as a daily wage.

Miscellaneous.

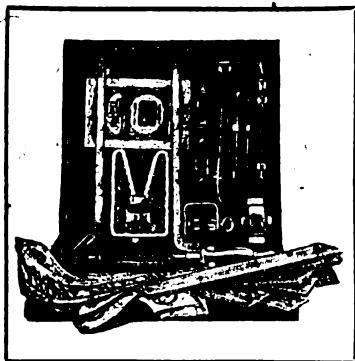
Cattle Plague.—This disease has again made its appearance in Berber Province, a small outbreak having occurred in the Shendi district. Fresh outbreaks are also reported from the Blue Nile, Kassala, Khartoum, and Sennar Provinces.

CATALOGUES FOR ROUMANIA.

H.M. Consul at Czernowitz is fitting up a room in the Consulate as a waiting, reading, and information room for business men, and would be glad to receive catalogues (illustrated, if possible), directories, Chamber of Commerce and trade journals, and other literature. Wall pictures would also be welcomed. The commercial language in the province of Czernowitz being German, catalogues, etc., printed in that language would be most useful, but most business men understand English trade terms and price lists. Catalogues, etc., should be addressed to His Britannic Majesty's Consul, British Consulate, Czernowitz, Roumania.

Travellers to the Near East

Can obtain all information as to the journey from the Manager, **Continental Enquiry Office,** Victoria Station (S.E. & C.R.), S.W.1.



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Manufacturers and Merchants may address their enquiries to the Head Office for Trade Lists of Importers and Exporters.

LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give the following extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for February:—

General conditions during the month were the same as those existing during the last three months. The proceedings of the London Conference are watched with great interest, and merchants are rather holding back from new business, waiting for the Allied decisions on the Near East, and the consequent effect on the Turkish exchange. Some circles are inclined to be optimistic, however, concerning the results of the Conference, and everyone is ready to make the most of the opportunities when Anatolia is again accessible. When this occurs, Anatolia will present a large market, ready to receive the large stocks of goods, especially cottons and woollens, now at Constantinople, and a certain relief should be felt at Bradford and Manchester. Reports received from the interior indicate considerable activity on the part of the Angora Government towards the establishment of good railway communications with Angora. Climatic conditions prevent the continuation of the work at present; but every preparation is being made towards the time when work is again possible. It is further stated that three battalions of 1,200 men each have been placed at the disposal of the railway company by the Kemalist government, which is also reported to have voted a sum of £T20,000 to the railway company. According to reports received, work will shortly be resumed on the Samsoun-Sivas line, which was started before the war, when the concession was in the hands of a French company, the Régie Générale des Chemins de Fer; it is stated, however, that the Angora Government is encouraging the formation of a Turkish company at Samsoun, to take over the concession. The ancient gold mines of Troy are again receiving attention from a British company, who have received a two years' option on the concession. Engineers have arrived, and it is hoped to start work very shortly. The imposition of a supplementary petrol tax at Smyrna has aroused much indignation. Strong protests are being made by a large oil company and by the American Chambers of Commerce at Smyrna and Constantinople.

Foreign Exchanges.—Throughout the month of February the course of the Turkish lira was remarkably steady owing to the absence of speculation and hopes of an early settlement of the Anatolian question. The pound sterling was quoted around 584 piastres, and the exchange required was readily obtainable. The heavy fall in value of imported foodstuffs, also a reduction in arrivals, has eased the situation somewhat. Export of merchandise is still extremely limited, but it is reported that heavy shipments of gold have been made to Syria and other destinations, and the sterling exchange has been put on this market. The Turkish gold lira has fallen in value considerably during the month, and is now quoted at about 21s. against a par value of 18s. 6d. for sterling exchange.

Compared with the New York dollar rate, gold can be purchased here at a discount of about 8 per cent., and it is considered by many that permission for the free export of gold coin would result in an improvement in the Turkish paper lira quotation, as the gold does not form any part of the security for the note issue, but is largely employed as a medium in financing trade between the interior and Constantinople.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated March 29:—In January, 1921, imports were 3,100 lakhs and exports 1,900 lakhs of rupees. Including bullion and rupee paper movements, total net balance of trade against India for the period from April, 1920, to February, 1921, was 45 crores (45,00,00,000) of rupees; whereas the balance of trade for the corresponding period of 1919-20 (April, 1919, to February, 1920) was in favour of India by Rs.79 crores (79,00,00,000). Indian Budget as passed after discussion with retrenchment by Legislative Assembly showed estimated surplus of Rs.44 lakhs, and it was passed on March 23 with few minor amendments by Council of State. During the week ending March 19 general crop prospects unchanged. Bombay cotton market crisis reported definitely settled; business in ready cotton satisfactory; Piecegoods market shows some relief in Bombay and especially Calcutta. Calcutta jute market very quiet. Hessians and heavy goods steady with some demands. No change in bank rates. At tea sale on March 22 Assams good; autumnals scarce, excepting good liquoring sorts. Market easier for all other kinds. 679,980 packages sold to date at an average price of five annas four pies per lb. The Government of India have decided to retain the sole powers of general regulation of air traffic and control of main air routes, leaving development of minor routes to Local Governments. Main Trunk route from Rangoon to Bombay via Calcutta and Allahabad is estimated to cost Rs.27 lakhs, Karachi to be included later, if necessary; Rangoon—Calcutta section of the route to be first taken up when funds permit.

COMPANY NOTES, AND REPORTS.

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.

The report of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China for 1920 shows a net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, of £849,601, inclusive of £172,830 brought forward. The directors propose a final dividend at rate of 14 per cent., together with bonus of 6s. 3d. per share, making 20½ per cent. for year, free of tax, adding £100,000 to reserve fund, which will then stand at £3,600,000, £35,000 to officers' superannuation fund, writing off premises account £100,000, and carrying forward £209,601. Interest on instalments of new capital (£1,000,000) and premium (£500,000) from dates of payment to December 31, 1920, at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of tax, has been paid. The new shares will rank equally for dividend with the old shares as from January 1, 1921. Meeting, 38, Bishopsgate, E.C., April 8, 2 p.m.

National Bank of Egypt.

The report of the National Bank of Egypt for the year ended December 3 states that the gross profit for the year, after providing for depreciation on the bank's buildings and furniture, for rebate of discount and for bad and doubtful debts, amounts to £1,269,211 19s. 9d. After deducting from this sum: For directors' fees, £11,208 6s. 8d., for current expenses, £430,849 5s. 2d.—£442,057 11s. 10d.—there remains £827,154 7s. 11d. The directors propose to allocate: For depreciation of Government and sundry securities, £188,476 5s., for depreciation of securities in guarantee for the note issue, £58,246 8s.—£246,722 13s.—leaving a net profit of £580,431 14s. 11d. In conformity with Article 49 of the Bank's statutes a dividend of 4 per cent. is payable on the share capital, £120,000. After this statutory distribution there remains £460,431 14s. 11d. Adding to this the balance brought forward from last year, £141,932 7s. 2d., the amount available is £602,364 2s. 1d. The directors consider it prudent to allocate to special reserve for contingencies a sum of £100,000, which leaves £502,364 2s. 1d. From this amount the directors recommend the payment of an additional dividend of 11 per cent. on the share capital which will absorb £330,000, and leave a balance to be carried forward of £172,364 2s. 1d. Each share will thus be entitled to a dividend of 30s., equivalent to 15 per cent. on the share capital. An interim dividend of 8s. per share, equal to 4 per cent., having been paid on September 3, 1920, the balance remaining to be distributed is 22s. per share, equal to 11 per cent.

National Bank of India.

The report of the National Bank of India for the year ended December 31 last states that the net profits for the year, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £553,398 1s. 11d., and adding £135,633 15s. 1d. brought forward, the available total is £689,031 17s. An *ad interim* dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, was paid on September 23 last, amounting to £150,000. The directors now recommend a further dividend at the same rate, and an addition of £200,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to £2,500,000. They propose to write £20,000 off house property account and to add £20,000 to the officers' pension fund, leaving a balance of £149,031 17s. to be carried forward. Interest to December 31, 1920, on the new capital of £500,000 and on the premium of £300,000, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, has been paid. The new shares will rank equally for dividend with the old shares as from January 1, 1921. Mr. Henry Chalmers and Mr. J. D. Nimmo have been appointed directors, and it will be necessary to confirm their appointment and to re-elect them. The following directors retire on this occasion, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election:—Mr. Robert Williamson, Mr. J. N. Stuart, and Mr. Robert Miller. It will be necessary to elect auditors. Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co., and Messrs. W. A. Browne and Co., the retiring auditors, offer themselves for re-election.

The Ionian Bank declare a final dividend of 3s. per share, with a bonus of 1s. per share, both free of tax, for past half-year, making 7 per cent. for year.

The Government of India have proposed the raising of the general *ad valorem* duty of 7½ per cent. to 20 per cent. on motor-cars, motor-cycles, and tyres (excluding lorries).

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Eighteenth Ordinary General Meeting of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt will be held at the Head Office of the Bank in Cairo on Friday, the 29th April, 1921, at 4 o'clock p.m., for the purpose, among other things, of:—

- Receiving the Directors' Report;
- Receiving the Auditors' Report;
- Approving the Accounts for the period ended 31st January, 1921;
- 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 13th April, 1921), when Cards of Admission and Proxy Forms will be handed to them at one of the following places:—

In Egypt—At the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo.

At the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria.

In London—At the National Bank of Egypt.

6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.4.

B. HORNSBY, President.

Cairo, 13th March, 1921.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

KAVALLA.

The report for February states:—The tobacco crisis which has developed in the European markets and in America gives cause for fearing that the merchants of our town have been too cautious in their purchases of the new crop of tobacco; one notes a marked fall in prices.

Contrary to all expectations, buying will commence towards the end of the month on a great scale; American houses will commence first, and soon other houses will be hurrying to make purchases. In some districts prices are higher than they were last year, though the tobacco is inferior in quality to that of the previous crop.

In the district of Zihna, where the tobacco has been almost entirely sold, a price of 25 drachmæ per oke has been reached. The cultivators appear satisfied with the prices obtained; it is estimated that they will obtain this year more than 100,000,000 drachmæ, the crop being more than eight million kilogrammes.

The maximum crop was reached in 1911 with 12,700,000 kilogrammes; then the Balkan Wars of 1912 and 1913 stopped the development of the cultivation of this crop; in 1914 the crop was notably greater than those of the two previous years. Unfortunately the European War broke out, and the crops of the following years were much reduced, and during the two years of Bulgarian occupation (1917, 1918) they attained their minimum.

The Department of Overseas Trade announce that creosote for the impregnation of approximately one million beech railway sleepers is required in Yugoslavia.

The production of the metallurgical industry of Roumania has been reduced to about 40 per cent. of normal, due principally to foreign competition and lack of coke. Eight hundred and fifty-nine wagons of coke monthly are required by the foundries.

The output of coal during 1920 in Czechoslovakia amounted to 111 million quintals (as compared with 104 millions in 1919), and of lignite to nearly 197 million quintals (as compared with 171 millions in 1919).

The Roumanian timber and chemical industries are working only 40 per cent. of normal owing to inability to renew plants and foreign competition.

Among the articles in demand at Ispahan are lamps, mirrors, window glass, silver-plated spoons, forks, and knives, plain and cut glass, china dishes, chairs, bedsteads, lanterns, candles, solid rubber tyres for carriages, rubber shoes, and sewing machines.

According to a report from Bulgaria, the Pernik coal mine is badly in want of new machinery, and it is said that a technical commission will go abroad shortly, probably to Germany, where machinery is cheap, to make purchases. They are especially in need of drills, and wish to develop water power for electric production. The cost of industrial coal has risen from 300 to 350 leva per ton.

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ON 'CHANGE.

General Depression.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

All other market factors have been overshadowed this week by the coal strike, which has, of course, brought renewed depression to all markets. There has been no selling, but quotations have been generally marked lower, and Home Railways in particular have been very weak.

The gilt-edged group has been dull. War Loan Fives are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 86 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Consols are $\frac{1}{8}$ lower at 48 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Foreign market, by comparison with home securities, is closing with quite a firm appearance.

Industrials have drooped almost all along the line, while Oils have weakened in company. The price of rubber has eased again, and the shares have moved downwards.

Near Eastern securities have generally been firm. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. are again up at 64, a rise of $\frac{1}{2}$. Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. 1855 are unchanged at 68 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Greek Guaranteed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. 1898 are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 63 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Greeks continue buoyant. The 5 per Cent. 1881 and the 5 per Cent. 1890 Loans are both 1 up at 44; while the 5 per Cent. 1890 Loan is 2 up at 44. Fundings at 44 are 1 up, but the 1910 Loan is unchanged at 42. The 5 per Cent. 1914 Loan is unchanged at 41, but the 1902 Loan is 2 up at 38.

Land shares have been weak. Beheras are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, but the Preference shares are unchanged at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, at which there are unsatisfied buyers. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are unaltered at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 3d. down at 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Delta Lands are 8s. 9d., at which there are buyers; while Gharbieh Lands have gained $\frac{1}{2}$ at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s. New Egyptians are 1s. 6d. down at 22s., while Union Foncières have lost $\frac{1}{2}$ at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ s. Sudan Plantations are $\frac{1}{2}$ lower at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ s.

Oils are down all along the line. Anglo-Egyptians have fallen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s, while Phoenix are 2s. lower down at 11s. 3d. Roumanian Consols have lost 1s. 6d. at 12s. 6d., and Steaua Romana have shed 3d. at 15s. 6d.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations have lost 1s. at 2s., while Alexandria Waters have shed $\frac{1}{2}$ at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Morums are 1s. 6d. lower at 11s. Egyptian Salt and Sodas are 2s. down at 28s., but Egyptian Markets are unchanged at 18s. 6d.

Banks have been steady. Agricultural 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. bonds are 51 xd, while the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Guaranteed bonds are 53 xd. Imperial Ottoman Banks are 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ s. National Bank of Egypt 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ s, and Land Bank of Egypt 5.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	52'00-52'60
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	135-140
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1'3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bucharest	Lei to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	275-285
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1'3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1'3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	575-590
New York	Dollars to £	4'86 $\frac{1}{2}$	3'90-3'92
Paris	Francs to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	55'85-56'00
Prague	Kronen to £	24'02	290-295
Rome	Lire to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	94-95
Sofia	Levas to £	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	330
Teheran	Krans to £	50	55
Vienna	Kronen to £	24'02	1,400-1,600
Warsaw	Marks to £	20'43	3,200-3,400

In some cases quotations are nominal.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on March 24 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 21-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd, £6 $\frac{1}{2}$; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £3; Assoc. Cotton Ginners, £27-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 73; Behera Ord., £E9 $\frac{1}{2}$; Behera Priv., £3 3-16; Bonded Stores, £10 9-32 ex; Brasseries d'Egypt Priv., Fr. 120; Building Lands of Egypt, £9-16; Cassa di Sconto, Fr. 107 $\frac{1}{2}$; Cassa di Sconto Priv., Fr. 108; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £1 3-32; Consolidated Land Pt. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$; Crédit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 600; Crédit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 7,300 ex.; Crédit Foncier 1886 Oblig., Fr. 337; Crédit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 238 $\frac{1}{2}$; Crédit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 229 $\frac{1}{2}$; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 77; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 107; Egypt and Levant S.s. Ord., 27s. 3d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4 $\frac{1}{2}$; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10 15-16; Gabbari Lands £E7-16; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An des., £5 $\frac{1}{2}$; Khedivial Mail S.s. Co. Pref., £2 $\frac{1}{2}$; Khedivial Mail S.s. Co. Ord., 110s.; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £5 9-16; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. Fondateur, £35; Land Bank of Egypt Actions, £5 3-16; Land Bank of Egypt Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turcs, Fr. 48 $\frac{1}{2}$; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, £T315; Nungovich Hotels, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ramleh Railway £1 $\frac{1}{2}$; Salt and Soda, 29s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 44; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 60; Union Foncier d'Egypte, £2 13-16; Egypt Hotels, £2; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Yugoslavia.

Cigarette Papers.—Tenders are invited by the Bureau of the State Tobacco Monopoly of Yugoslavia for the supply of 13,750 reams of cigarette paper, each ream of 1,000 sheets of 430/730mm., weight per square metre 14/15 grams, percentage of ash 5 per cent., breaking point 5,000 metres, made of first-class materials. Tenders must be made before 11 a.m. on April 25. Details of the contract may be obtained from the Banque Franco-Serbe (London Agency), 30, Coleman Street, E.C.2.

Malta.

Coal.—Sealed tenders will be received at the Treasury, Valetta, Malta, up to 10.30 a.m., on April 14, for the supply of coal to the Government of Malta. Tenders received after the said date and hour will not be considered. Printed forms of tender, and of the conditions, may be obtained on application from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1. Each tender must contain the name of the surety whom the tenderer intends to propose for securing the performance of the contract and the payment of the penalties therein provided. The tenderer whose offer is accepted shall incur a penalty of £500 should he or his surety fail to attend to sign the contract within three days from the date of an intimation to that effect. Provided that the said tenderer and his surety shall be held to have bound themselves to an agreement, and may be compelled to carry out the obligations arising from the acceptance of the tender, although a formal contract was not executed. Tenderers shall not retract or withdraw their tenders for a period of fifteen days from the date of expiration of that period fixed for the delivery of the tenders, so that the tenders shall remain binding and may be accepted at any time during the said period of fifteen days.

Bulgaria.

Creosote, etc.—The Bulgarian Ministry of Railways invites tenders for 1,000 tons of creosote and 50 tons of chloride of zinc. Further details are being forwarded, and will be available for inspection on receipt at the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1. Tenders close May 9.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPPING AT THE PIRÆUS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, March 20.

There were 317 arrivals of various steamers in the port of Piræus during February, of the following nationalities:—Greek 229, British 29, Italian 21, Inter-Allied 8, American 8, Roumanian 7, French 5, Swedish 4, Danish 2, Norwegian 2, Spanish 1, Belgian 1. The number of sailing vessels of various nationalities which entered the port during the same month was 282.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. *Circassia*, for Bombay (Liverpool, April 25).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. *Magdapur*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 13); s.s. *Holywell*, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 16); s.s. *Macharda*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 27); s.s. *Mangalore*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 11); s.s. *Matra*, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 21); s.s. *Matheran*, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 9).

Bibby Line.—S.s. *Yorkshire*, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, April 13); s.s. *Warwickshire*, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (London, April 19; and Birkenhead, May 11).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. *Lord Byron*, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 23).

Cunard Line.—S.s. *Phrygia*, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Liverpool, April 21); a steamer will sail from Liverpool on May 7 for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina.

Ellerman Line.—S.s. *Grodno*, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, April 16).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. *Branksome Hall*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 18); s.s. *City of Cairo*, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, April 20).

Glen Line.—S.s. *Glenluce*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 28); s.s. *Glenishane*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 19).

Harrison Line.—S.s. *Architect*, for Calcutta (Liverpool, April 21); s.s. *Orator*, for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Birkenhead, in May).

Holt Line.—S.s. *Deucalion*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 15); s.s. *Anchises*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, April 15); s.s. *Oanfa*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, April 20); s.s. *Yantsze*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, April 22); s.s. *Mentor*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 29).

Johnston Line.—S.s. *Incemore*, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 9); s.s. *Cundall*, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 23); s.s. *Aviemore*, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Con-

stantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 14).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Plassy*, for Bombay (London, April 15); s.s. *Nore*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 22); s.s. *Dongola*, for Bombay (London, May 6); s.s. *Syria*, for Bombay (London, May 13).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. *Nardana*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 9); s.s. *Chanda*, for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 16); s.s. *Manora*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 22); s.s. *Neuralia*, for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 29); s.s. *Gambada*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 7).

CHROMIUM ORE.

A new volume dealing with chromium ore, in the series of monographs on the mineral resources of the Empire, has just been published by Mr. John Murray (price 3s. 6d.). It is written by Mr. W. G. Rumbold, of the Scientific and Technical Department of the Imperial Institute, under the direction of the Mineral Resources Committee of the Institute. The chief use of chromium is the production of ferrochrome, an alloy of iron and chromium, which is employed in the manufacture of chromium steels, used for making armour-plates, in armour-piercing projectiles, "rustless steel," high-speed steels, etc.; chromium is also used in the manufacture of chromates and bichromates, and such pigments as chrome yellow and chrome green. During the war there was a great demand for chromite, the only ore of chromium, and the production of Southern Rhodesia and New Caledonia increased considerably, while countries like India, Canada, and the United States, which produced little before the war, became large producers from 1915 or 1916 down to 1918, the price of the ore having risen in these years to abnormal heights. After the war there was a big accumulation of stocks, especially in America, and the price fell considerably, curtailing the production.

The first chapter of the monograph deals with chromite and other chromium minerals; the valuation, prices, and world's production of chromite; the concentration of the ore and its utilisation. In the second chapter the chromite deposits of the British Empire are described in detail, especially those of Selukwe in Southern Rhodesia, and of Quebec. In the third and last chapter the chromite deposits of foreign countries are described, particularly those of Greece, Asia Minor, New Caledonia, Cuba, and the United States. Statistical tables of imports and exports, production, etc., are given, whenever the necessary data were available. The work concludes with a map showing the principal chromite deposits of the world and a list of publications on the subject.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

112. An Alexandria firm wish to enter into business relations with United Kingdom firms dealing in the following exports:—Beers and stout; salmon, sardines, tinned fruit and vegetables; coconut oil; gunny bags; pepper, rice, flour and soap.

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 518.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The War in Asia Minor.

The fighting round Eskişehir, to which reference was made in these columns last week, proved to have gone harder against the Greeks than was at first realised. Part at least of their line has been forced back to the point from which the recent offensive started, and the *communiqués* issued from Athens mention four thousand casualties. From the fact that the Turks have shown no alacrity to follow up their success it has to be inferred that they also suffered heavily in the fighting. Both sides evidently welcome the breathing space, while proclaiming confidence in their ability to achieve victory when the attack is resumed. In all the circumstances it must surely be plain to the meanest, as well as to the most occupied, intelligence that further hostilities between Greeks and Turks would be senseless and an outrage on the world's conscience. The Supreme Council after the London Conference would seem to have regarded Greeks and Turks as two pugnacious terriers, for whom a little blood-letting might be salutary. That stage, however, has now passed. The campaign in Asia Minor can lead to no lasting settlement, whichever way it goes. The Greeks declared that the capture of Angora would be a walk-over for them; the Turks were equally confident that they could drive their enemy into the sea. Neither boast has been made good, and one or the other can only be made good at the cost of a prodigious amount of blood and treasure. It is time the Allied Governments stopped the campaign and imposed an equitable settlement on the Near East.

The Wider Issue.

The need for an understanding in regard to Asia Minor is the more urgent as, until it is reached, there can be no real settlement of Mesopotamia. Mr. Winston Churchill has returned to England from the Cairo Conference, and we may expect in the near future a pronouncement on the British Government's attitude towards the Mandated Territories. It is already known that this attitude is based, as far as Mesopotamia is concerned, on the free choice by the Arab population of their own ruler. The future of the country will largely turn on that ruler's personal ability on the one hand to hold his own people together, and on the other to maintain satisfactory relations with his neighbours. But if there is to be any chance of the new ruler in Mesopotamia arriving at a *modus vivendi* with the Turks of Anatolia, a previous understanding between the latter and the British Government, based on what promises

to be a lasting settlement in Asia Minor, is essential. Apart, therefore, from the principles of humanity involved in allowing Greeks and Turks to fly at one another's throats to no purpose, the peace and future development of the Middle East, as well as a reduced charge on the British Exchequer, are largely dependent on a speedy settlement of the Greco-Turkish question. This can only be enforced by Allied action.

Oil and Troubled Nerves.

If the schoolboy's expression "to wipe the floor with your adversary" has not already made its way into the American language, it will need to be adopted now for any adequate summing up of the correspondence between his Majesty's Government and the United States authorities respecting economic rights in Mandated Territories. Readers of this correspondence will be forced to the conclusion that political considerations or some compelling force which does not appear prompted the Washington Government to endeavour to make up for some of the ground lost in the world's esteem by the amazingly selfish attitude of the United States towards the League of Nations. It is difficult under any other supposition to understand how the Cabinet of a Great Power could make itself responsible for a communication so naïve and hollow as that which the American Ambassador had to pass on to the British Government last May. Fictions of the American Press were quoted as statements of fact, and preposterous demands were put forward, which, if granted, would place the United States, after having refused on the strength of a minimum contribution to the war to bear their share of the Allied peace burden, in a position overriding the League of Nations.

"The Best Interests of the World."

The oil potentialities of Mesopotamia are greatly worrying the oil interests of the United States, which already control 80 per cent. of the world's output, have effectually eliminated competition in Mexico, the Philippine Islands, Hayti, San José and Costa Rica, and, if report be true, are now gaining possession wherever they can of oil-bearing territory which they have no present intention of developing. It is on behalf of these interests that the American Secretary of State dips his pen in the unctuous ink of the most approved cant regarding "the best interests of the world," and requests the British Government to act unjustly towards its own and French nationals for the benefit of the United States. Lord Curzon has replied in a masterpiece of subtle argument and effective criticism, which, we can but hope, will be appreciated by the American

public even if it is lost upon Mr. Bainbridge Colby. "It is from no mere love of controversy," writes Lord Curzon, "that I recall this matter [a challenge which Mr. Colby ignored] to your attention, but rather from the conviction that misunderstandings between our two countries over oil questions, and indeed our present correspondence, are largely due to the spirit engendered by reports of precisely this nature, which, on dispassionate examination, can frequently be found to lack any basis of truth." On another occasion similar reports quoted by the United States Government in regard to alleged telegraphic delays and embodying the gravest charges against the British authorities were also shown "to lack any basis of truth." That better things are expected of the new Administration in Washington is shown by the British Government's suggestion that the United States should appoint a Commissioner to confer with the British Petroleum Commission with a view to reaching an adjustment of the differences between the two Governments in connection with the San Remo Oil Agreement.

Zaghloul Pasha's Opportunity.

Detailed descriptions of the reception accorded to Zaghloul Pasha on his arrival in Cairo emphasise its enthusiastic character; and it is pleasant to learn that the great crowds were markedly well-behaved, although there were comparatively few police to regulate them. The students, true to their habit of forsaking their studies on any pretext, took the opportunity of yet another holiday; but in other ways law and order appear to have been respected to an extent unusual in Egypt of late on the occasion of any great public gathering. As evidence of Zaghloul's popularity the demonstration could hardly have been more effective, and it is to be hoped that he will have the courage to turn his popularity to good use by leading the Egyptians in the way they should go, rather than seek to add to it by flattering them and egging them on to ask the impossible. It is doubtless natural that a popular idol should rate highly the judgment of those who put him on a pedestal; but it is a fatal mistake to place too high a value on the political intelligence of the masses in a country which has only lately learned that it ought to take an interest in the subject.

His Manifesto.

Zaghloul Pasha has just issued a manifesto in which he declares his readiness to co-operate with "anybody who is guided by the wishes of the nation." That is very well as far as it goes, but, frankly, we should have preferred it if he had substituted "good" for "wishes." Since the nation in its present mood seems determined to wish whatever he tells it that it ought to wish, it is for him to tell it to wish for the right thing and the thing which it is possible for Great Britain to grant. If some of the views attributed to him by members of the Delegation are really his, the chances of a settlement do not look at all bright. But until he himself proclaims them as his we shall prefer to believe that he has been misrepresented, that he now recognises that besides the people of Egypt the people of the Sudan and the people of Great Britain must be taken into consideration. Anyone who forgot or ignored those factors would surely be reckoning without his host.

Bolshevism at Belgrade.

At the end of last year, it will be recalled, the Belgrade Government announced its intention of fighting with all its forces the forces of revolution and anarchy, which, it declared, were inspired from abroad and financed chiefly by Bolshevik agents. The policy thus announced was put into practice by the Vesnich Cabinet and has been continued by the Pashitch Government. It has now, we learn from a telegram to the *Morning Post* from its Belgrade correspondent, been challenged, a Communist Deputy raising the question in Parliament, and eliciting a striking reply from M. Drashkovitch, the Minister of the Interior. The Government's spokesman had no difficulty in justifying its policy up to the hilt. Giving chapter and verse for every statement advanced, he showed that the Communists had made all arrangements for a general rising at the end of last year. Ministers

were to be assassinated, strikes to be proclaimed, and a Soviet Republic to be declared. The organisers of this plot had enlisted the help of many of their country's enemies and had their spies and agents everywhere, even in the Government offices. "In Belgrade itself," says the *Post's* summary of the Minister's speech, "they could not employ terrorism, but had promised their supporters the women of the bourgeoisie and unlimited plunder." The methods of these people seem to be the same in all countries and in all ages. The Yugoslav authorities are to be congratulated on their skill in detecting, and their courage in countering, the plot; and the people are fortunate in having had two Governments that have handled the situation firmly and fearlessly.

The Indian Legislature and the Army.

The India Office issued last week a long *communiqué* giving the text of the resolutions on military matters adopted by the Indian Legislative Assembly. The resolutions cover a wide field, but their immediate interest lies less in the actual recommendations than in the spirit which underlies them, and in this respect we think it may fairly be said that the new legislature is a great improvement on its predecessor. The constitutional ideals of the Esher Commission are repudiated, as was inevitable in the circumstances, but there is a growing recognition of the hard fact that, solely for its own defence, India needs a large, and an efficient, army. True to the new national spirit, the Assembly desires to see that army definitely Indian, and presses for progressive change in this direction, but Lord Raulson has already promised action in this sense, and, so far as we can judge, there is little risk of a fundamental divergence of policy, though, in India as elsewhere, there will probably be acute differences of opinion regarding the details of particular measures.

Problems of Indian States.

Ardent believers in the essential unity of India might derive much comfort from a perusal of the last Administration Report of Travancore, which has just reached us from the office of the Dewan. The State of Travancore occupies the extreme south of the peninsula, and as yet it is but poorly connected with the rest of the world; but the questions which it discusses are just the questions which excite most interest in Delhi, or Calcutta, or Bombay. Far-reaching schemes for material development, vague but insistent political aspirations, perplexing problems in the social and educational spheres, and, most pressing of all, the need for new and permanent sources of revenue, these are the outstanding items in the interesting address delivered by the Dewan before the Popular Assembly. At present the State has no income-tax, but the Dewan says it must be imposed at once, while unofficial opinion is to be sounded as to the possibility of other taxes; and, whatever unofficial opinion may say, it is clear that they must be found, for in Travancore, as in every other part of India, new ideas mean new needs, and each new need means a new and progressive demand upon the treasury.

The Nemesis of Literacy.

In one respect the experience of Travancore may well serve as a warning to the rest of India. No part of the country can boast of a higher percentage of literacy, as the phrase goes, and if literacy were in itself a goal the State should be a beacon shining in the darkness. But we are told that the spread of literacy has not been an unmixed blessing, that superficial extension has taken place at the expense of quality, and that the result of a "lop-sided advancement"—the phrase is the Dewan's—is seen in the large body of dissatisfied and unemployed young men, educated in a way, but not educated to the point of seeing that the State cannot provide remunerative employment for everyone. That description applies in a measure to the rest of India, and it would soon apply entirely if the enthusiasts for quantitative extension had their way. The lesson drawn by the Dewan is that at the moment quality matters most, and in this view we fancy he is supported by every educationist of repute; but the popular cry for quantity is so strong that we should like to see all the legislatures of British India induced to make a careful study of the experience of Travancore.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

Coal.

The only topic of the week, in Parliament and out, has been the coal strike and its possible extension. The day-by-day discussions in the Commons have been extraordinarily illuminating; apart from this, it has been peculiarly difficult to ascertain the truth, both sides having resorted very largely to propaganda, which served as a smoke-screen to disguise the actual aims of the parties, and the real facts of the case as well. The public, being wise, did not believe all it heard or read; it damned the miners heartily for upsetting things, but admitted that the wage reductions were rather drastic. It gained the impression that there had been no real desire to arrive at an agreement; and, while the comings and goings of statesmen and Labour leaders during the week duly sold the evening papers, it was evident that there was a good deal of manœuvring for position in all this. The weak points of the miners' position were two: They had withdrawn the safety men in the mines—a step which had never been taken before, and which put them wrong with the public, Labour as well as middle-class. This caused physical damage to the mines: it was no doubt a good deal exaggerated for the sake of propaganda (like their inhumanity in deserting the pit ponies, of whom there were only two after all), but, still, damage was done by the withdrawal of safety men.

The other weak point of their position was that they could not deny the employer's contention that wages had to come down; it was merely a question of how much. And on this matter hopelessly irreconcilable estimates were put forward by the different sides. The public was in no position to judge, but here Mr. Hodges, the miner's leader, bungled his case badly, by saying that his scale of wages could be paid without difficulty so long as the State granted a sufficient subsidy. Of course it could, but a subsidy means more taxation for everybody. And if miners are to be subsidised, why not butchers, bakers, and candle-stick makers, and everybody who wants more money and cannot get it? On that matter the miners were out of court from the start.

The Triple Alliance.

The critical moment came when the Triple Alliance supported the miners, and the public was faced with a railway and transport strike on Tuesday night if negotiations were not reopened. The threat was impressive, but it leaked out that the railwaymen were not quite so anxious to come out, although the transport workers were seemingly in more of a fighting mood. But a partial strike is the worst of all possible strikes from the point of view of the striker, and, consequently, efforts were made to bridge the crisis; the thing was done late on Saturday, when it was arranged that the mine-owners and miners should meet this morning to try to compose their difficulties.

I am a little diffident about the prospects of a speedy settlement. Both sides have their backs up, as was shown by last week's events; both sides have very different ideas as to the conduct of the industry in future; and both sides, too, have at the back of their minds a good deal more than the mere matter in dispute.

The most telling card the miners have is that their trouble is the beginning of a concerted attack on wages; the owners reply by dark hints of revolution and Bolshevism. A few people apparently swallow this kind of thing with gusto, but I fancy this card has been played so often that it is beginning to lose its effect. It is true that there are a few revolutionaries about, but they are not particularly formidable, they have no great following, and to suggest that Labour as a whole is revolutionary is to suggest the thing that is not.

The "attack on wages" is a different story. Wages went up as the cost of living went up. Accordingly they must come down as the cost of living comes down, but not to the old level, for Labour has improved its standard of living; and although some people say this is disgraceful, public opinion does not see anything wrong in that ambition, and would not like to see the

standard reduced to its pre-war level, which was too low.

The proper way to reduce wages is gradually, and by a sliding scale. It is not a pleasant process, but it could be accomplished with a minimum of friction; that is the way the thing is being done on the railways and in some other industries. The improper way is to present an ultimatum, to make a drastic cut and to tell your men "to take it or leave it." The wise employer prefers the first way, the foolish the second way. There are a sufficient number of foolish employers about to give the cry of a conspiracy to reduce wages a colourable plausibility, but I think the bulk of employers and of employed prefer the common-sense method of friendly discussion—and the hopeless confusion in the coal trade should be an inducement to reasonableness. We are living in uncomfortable times, but that is no reason why we should go out of our way to hit each other on the head on every possible occasion.

The Reaction on Politics.

Curiously enough, the Government stand to profit by all this pothole. Labour has not presented its case very well, and it has been misrepresented by its opponents, which is the lot of all political parties. But it will feel the effect at by-elections, for the ordinary voter dislikes a party that "makes trouble," and it is said that the women's vote is particularly susceptible to these influences.

It is true that the Labour vote will probably grow, for the political organisation of the party proceeds quite apart from its economic activities. And they are also bound to secure the reversion of the bulk of the Independent Liberal vote which, although powerless to win a seat for its own side, is a factor not to be despised as an addition by any other politician on the hunt for support.

Marrying Days.

Matrimony, like other diseases, seems to be catching, and since the war, according to the Registrar-General, England has suffered from this pleasant complaint more than ever before. In the three years before the war the annual average number of marriages was 280,000. In 1915 the cry of "single men first" sent up the rate to over 300,000, many heroic bachelors deciding that they preferred matrimony to Mars, only to find in 1917 that the one complaint did not render them immune to the other. In 1919, after three slack years, the numbers again rose to 300,000; last year nearly 400,000 marriages were solemnised, and all records broken. The amiable gentlemen who complete these returns suggest that the epidemic is now slowly diminishing; I suppose the supply of bachelors is running short.

But fashions change in marriage as in other things. Before the war the marrying age was higher every



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year; now, despite the lack of houses and the continuance of high prices, people marry younger—and, paradoxically, older, for the number of bridegrooms over seventy is considerable. These hot-headed youths who have passed the allotted span are not always widowers.

Marriage, as the professor of moral philosophy once remarked, is the necessary preliminary to divorce; but although the Divorce Court is busy, and cases are in arrears, the ratio of divorces to marriages is rather smaller than before. Perhaps the war has taught us patience in adversity.

The Week's Books.

Mr. Lytton Strachey shattered a good many of our idols in his "Eminent Victorians" a year ago; he has now carried his work to its logical conclusion, and given us a life of "Queen Victoria" (Chatto and Windus). It is a brilliant piece of portraiture. He reveals that after the death of the Prince Consort in 1861 "the suite of rooms which Albert had occupied in Windsor Castle was kept for ever shut away from the eyes of any but the most privileged. Within those precincts everything remained as it had been at the Prince's death; but the mysterious preoccupation of Victoria had commanded that her husband's clothing should be laid afresh each evening, upon his bed, and that each evening the water should be set ready in the basin, as if he were still alive; and this incredible rite was performed with scrupulous regularity for nearly forty years."

The Queen wrote strongly on the question of "checking this mad, wicked folly of Woman's Rights, with all its attendant horrors, forgetting every sense of womanly feeling and propriety. Lady — ought to get a good *whipping*. It is a subject that makes the Queen so furious that she cannot contain herself. . . . Woman would become the most hateful, heartless, and disgusting of human beings were she allowed to unsex herself; and where would be the protection which man was intended to give the weaker sex?"

Mr. Strachey's is a book to read. I am not quite sure about Captain Peter Wright's "At the Supreme War Council" (Nash). Captain Wright accuses most of the men in high command of intrigue and double-dealing; he quotes documents to prove it, but his documents do not always prove what he says, and some of his conclusions and statements are demonstrably wrong, as anybody with a particular knowledge of the year 1918 in Paris and London can prove for himself. To discuss his book adequately would require several columns; it will make a noise in the world, but I doubt if it will permanently hold the field. Captain Wright himself was a very minor functionary in the war—to be precise, he was Assistant Secretary to the Supreme War Council at Versailles in 1917-18. Such positions were at one time supposed to be confidential, and I think it would be a good thing to revert to that tradition.

I suppose Mr. P. F. Warner is one of the best-known men in the world, as Rugby, Oxford, Middlesex, and England cricketer, and the record of his career in "My Cricketing Life" (Hodder and Stoughton) is one of the jolliest autobiographies published for a long time. It will probably rival Ranjitsinhji's classic work in popularity, and it deserves to do so.

A very different book is "An Onlooker in France" (Williams and Norgate), by Sir William Orpen. As an artist with the British Army in France he was told: "You go anywhere you like, and do anything you like, but don't ask to get any Generals to sit to you; they're fed up with artists." But he painted most of the great leaders, including Foch, who "came in very quietly and sat like a lamb, except that his pipe upset him. It seemed that some of his English friends thought he was smoking too many cigars, and they had given him a pipe and tobacco and asked him to try and smoke it instead. He could light it all right, but after about two minutes it would begin to make strange gurgling noises, which grew louder and louder till it went out."

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, March 27.

The Cairo Conference.

The new Viceroy of India, with Lady Reading, paid a flying visit to Cairo this week, coming up from Port Said in time for Lord Reading to attend a conference with Mr. Churchill, Lord Allenby, and Sir Percy Cox. He was present at a dinner given in his honour at the Residency, and returned the same night by special train to Suez, where he picked up the Kaiser-i-Hind again. Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, who were accompanied by Sir Herbert and Lady Samuel, left Cairo by the same special train for Palestine, the two parties separating at Ismailia.

Practically nothing has transpired with regard to the discussions at the conference summoned by the Colonial Secretary, which Sir Percy Cox (Mesopotamia), General Ironside (North Persia), General Scott (Aden), Sir Herbert Samuel (Palestine), and Sir Geoffrey Archer (Somaliland) attended. Mr. Churchill has insisted on the utmost secrecy, as he wants to communicate the decisions himself to Parliament, and, marvellous to relate, there have been no leakages. In Cairo all the points at issue have been dealt with, excepting the Palestine problem, which will be discussed at Jerusalem, where Mr. Churchill will meet the representatives of the various communities to-morrow. Everyone seems to be very satisfied with the result of the conference, so it may be assumed that the decisions taken are approved of by the men most concerned in the administration of the regions affected.

Return of Zaghoul.

In the political world the event of the week is the news that Zaghoul Pasha intends to return, and will, in fact, arrive on April 4. This he announced in a cable, replying to Adly Pasha's message, in which he (Zaghoul) declared that he reserved his opinion of the new Cabinet's programme, but considered that he should be president of the official delegation, and that the majority of the members of the latter should be his nominees. We are waiting with interest to see how the situation develops after his arrival, for which the most elaborate arrangements are being made by his supporters and the Central Committee of his delegation.

The Anglican Church in Egypt.

When last autumn Bishop Gwynne was enthroned Anglican Bishop of Egypt, the Sudan, etc., he chose All Saints' Church, Cairo, as his pro-Cathedral. The effect of this action, taken with the full consent and knowledge of the Church Committee, which has existed for more than fifty years, is now evident from a memorandum which that committee has recently published. It appears that hitherto the Church Committee has appointed the chaplains and assistant chaplains, and that the site has been vested in the High Commissioner and the British Consul jointly, on behalf of the committee, which is responsible for finance and the general management. The Bishop's selection of the Church as his pro-Cathedral and his nomination of the chaplain as his sub-dean have, however, altered the legal position of the Church; for appointments of clergymen for the services of a cathedral outside England are usually made by the bishop of the diocese, while a cathedral and the land on which it stands are commonly vested in the dean and chapter, who are the governing body of the cathedral, and are responsible for the upkeep and general management. In the circumstances it would appear that the functions of the Church Committee have come to an end, and consequently a resolution was passed at a meeting held at the Residency to the effect that the committee should be dissolved; that the ownership and general management of the Church site and buildings, together with the investments and other property belonging to the Cairo Anglican funds, should be transferred to the dean and chapter; and that the appointment of the cathedral clergy should rest

with the ecclesiastical authorities. A meeting of the congregation will be held on April 2 to consider this resolution and, if it is agreed to, the transfer of property and powers will be immediately carried out.

A Sporting Family.

An event, unique in Egypt, and surely of rare occurrence in other countries, took place in Cairo recently, when a football eleven composed entirely of members of one family competed for the Sultan's Cup with teams sent up by the various units stationed here. The family in question is the Abaza family, one of the best known in Egypt and of a size which almost entitles it to be called a tribe. Its members are to be met with in almost every administration of the Government and in almost every walk of life outside; and wherever they are they will invariably be found to be rendering invaluable service to their employers and their country. The Abaza first eleven—they have also a second string—were worsted in the semi-final. That does not, however, reflect on their merits; for they met a Scottish team, which, in addition to playing the game since childhood, had the advantage of regular practice, whereas their opponents consisted of men drawn from various parts of the country, who had had little opportunity of playing together. The better team undoubtedly won, but only after a hard tussle, and we all take off our hats to the Abazas for their enterprise and spirit in entering the arena for the cup so generously offered by their Sovereign, and for competing with British teams, against whom they knew full well that in the circumstances, their chances were slender.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, March 29.

In Parliament.

During the past week the Chamber has again spent many hours discussing the advisability of accepting the election of M. Stere, the Deputy returned (by a huge majority) for Soroca, in Bessarabia. M. Iorga made a strong speech against him, and M. Take Ionescu drew loud applause from the House by a crushing indictment of M. Stere as a traitor who diligently preached sedition and disloyalty, especially among the soldiers, during the German occupation. Owing, however, to the unsettled state of public feeling in Bessarabia, it is deemed inadvisable by a large section of opinion, both in the House and out of it, to reject one of the most popular deputies from that province.

An unfortunate incident took place in the Chamber a few days ago over a question of procedure. Violent protests were made by the Federationists, and a tumult ensued with which the President was unable to deal. The outcome was the withdrawal of the whole of the Federationist group (which, it will be remembered, includes the leading politicians of Transylvania) from the Chamber, with the declaration that they would take no further part in the business of the Chamber until the President adopted more impartial methods. The situation has been aggravated by the expulsion from the Chamber for a period of ten days of four of the deputies who ignored the President's call to order.

M. Titulescu, Minister of Finance, has asked the House to accord two sittings a day to the discussion of the Budget, in order that it may be passed through before the end of this month and come into force as early as possible. The Parliamentary session has been extended till April 28. In spite of its very drastic measures, practically no adverse criticisms of it are to be seen in the Press, and it looks as though the country were beginning to realise the necessity of making further sacrifices in order to support the Government in its efforts to re-establish the financial equilibrium of the country.

Queen Marie's Return.

The arrangements for the reception of Prince Carol and his wife, Princess Helen, have unfortunately had

to be postponed owing to the illness of the Princess. Their Royal Highnesses are not expected to arrive in Bucharest for a fortnight. The Queen has returned, however, and was present on Sunday afternoon at an orchestral concert of the Philharmonic Society. The programme was composed entirely of the music of Richard Strauss, and included "Don Juan," which was brilliantly conducted by M. G. Georgescu, and the "Alpine Symphony," conducted by the composer himself. Strauss has made a visit of nearly three weeks to Bucharest, and at all the concerts he has given he has been accorded a most enthusiastic reception by crowded audiences (in spite of the enormous price of the tickets—100 lei, at normal rates L4. for the cheapest). His music is extremely popular in Bucharest, more especially "Till Eulenspiegel" and "Death and Transfiguration," both of which M. Georgescu has conducted in a masterly manner several times during the winter concert season.

Roumanian Musicians.

M. Georges Enescu, a Roumanian violinist and composer, who has gained laurels in Paris and elsewhere, is also in Bucharest at the present time, and is giving a series of interesting sonata concerts with M. Alfred Alessandrescu, a local musician of high attainments.

It is fortunate for the Bucharest public, but unfortunate for the musicians themselves, that the abnormal rate of the Roumanian exchange keeps much local talent, both in the realms of music and of painting, at home, and prevents students continuing their studies or pursuing their professions in the large centres of Western Europe.

Investiture of Prelates.

Yesterday at the Palace the investiture took place with great ceremony in the presence of the King and Queen and the Royal Family of three prelates—the Archbishop of Kishineff and Hotin (Bessarabia), the Bishop of Arad (Transylvania), and the Bishop of Karansebes (Banat), all for the new provinces. After

a short ceremony the King handed the mitre to each of the prelates in turn, and pronounced the formula of investiture. The Archbishop and the two bishops made speeches promising their loyalty to Throne and country, and to use all their energies in the interests of Greater Roumania.

Coronation Preliminaries.

General Coanda and the Committee appointed to organise the Coronation Ceremonies, to take place at Alba Julia in September, have left for Alba Julia to make the necessary arrangements.

GREECE.

ATHENS, March 27.

The War Against Kemal.

In addition to the three classes which were called up last week the Minister of War has also called up all reserve infantry officers and warrant officers belonging to the 1912, 1913a, and 1913b classes, as well as the volunteers of the 1916 class. Many of the men just called up had only been demobilised a few weeks ago; they are, nevertheless, responding to their country's fresh call with great enthusiasm. They are, of course, well trained, and they only need their kit and a boat to take them to Ionia.

The first news of the advance of the Hellenic forces was received in Athens with indescribable joy and absolute confidence as to the ultimate issue of the struggle. The Turk is not expected to offer a serious resistance, and the fall of Afion Karahissar—an extremely important junction on the Baghdad railway line—is considered a question of but a few days. The next objective will be Angora, and the Greeks are very anxious that the Allies shall not order them to stop their onward march before Mustapha Kemal's capital has fallen into their hands. The papers are publishing long articles describing the heroic deeds of the Evzones and the Greek cavalry. The Government has declared

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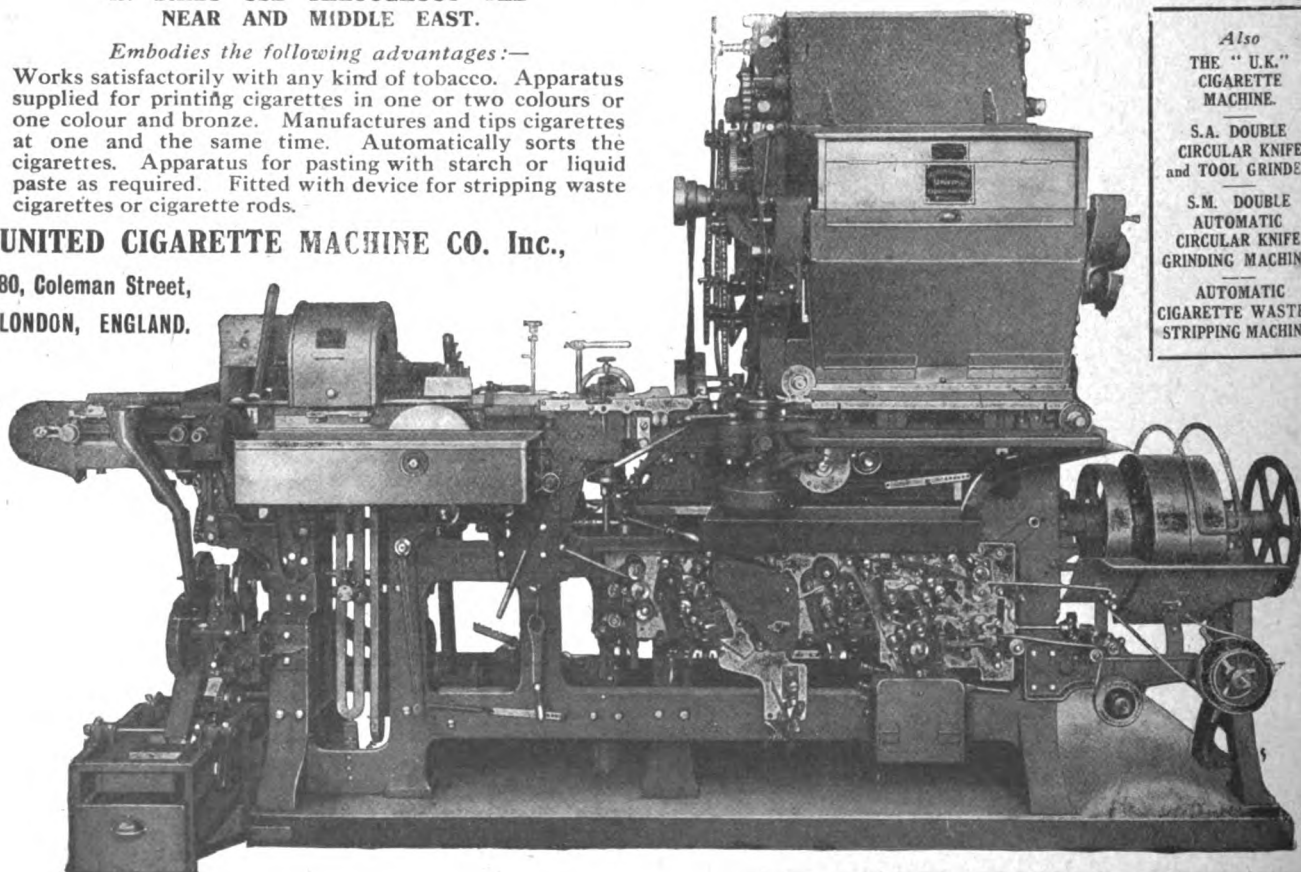
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that it does not intend at present to introduce press censorship; it has, however, appealed to the patriotism of the editors, requesting them to refrain from publishing any information which could in any way be of benefit to the enemy.

A few hours before the order was given to advance, the Commander-in-Chief of the Hellenic Armies in Asia Minor, General Papoulas, issued the following proclamation:—

Soldiers, we shall attack! The enemy facing us is he whom you have conquered and whom you have pursued from the first day you set foot on Greek Ionia. I know you well: it is your irresistible dash that has driven the enemy to the interior. You will now strike the last blow, and in this last effort which you will make for the sake of your country you will be accompanied by the prayers, the gratitude, and the admiration of the entire nation. Crush these remnants of barbarous violence, and be the apostles of Greek civilisation, which you will impart and inspire by your noble and proud conduct. Be magnanimous towards the vanquished, and be the defenders of liberty and justice without distinction of race or religion.

Soldiers, I am proud to be at the head of you, and I invite you, with God's help, to fresh victories.

Departure of the Roumanian Queen.

Queen Marie of Roumania, accompanied by her son Prince Nicolas and her daughter Princess Marie, left Greece on her return to Roumania last Wednesday afternoon, by the King Charles. The entire Greek Royal Family accompanied Queen Marie as far as the Roumanian steamer, which had cast anchor at Phaleron Bay. The Greek cruiser Averoff and the Roumanian destroyer Niova, lying near the King Charles, were beflagged, and fired salutes of 101 guns on arrival of the royalties.

The Crown Prince of Roumania and his wife, Princess Helen, have decided to prolong their sojourn in Tatoi by another week or so, after which they will return to Bucharest.

News Items.

The Piræus police have discovered the existence of a gang which was formed for the purpose of assisting Turkish prisoners to escape, on payment of a handsome fee. The gang, whose leader has now been arrested,

had so far succeeded in sending away from Greece eight Turkish prisoners.

Generals Nider and Manettas, who had been serving with the Greek Armies in Asia Minor from the first day of the occupation, have been recalled by the War Office. The two generals were given a hearty send-off by the Greeks of Smyrna, who are at a loss to understand why these very capable and popular officers were relieved of their duties.

The *Protevousa*, M. Gounaris' organ, states that Prince George of Greece, now in Paris, will shortly return to this country, where he will probably take command of the Hellenic Navy.

Admiral Coundouriotis, who had proceeded to France soon after the general elections, to join M. Venizelos, has returned to this country. He was welcomed at Piræus by many of the leading members of the Liberal Party.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, March 30.

Politics.

Considerable political progress has been effected in the last week or two. First of all, M. Pashitch has come to terms with the Mohammedans. This has not been accomplished without considerable difficulty, but the patience and political craft of this Balkan veteran have triumphed, though the Government was nearly wrecked in the attempt. The Mohammedans receive two portfolios, and the Government meet their wishes in connection with agrarian reform and indemnification of war invalids. The Radicals agreed, and the proposal was submitted to the Democrats, who, after considerable discussion, agreed in their turn. Their leader, Dr. Davidovitch, notified M. Pashitch in a letter which some official tactlessly published the next day in the *Demokratia*. As this was a private political letter, its publication brought about a storm of protest, and it looked for a time as though the Coalition would split, which would have been a disaster. The Democrats then condemned the action of the secretary of the club in publishing the letter, and the storm blew over; but it looked nasty for a time, as the Radicals were exceedingly angry, and the Mohammedans even threatened to withdraw. It was a relief to learn that the decree was signed. This involved a shuffling of the Cabinet to make room for the two Moslem members. Dr. Mehmed Spaho, a prominent Hertzgovinian, who for a short time was Minister of Woods and Forests in the first united Yugoslav Cabinet, becomes Minister of Commerce. Dr. Kukovets makes way for him by migrating to Social Policy. Dr. Karamehmedovitch takes over Public Health, Dr. Velizar Jankovitch migrating to Communications; and M. Jotsa Jovanovitch takes over Public Works. A further addition is the Slovene M. Ivan Pucelj, who becomes Minister of Agriculture in place of Dr. Jankovitch.

The Constitution.

This news, though it has caused uneasiness among the Christian peasants of Northern Bosnia, is generally welcomed, because it shows the strength of the Government and virtually guarantees the passing of the Constitution, as M. Pashitch now commands a working majority. Further, the appointment of Dr. Tomlenovitch as Ban of Croatia has improved the situation there and is counteracting the demagoguery of the irrepressible Raditch, who is still flirting with the discredited Narodny Club, and denies that he has accepted Monarchistic principles. The leader of the Serbian Agriculturists, M. Avramovitch, has called on M. Pashitch, and protested against compensation being given for the abolition of feudal rights; but his party agrees to support the Government in debate, and to vote for the Constitution, reserving a right to differ on certain minor points. M. Pashitch's position is, therefore, now extremely strong, and one can await with equanimity the passing of the Constitution. It must be remembered, however, that everybody has an eye on the next elections, which will be in less than two years' time, and most politicians are playing for position, as the present Constituent

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Assembly is, after all, only a temporary body, which will then be replaced by a definite parliament.

Clause 62 is one of the most vital of the draft Constitution, since it defines the internal organisation of the State; it has been passed by the necessary majority of two-thirds on the basis of political centralisation with administrative decentralisation. The Communists wanted a federal régime on the model of Soviet Russia, while the Narodny Club asked for a mere confederation. Dr. Koroshets' Slovene Clericals proposed a form of provincial autonomy half-way between pure federation and centralisation. But the Assembly would have none of these. Then M. Stoyan Protitch drafted a scheme which even his own Radical party did not quite like. The Agriculturists, while yet in embryo, drafted a proposal opening the door to compromise, while the Mohammedan party attached importance not to any particular form of organisation, but to agrarian reform, in which they insisted on adequate indemnification for their territorial loss. Now M. Pashitch himself remarked to your Correspondent, in Paris, a little over a year ago that the Serbs had indemnified even their defeated secular enemies the Turks on dispossessing them, so they would not be likely to confiscate the property of the Bosnian begs and aghas, who are, after all, of their own flesh and blood and language. This is perfectly fair and reasonable, but has caused a shriek of protest from the Socialists, especially in the Voivodina and parts of Bosnia, that the Government will let the peasants starve, but vote three hundred million dinars for the begs and aghas of Bosnia and Hertzgovina. But all the Moslem land-owners are not rich; the vast majority are no better off than the Christian peasants. There are 15,537 families owning land on "*kmet*" tenure, of whom 11,000 pay less than 40 krana or 10 dinars annual land tax.

An English Hospital in Belgrade.

On March 22, at Vishegradska Ulica, No. 20, at four o'clock in the afternoon, a distinguished company assembled to attend the opening of Dr. MacPhail's new hospital for children. The old hospital in its temporary premises at Milosh Veliki 54, was not capacious enough, and Dr. MacPhail by her energy and organising power has raised funds and actually bought the new premises and equipped the hospital. The building is a new one and has at present sixty-five beds and accommodation for thirty more small patients. It is hoped soon to have another wing opened, and it is proposed to build on another floor for an operating theatre.

A New Post Office.

British visitors to Belgrade probably do not know the Post Office, as it is usual to send a commissionaire to do the work, which is no light matter. Those who do will not be surprised to learn that the premises have been condemned as quite unsuitable and overcrowded, and that a new and spacious building is to be erected. But they may be surprised to know that the present building, known as "Count Kevenhiller's Stables," which was in fact the stable of the Austrian Legation, was taken over in an emergency when the old post office was burnt down many years ago. The original post office had been condemned in 1871, so it is just fifty years since it was proposed to build a new one. The daily traffic in the Belgrade Post Office is 25,000 ordinary letters, 4,500 registered letters, 5,000 official letters, 8,500 postcards, 1,400 money orders, 9,500 packets of printed matter, and registered packets to the value of 300,000 dinars passing in. In the outward direction the traffic is somewhat less.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 30.

The Hellenic Offensive.

Despite the extent and importance of the preparations made by the Greeks for the purpose of settling all doubts as to their ability to take Eskishehir, and despite the fact that Eskishehir is reported to have been captured, the Hellenic Army has not been put to any test worth mentioning on the field of battle. Realising the overwhelming superiority of the Hellenic Army in every department, the Kemalist commanders wisely decided that it would be utterly hopeless to join battle until the numerical superiority of the Greeks had been reduced by a longer line of communications, and by the necessity for leaving garrisons in the newly occupied territories. The Kemalist forces have, therefore, been withdrawn without offering any resistance worth mentioning. Whether the calculations of the Nationalist commanders are justified or not, there is little doubt that this is the key of their strategy. While there can be no doubt as to the superiority of the Hellenic Army, there is still considerable room for discussion whether that Army can accomplish the task of conquering Anatolia and holding it indefinitely. If the Nationalist Army can be seized and destroyed the most difficult part of the problem will be settled; but that object will not necessarily be accomplished by the occupation of territory. That is the mistake which was made by the brother-in-law of the present occupant of the Greek throne. Mustapha Kemal himself says the Nationalists are prepared to retire to Erzeroum if necessary, and that the war will be of long duration. If that should be true, and if it should involve the prolongation of the present commercial and economic crisis in Constantinople, the outlook is indeed gloomy. If, on the other hand, the occupation of Angora by the Greeks means the resumption of trade relations between the capital and the provinces, modern Byzantium will undoubtedly regain its traditional insouciance, which, under the stress of the commercial crisis, has been less manifest during the last six months.

Propaganda.

The renewal of military operations in Anatolia provided the propagandists of both sides with an irresistible opportunity. The dissemination of false reports of battles, victories, and defeats was, of course, to be expected, and only the inexperienced would be deceived by such tales, which generally bear clearly the hall-mark of their origin. But the circulation of other stories of a rather more mischievous nature has brought forth official denials. Thus, practically every Greek in Constantinople is to-day quite convinced, in spite of denials, official and otherwise, that the Hellenic army is merely carrying out the secret orders of the British Government, and that the plan of campaign was mapped out months ago, when Admiral Mark Kerr visited Constantine in Switzerland; in other words, that the British Government and Constantine are in reality the best of friends, and the outward attitude of the former is merely "*poudre aux yeux*" for the benefit of our Allies! A telegram from Athens was actually published in the local Press this week stating that the Greek Government had succeeded in floating a loan in London. Even the circumstance of the purchase by the Hellenic military authorities of British army mules offered for sale at public auction by order of the Disposals Board of the Army of the Black Sea has been, and is still being, interpreted as a sign that the British are assisting the Greeks materially and morally. In reality, of course, no mischief whatever is intended by the disseminators of this propaganda. It is, indeed, probable that the contrary is intended. The situation is simply due to the inherent incapacity of the Levantine to realise that absolute neutrality is a reality, not a shibboleth, and can form the basis of a practical policy. This vice of dividing the world into "*pros*" and "*antis*" constantly leads the Levantine politician into completely false positions, and often into making mistakes which produce the very opposite of the results for which he strives.

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The Situation in the Capital.

Since the return of Izzet Pasha the rumours of another Cabinet crisis have become more persistent, and it is not at all improbable that as soon as Tewfik Pasha returns from Europe there will, in fact, be a change of Cabinet. Exactly what any other Grand Vizier could possibly accomplish in the circumstances is not easy to guess. With one half of Anatolia in the hands of the Hellenes, and the other half in the hands of the Nationalists, the situation would defeat even a Machiavelli. So feeble is the authority of the Sublime Porte that although, to all intents and purposes, Greece and Turkey are at war, the Hellenic flag flies quite calmly in Constantinople, and every evening a Hellenic picket holds up the traffic in the Grande Rue de Pera while the flag is hauled down from the Consulate. Sweet indeed are the uses of advertisement. Thus, the situation is such that it is a matter of indifference who is Grand Vizier. The Kemalists are right—the Government of Constantinople does not exist. Meanwhile, the Greeks are convinced that a Greek army will occupy the capital on Easter Day, and Mass will be celebrated in Saint Sophia.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, March 26.

The Political Situation.

The High Commissioner returned from Egypt on the 24th, accompanied by Mr. Bowring, Receiver-General.

The Legislative Council, after passing a few Bills, has been adjourned *sine die*. The Greek members continued to absent themselves from all meetings.

The Greek Archbishop Kyrillos, on the occasion of the approaching centenary celebration of Greek independence (March 25 O.S.), has issued a long address to all Greek Cypriots, calling upon them to swear to "the God of their fathers," and to the heroes and martyrs of Greece and Cyprus in the past, that they will continue their struggle for freedom "from a foreign yoke" until their dreams are realised.

"Pan-Cypriot" Athletic Sports of the Greek community are to be held during three days at Nicosia, and athletic meetings are announced in several other districts. On these occasions there are great demonstrations in support of the national idea, and many political speeches are made.

A Departing Bishop.

The Greek community is losing one of its leading figures in Jacobus, Bishop of Papho, who has been acting, for considerable periods, for the Archbishop while absent on missions, and who has now submitted his resignation to the latter and to the Holy Synod. The Bishop is about to take up the highest position in the Greek Orthodox Church at Alexandria, although the appointment is not yet actually confirmed, pending the appointment of a new bishop at Tanta, in the Delta. His Eminence is greatly esteemed in Cyprus, and the whole Greek community, while warmly congratulating him, will feel his loss.

A Flood Danger.

During the last heavy rain-storms the swollen Pedias torrent, which flows past Nicosia, again caused considerable alarm, especially in the quarter likely to suffer most should a flood irruption take place. The Government is being again urged by the Press to carry out protective work by the reconstruction of stronger retaining walls, for which plans exist, but the execution of which has been postponed from year to year for various reasons. It would be well that a decision should be come to, through Government and municipal co-operation, for placing the safety of threatened properties beyond doubt during the present year, and before damage or disaster occurs.

There have been several motor mishaps. A serious accident befell a car carrying seven passengers from Kyrenia to a village, Karavas. The driver lost control, and the car collided with the parapet of a bridge and was thrown with its occupants into a strong torrent bed. All were injured, some seriously, and were taken to the Kyrenia hospital for treatment.

Fatal Fight at a Wedding.

Crime maintains a discredibly high level, and murders are far too frequent. A recent case was typical of many in the past, and was the outcome of wedding customs. A Greek bridegroom's party was escorting the bride's procession from her village to his own, and had to pass through a third village. Here another wedding was being celebrated, and—according to a prevailing custom—those who were taking part in it invited those of the passing procession to

unite in carrying out a joint dance. As it was raining those of the latter declined, whereupon an altercation developed into a free fight, during which two men of the intervening village were killed and five or six were badly wounded.

The Russian Refugees.

The unfortunate, and yet fortunate, fugitives, over 800 in number, who are now located at the Polemidia Camp, near Limassol, have not had a very happy time. While some of them are rich, or well-to-do, by far the greater number endeavour to find employment as teachers of languages, mechanics, artisans, etc.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

April 4.—Mr. Lyle asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any concessions for development work of any sort, including mineral research, have yet been granted in Palestine; if so, will he state to whom they have been granted, and on what conditions; and what is the nature of each one? Colonel Amery replied: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative, and the remaining parts, therefore, do not arise. I would, however, add that owing to the long delay which has occurred in the ratification of the Treaty of Sèvres and the urgent need for fostering the economic development of Palestine, the Secretary of State for the Colonies is considering, in consultation with His Majesty's High Commissioner for Palestine, the adoption of a new policy whereby applications for concessions for constructional development and schemes providing for the employment of labour might be granted by the Palestine Administration, provided that (1) the terms of the draft mandate for Palestine are strictly observed, and (2) the concessions are not in conflict with any existing concessions which it may be necessary to deal with under Article 311 of the Treaty of Sèvres. No modification of the decision not to grant concessions for working and prospecting for minerals and oils pending the entry into force of the Treaty of Sèvres is, however, at present proposed.

April 5.—Sir P. Lloyd Greame (Director of Overseas Trade Department) informed Commander Kenworthy that the official reports from Teheran revealed a more satisfactory state of affairs in the capital since the advent to power of Zia-ed-Din. His Majesty's Government were watching sympathetically the efforts of the new Cabinet, who may rest assured that any action taken for the maintenance of order and the establishment of normal conditions would be welcome to His Majesty's Government.

April 6.—Mr. Montagu informed Sir C. Yate that negotiations with Afghanistan now being carried on at Kabul, which have as their object the conclusion of a Treaty of Friendship, are still proceeding; and that, therefore, he was not in a position to make any further statement regarding the position in Afghanistan.

April 7.—Sir Charles Townshend asked whether the following Turks now interned in Malta could now be released: Rahmi Bey, Basri Bey, Mehmed Faik Bey, Ali Janani Bey, and Mehmed Sherif Bey. Sir P. Lloyd Greame replied that an agreement for the mutual release of British and Turkish prisoners was recently signed with the Turkish delegates, and it is hoped that all the persons named may shortly be set at liberty except the second, who is charged with complicity in atrocities.

SCHOOLS IN SERBIA.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes (March 30):—All the British colony in Belgrade know Dositeeva Street, and many are familiar with the statue of an energetic-looking old gentleman, in the garb of over a century ago, facing the Srpska Krana Hotel and the Kalemegdan; but probably few connect both with Dositej Obradovitch, the grandfather of Serbian literature. This remarkable man, who visited London during his travels, founded education in Serbia. Across the Danube, at Karlovtsse in Srem, the first Serbian school was founded in 1791. A "Big School" was opened in Belgrade in 1808, where Dositej taught, also the lesser known Sima Milutinovitch, and the great Vuk Karadjitch, the founder of Serbian literature, collector of its folk songs and tales, inventor of the present simple phonetic Serbian alphabet, and lexicographer of the Serbian language. The course included the Serbian and German languages, statistics, geography, sacred history, physics, mathematics, ethics. This first light of education on Serbia was destroyed in the ill-fated year 1813, and there were no schools in the country till 1830, from which year education expanded and developed rapidly. According to the latest statistics, there are to-day in Serbia, Montenegro, and the Voivodina 79 intermediate schools with 38,548 pupils, excluding 1,500 in the commercial schools.

CONSTANTINOPLE IN THE SHADOWS.

The stout Turkish merchant shivering beside me in the stern sheets of a caique, which two native rowers struggled to drive against the strong current of the Bosphorus, wound his muffler more closely about his chin, then vigorously smote his hands together.

"In the old time," he said presently, as one imparting exclusive wisdom, "before the building of the Suez Canal brought the warm airs and currents from the South, Constantinople was very cold in winter—a hundred times colder than now, for example."

I looked at his watering eyes, and noted his chattering teeth. Ahead of us the roofs and hills of Pera and Stamboul were white with snow, the water around us was leaden grey, like the sky.

"Yes," my companion continued, with a sage air of enthusiasm for the good old days, "there was even a year when one could walk over the water—here, where this boat is now—from Stamboul to Haidar Pasha. Ice, you know. Right down into the Sea of Marmora. Those were days, Allah knows it! Not like to-day—mild, like this."

Here he shivered more violently than ever, and bade the boatmen look to their pulling, not, I was led to infer, because he was at all cold, but because our steamer had been late and he was in a hurry.

It was a long pull, too, and decidedly a cold one—an hour and a-half from our steamer, anchored and waiting for the pilot off Haidar Pasha, to the Custom House at Top Hane. Such a journey it was as should have been a dream of loveliness, but vanished was the beauty of the Bosphorus—its colour, the white magic of the buildings on its shores; for it was fell winter where one sometimes thinks that winter should not come at all. Gone, too, were the airy grace of slender minarets against blue skies, the green of Asiatic hills, and the shimmer of the Golden Horn, which was now grey, an ordinary haunt of shipping. Stamboul looked squalid; its panorama spoiled and dominated by heaps of black commercial coal at Seraglio Point. Everything, indeed, belied its name and fame; everything except the shearwaters, those restless birds, flying in long lines, which eternally skim the surface of the Bosphorus, and which the Turk so aptly calls "souls of the damned."

It was cold on the water, but in the town, where the recent fall of snow had turned to slush as it fell, and all the eaves, the very walls, dripped moisture, it was frigid. Worse still, Constantinople is dirtier than ever it was. Purest filth litters the gutters and obscure corners; refuse left lying in unfrequented ways develops into miniature mountain ranges of decomposition. The busier streets are slimy with liquid mud, which the wheels of passing carriages and motors spray in brown niagaras over helpless pedestrians huddled on the narrow pavements. Street cleaners, often decrepit native women racked by graveyard coughs, are occasionally to be seen dabbling despondent brooms in lakes of ooze; but so great are the odds against them that even the most inquiring Walrus imaginable would not be interested in the results of their labours, however many such Maids with Mops there might be in action, and it is more than likely that the local Carpenters shed all their tears long ago and have accepted the conditions—lucky believers!—as the will of Allah.

If to-day dirt may be said to be a leading "note" in the impression one receives of Constantinople, another is melancholia. There is a sadness, a cheerless pretence in the city's life that typifies what one has learned to call "the resignation of the Turk." Her highways and byways are more crowded than ever they were; the bazaars hum, the docks look crowded; yet in the very midst of movement I felt that I could hear the echo of my own footsteps; that in all the press around me there was not one light heart.

No doubt there are many causes for depression—the lost war (the Turkish flag on the tower of the Turkish War Office has remained at half-mast since the Armistice) high prices, commercial stagnation, and so

forth; but it is likely that recent events in Asia, more especially in Anatolia, have most to do with the present state of the popular mind. Smyrna may not be on every tongue, for the real Turk is not a loose talker nor a boastful one; but the shadow of its destiny lies upon every heart, and its name is at once the source of greatest fear and greatest hope. It is the common opinion that Turkey's chances for the future rest upon the ultimate disposition of Smyrna. With Smyrna, a peaceful and national development of Turkey-in-Asia by the Turks and for the Turks is possible; without it, fruitless dissension and eventual disintegration are inevitable. It is the common opinion, too, that so long as the Greeks remain in possession of the Smyrna Vilayet, so long will there be warfare and disturbances in Anatolia. No one believes that the Allies will not eventually see the error of the Greek pretensions, nor that the Greeks will be able to retain possession, even if the London Conference should confirm their mandate.

Take it all in all, there are not many signs of Allied occupation of Constantinople. A number of war vessels lie in the Bosphorus, military police keep a weather-eye on the entrances to beer halls, and passport control officers—British, French, and Italian—board all steamers upon arrival and departure. During a previous visit, a year ago, military control of the city was assumed by Allied troops in rotation; now it would appear that permanent zones have been established, Pera, for example, being under British authority, Stamboul under French.

There is no lack of food nor of the ordinary commodities of daily life, but prices are high, much too high for the poor, who are in considerable distress. Commercial activity is said to be at a standstill. Immediately after the Armistice large quantities of materials of every sort were shipped to Constantinople in the expectation of the renewal of trade with South Russia, the Caucasus, and Asiatic Turkey. These markets remained closed, however, and Constantinople has become choked with merchandise which it cannot digest and which cannot be disposed of short of ruinous loss.

I have kept until the last—not as one keeps the best thing, but as one postpones the most unpleasant—as sad a sight as anyone could see—I mean the pitiful remnants of General Wrangel's Crimean Army, now among the commonest elements in the streets of Constantinople. There are thousands of them; officers of every rank, soldiers, sailors, cossacks, peasant followers, even petty railway officials. Their uniforms are tattered and noise-some, their boots broken. Their faces are sallow, often emaciated from lack of proper nourishment, but somehow, even more distressing are their tired, hopeless-looking eyes—sad eyes that mostly look back into Yesterday, for To-day holds nothing, and there is no sign of a bright dawn To-morrow. All day long and far into the night these men without a home or country haunt the streets, walking, walking, always walking, though there is nowhere to go and nothing to do. For the most part they are silent, and I have not seen one smile. There are, too, thousands of civilian refugees, for the present Russian population of Constantinople represents two evacuations from Odessa, one from Novorossisk, and one from the Crimea, in all approximately sixty thousand persons. The French are taking care of them; yet it seems a mystery how they all exist, especially the women and old men. A British sailor



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tossed away a tin of sardines partially consumed; I saw an old grey-bearded general pick it up and carefully bestow it in an inner pocket of his greatcoat—he had no tunic underneath. A Russian lady wearing a worn fur coat, but on her feet the thinnest kind of native slippers soaked in slush, entered a shop and asked for a pencil; the price was five piastres. She flushed and handed back the pencil—she could not afford tuppence! Many have become street vendors—privates, officers, and sometimes women, too. It is sad to see them, for few are self-confident enough to cry their wares, the great majority standing mutely against the houses holding a few flowers, newspapers, a small broken box of sweets, or sometimes personal possessions like cigarette cases or a single ring. In the windows of almost every shop are displayed articles of jewellery and small personal tokens which cry aloud their Russian origin, and doubtless represent the last cherished possessions of their owners. You sometimes see the wistful figures of these last hovering near by, and you can almost *feel* how much they hope that *you* may be the one—in God knows how many hundred—to go in and buy.

WILLIAM RANSTED BERRY.

Constantinople, February, 1921.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

A few days ago a friend of mine, whose acquaintance with India is a long one, and who has real knowledge of its people, was declaring that he felt that he was quite out of touch with them both; that he no longer knew India and the Indians. Asked why, he explained that it was because of an item of news he had just picked up: news that the *dhobies* (the professional gentlemen who wash—and ruin—your linen, at a price) have taken a mighty oath to drink no more spirits, in order, of course, to do the Government in the eye. In view of his experience of the class, my friend felt that this announcement did indeed mark a new epoch. As for its explanation, he observed: "I can only conclude that they were all drunk at the time they took the decision." Which, to my mind, suggests some affinity between the *dhobie* and the charlady.

A kind but anonymous correspondent sends me a clipping from a magazine which contains a real gem of Oriental enterprise. It says:—"An Oriental paper having an English section printed the following notice:—The news of English we tell the latest. Writ in perfect style and most earliest. Do a murder commit, we hear of and tell it. Do a mighty chief die, we publish it and in borders sombre. Staff has each one been colleged and write like the Kipling and the Dickens. We circle every town and extortionate not for advertisements." In a marginal note my correspondent suggests that the paper referred to may be either the "*Baghdad* or *Bush Times*!!!!" I expect either of those papers would want a few more notes of exclamation to do justice to their feelings if they thought the suggestion was meant seriously. But, of course, it is not every paper that can claim to have a staff of which each member has been colleged and writes like the Kipling and the Dickens.

The Direct Actionists in this country must surely have turned green with envy when they read the other day of the "robbery week" which had been arranged at Baku for the benefit, I gather, of the "workmen." For the account from which I get my information says that "everything possible was taken from the civil population," and that "now the *workmen* are selling back to the inhabitants their own possessions." The italics are mine. As there is no mention of any intermediate stage in the transaction, my inference is, I think, a sound one. The moral obviously is that it is—or was—a bad thing to be one of the civil population in Baku. Robbery weeks would, I imagine, leave very few of the population civil.

A friend who used to know Athens very well recently revisited the city, and was disappointed at failing to find a small English cemetery in which he used occasionally to walk. What has become of it? Whether it has been replaced by a kinema show or a department store, or whether he simply overlooked it, he could not be certain; nor does it matter. But I was interested to hear that in the cemetery there used to be a headstone of a somewhat peculiar character. It was erected to the memory of his third wife by a certain British subject, about whom Athenian society of former days was accustomed to saying, and hearing, unkind things. And the peculiarity about the stone was that on it, under cover of praising his late wife's

virtues, the widower gave the lie pretty direct to all the gossips, and, so to say, put the case for himself. Unfortunately, my friend could not recall any portion of the inscription, so that I cannot say what line learned counsel for the defence took.

I do not remember ever hearing of any other epitaph similar in character to this vanished Athenian example; but I suppose we have all come across many that are full of human interest. A quaint example, which comes from the Far East, is:—

"Here lies the body of W. W.,

Who never more will trouble you, trouble you."

Two of my favourites come from much nearer home—from South Devon, in fact. One in Portlemouth Churchyard runs:—

God takes the good, too good on earth to stay;

And leaves the bad, too bad to take away.

And another good one is to be found at Kingsbridge. It is dated 1793, and, after giving particulars of the deceased, breaks into verse thus:—

Here lie I at the chancel door;

Here lie I because I'm poor.

The farther in the more you pay;

Here lie I as warm as they.

This last inscription, with its suggestion of satisfaction at having got something in the nature of a bargain in the way of graves, reminds me that at Kerbellah there is a grave that suggests something of the kind. It covers a former Prime Minister of Persia, who, after a life which was a model of all that a life ought not to be, went to the sacred city to die, hoping that the fact that his bones were buried in sacred soil might avail him something in the hereafter. When he felt his last hour approaching he sent to inquire how much burial within the precincts of the great mosque itself would cost; and was told that for a man of his rank it would be at least a thousand *liras*. Although he was fabulously wealthy, it went against the grain to part with so much money, and he sent another messenger to ask what a grave on the outskirts of the town would cost. Not taking the inquiry quite seriously, the authorities replied that the charge would be only a few piastres. The old man closed with the bargain on the spot; and now lies in the "poor" ground, doubtless to the benefit of his heirs.

Prince Wilhelm of Wied, the ex-Mpret of Albania, must be quite an expert in the matter of flights by this time. I refer, of course, to flights of the political variety, not the aeronautical. But I see that he has not scorned to use the aeroplane for the security of his jewels; though, judging by his ignominious performance in Albania, he would be very loth to do any aerial stunts himself. It seems that during the German revolution the ex-Mpret contrived to send his collection of jewellery into Sweden by aeroplane; and though it was first confiscated by the Swedish Customs, and afterwards in constant peril of being looted by a gang of thieves—international, not of the Prussian princely variety—its former owner has at last got control of it again. He has, however, been warned by German bankers not to take his precious stones into the Fatherland. What about Albania as a place of safety for them?

CORSAIR.

Cunard Line

MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

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BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

"Political Zionism."

A correspondent directs our attention to an article, "Political Zionism," contributed to the *Atlantic Monthly* by Prof. A. T. Clay. The article opens with the statement:—

A traveller returning from the Near East is at once struck by the utter ignorance of Europeans and Americans concerning the true situation in Palestine—an ignorance due largely to the fact that in London there is practically only one of the important daily papers that will print anything detrimental to the schemes of the Political Zionists.

The writer differentiates between the three aspects of Zionism, namely, the religious, economic, and political. "Tolerance for the religious ideals of different faiths," he writes, "precludes any criticism or lack of respect for Religious Zionism"; and as to Economic Zionism—

A visit to some of the better-established Jewish colonies will not fail to awaken sympathy for economic Zionism. No unbiased observer of past events could think of throwing obstacles in the way of those Jews who, being persecuted in certain lands, prefer to live in a community solely Jewish; or who, through historical sentiment, long to reside in a purely Jewish cultural community in the land of their ancestors.

But of Political Zionism Prof. Clay very clearly disapproves. It is also, he tells us, "strongly opposed by many orthodox Jews in Palestine; especially because they recognise that, through the fanaticism of the Zionist leaders, it has become most difficult for them to maintain their former amicable relations with the other nations." He declares, too, that "it is opposed also by many of the leading Jews throughout the world, especially, as the Political Zionists themselves admit, by the upper circles of Jewish society." Moreover, he says bluntly:—"The Political Zionists, through their propaganda, systematically endeavour to give the world a false conception of the Palestinians." The latter are a "composite race, largely Semitic," and it is "a deliberate misrepresentation to classify them as 'Arabs' instead of Syrians." On the rival claims of the Syrians and the Jews, Prof. Clay writes:—

Much has been written upon the historic claims of the Jews to this territory, which they held for less than 500 years, prior to 2,500 years ago, but how about the claims of the Palestinian who possessed the land before the Jew, and who is still in possession, having lived there for over 5,000 years? . . . if we are to decide the question of actual ownership of the territory, the Palestinian . . . surely has a clearer title than the Jew. Moreover, this decision is based upon the records handed down by the Jew himself. Even the Hebrew language, which the Jews are attempting to revive as their spoken tongue, originally belonged to the people they are trying to oust. The language in Aram—Abraham's ancestral home—was Aramean; when the Arameans came to Palestine they adopted the Canaanite language, now called Hebrew.

Prof. Clay is indignant that the Political Zionists have been "favoured by the British authorities" to the disadvantage of the Syrians, and that in the matter of the Mandate the wishes of the latter, as expressed to the American Commission, have been ignored. The people, through the President of the Moslem and Christian League, informed the Commission that "at one time they would unanimously have asked for Great Britain, but the Balfour declaration had so shocked them that they now requested that America should have the mandate for Palestine and Syria." Whether America would have accepted it, we are not informed.

The writer gives several instances of attempts by the Political Zionists to gain control of power; and these make disturbing reading when we remember that it is Great Britain that is held responsible by the nations for anything that goes wrong. The views expressed by the late Grand Mufti (whose death was recorded in *THE NEAR EAST* quite recently) are interesting, but they would take up too much space to quote, but those of the Christians as given to the author by "a highly honoured citizen of the country" expressly for publicity may be given:—

The Moslems and Christians welcomed the British occupation because they did not know that their country had been sold to the Jews. The honour of England is in jeopardy. The Christians of the whole world do not know of this treachery, nor did the three hundred millions of Moslems know of it. But some day it will be known, because it will surely mean another war. Had the people known what was to happen, they would have worn crape when the British entered.

"The British politicians in London," Prof. Clay thinks, "seem to have little comprehension of the difficulties they are helping to create for their Empire." Again:—

It is the opinion of nearly every non-Jewish British official in Palestine, not only that Britain's reputation for justice and fair dealing is at stake, and that a great wrong is being done the inhabitants of the land, but that there are serious dangers ahead

for the Empire. . . . Moreover, these officials feel keenly the change in the attitude toward the British that has come over the inhabitants since they entered, for they know that they are now hated and despised.

This is a very serious statement to make, but, coming from a writer of Prof. Clay's standing, it cannot be set aside as worthless. It is to be hoped, however, that after Mr. Churchill's recent statement the fears of the anti-Zionists will have abated, and that "the aggressiveness of individuals" which has doubtless done much to create those fears and the hate that accompanies them will also be moderated. Although that statement puts the matter in a new light, Prof. Clay's article still remained valuable as giving a point of view that is little known in Europe.

The British and Egypt.

The March issue of the *Fortnightly Review* contains a few comments upon the Report of the Milner Commission on Egypt by Malcolm McIlwraith. Upon the provision in the Memorandum that the Egyptian Government may terminate, subject to compensation, the engagement of all existing British officials at any time within two years of the coming into force of the Treaty, he says:—

The report takes a cheerful view of the probable result of this provision. It considers, in the first place, that the wholesale retirement of the British officials—whether voluntary or compulsory—would not involve an administrative breakdown, because "there is no longer any danger that the country would relapse into the state of maladministration from which we have delivered it, and that all the old evils would return." In the second place, "no sensible Egyptian," it affirms, "seriously wishes to dispense with foreign aid in the government of his country, or believes that Egypt could, for a long time to come at any rate, afford to do without it." That, of course, depends on the view taken as to what constitutes "a sensible Egyptian," and whether, in any view, the sensible ones of this kind would be in power. And when the report goes on to declare that "the idea of any Egyptian Government, however free to do so, attempting to make a clean sweep of its foreign officials is a chimera," one cannot help wondering whether its authors have considered the possibility of a distinction between different categories of "foreign officials," and regard such a distinction as equally chimerical. In some respects French and Italian officials are considerably more congenial to Egyptians than Englishmen, and suit them better, from linguistic, juristic, and other standpoints. In pre-Occupation days, and notably in the time of Ismail Pasha, there were numbers of Frenchmen and Italians in the service of the Egyptian Government, but practically no Englishmen at all. It may be said that that was because, in those days, French and Italian influence was paramount in Egypt, and British influence practically non-existent. The circumstance is doubtless true, but it is not by any means a conclusive answer. However, assuming that, under modern conditions, and in view of the safeguards to be imposed, such discrimination against British co-operation and in favour of the Latin nations is no longer to be apprehended, it is none the less difficult to feel confident, in the light of recent events, that the view taken by prominent Egyptian statesmen and leaders of opinion as to the value and indispensability of the British officials—either individually or in the mass—is as favourable as the members of the Mission appear to think. That there is a more or less numerous section of the moderate and sober-minded classes of the community who believe in, and desire the retention of, the British officials, I have no doubt whatever. One has constant proofs of it in administration. But those classes are largely timorous and inarticulate elements of the population, and not the men who at present control affairs. Whether the latter would, in practice, find it politic to act upon what there is too much reason to believe would be their inclinations is, of course, another matter, and would no doubt largely depend on circumstances.

The danger of a "stampede" of officials, which the Report considers more probable than the one referred to above, Sir Malcolm does not think to be very grave.

Greece.

The *Morning Post* of April 7 contains an article by Mr. William Miller on the hundredth anniversary of the freeing of Greece. Pausing to comment on the fact that Greece is not celebrating her centenary as it might have been held, he proceeds to trace the various stages in the growth of Greece. His closing paragraph, on the future of Greece, is optimistic:—

We may look hopefully towards the future of Greece, even though the near prospect seems dark. Southern countries never lack clever men, but in this world cleverness is always beaten by character. Where, as in M. Venizelos, and as in Charilaos Trikoupis (who died in exile at Cannes) the two qualities are united, triumph is assured. And the history of the Near East teaches not only in Greece, but in Serbia and Bulgaria, not only in modern but in mediæval times, that in that part of the world more than elsewhere national successes depend upon the individual. Only, small States are far more jealous of individual greatness than are large Empires. Modern England worships heroes, ancient Athens ostracised them.

Articles to Note.

"The New Persian Woman," by Clara E. Rice; "Moslem Retrogression," by Canon W. Hooper, D.D.; and "The Influence of Islam on African Native Law," by Major C. Braithwaite Wallis, in the *Moslem World* (April).

MUSICAL NOTES.

The London Chamber Concert Society.

This society began its spring season at the Wigmore Hall on April 5 with a programme which included Josef Holbrooke's quartet for strings, "The Pickwick Club," and two songs by Ethel Smyth with accompaniment for strings, flute, harp, and percussion. Holbrooke is a composer whose merits and demerits are loudly advertised in this country, but this quartet of his, marvellously well played though it was by the Philharmonic String Quartet, is not exhilarating. True, it was possible with an explanatory programme to follow his earnest and quite clever pleasantries, but without such assistance I do not think much resemblance to, or interpretation of, Dickens could be found. There was more to satisfy in the two songs of Ethel Smyth, sung by Miss Olga Haley and conducted by the composer, even though scarcely a word was audible. (This fault, by the way, was not Miss Haley's.) In "La Danse," as in the second song, the writing had considerable beauty, although the percussion, which was chiefly and unnecessarily used to mark the accent, was a nuisance; the composer obviously had quite definite and poetical ideas in her interpretation of de Regnier. Later in the evening we heard Beethoven's "Serenade" Trio, for Flute, Violin and Viola (Op. 25), a work of small interest, one which under any other name would stand no chance of performance.

Miss Elizabeth Nichol.

It was disappointing to find that Miss Nichol, a singer of pleasing if limited abilities, had not chosen a more interesting programme for her recital at the Æolian Hall on April 6. To have to wait through Mendelssohn's "Infelice," three very poor songs of Tchaikovsky, four dull though sincere efforts of Nicholas Gatty, until she came to what she excelled in—Bantock's "The Red Lotus"—made one impatient, and perhaps unduly observant of such defects as her over-emphasised consonantal attack, her impure pronouncing of the short "a," and so on; and the two Bantock songs were only a brief respite, for her judgment again went wrong in having a violin obligato to Rachmaninov's "Lilacs," which is far better with pianoforte accompaniment alone. However, there is nothing vulgar in her singing; her enunciation is excellent, and her musical sense generally good; if, indeed, she were intellectually more enterprising the chastity of her methods would give her distinction.

British Song.

In eloquent and determined constation of her creed, Miss Ursula Greville devoted her recital at the Wigmore Hall on April 7 wholly to British song. She was assisted in this by Mr. Eric Godley, a rare because a genuine baritone, and Mr. Owen Mase, a very rare accompanist. That alert intelligence which informs all her interpretations was again her most notable distinction; and it was remarkable that the development of her penetrative sense has brought to her strictness and a finer general restraint. It is true that there were songs in which I liked better her older habit of poetic realism—Bainton's "Nightingale Near the House" and Gerrard Williams' "Dilemma," for example—and there were songs not worthy of her—Foulds' "The Reed Player" and Felix White's "The Western Window"; but on the whole this recital showed well her keen discrimination and the musical cleverness which distinguishes her from the rest of our younger singers. For sheer intensity and colour I do not think that such renderings as she gave of Holst's "Faith" or Bantock's "Feast of Lanterns," for instance, could be surpassed. In Mr. Godley's singing there are many possibilities. For not only has he naturally a fine voice, but he knows what he is doing and what to do with it. The vigour and certainty of his interpretations compensated for inequalities in some of the songs he sang. To hear him in Martin Shaw's "Love Pagan" or in Howell's "Old Skinfint" was a joy infrequent in these days, when good popular songs are either despised or mauled. Incidentally, I cannot believe that so fine a singer could believe warrantable the repetition of Eric Fogg's "Full Fathom Five," for the assumption with which this young composer has shown Shakespeare what he really meant is simply monstrous.

At this concert there was more than one unusual feature, the most startling of which, perhaps, was Mr. Godley's exhortation to us to remark the virtues of Mr. Mase. It really needed none of his words for this justice to be done, for the exquisite colours which Mr. Mase drew from a boudoir grand were unforgettable. He has the finest insight into and the most delicate perception of utterly different songs, and I was disappointed that he should so inexplicably have mist the essence of "Immanence." I do not often

acknowledge the worth of accompanists—certainly not often enough—but Mr. Mase's artistry is so refreshingly beautiful that it cannot pass unrecorded.

The Small Orchestra.

Among the few good things that have resulted from the war is the smaller orchestra. One can now see more clearly that it is only a few types of music that are fit to be performed by the large orchestra for which everyone in the years preceding the war wrote; but not only is this return to the past size of orchestra aesthetically desirable, it has become almost an economic necessity. And what excellent results can be obtained from it were obvious in the first of a series of four orchestral concerts which Mr. Edward Clark gave at the Queen's Hall on April 8. His programme included Haydn's "Military Symphony" and Stravinsky's "Fire-Bird Suite" (re-orchestrated in 1919), works utterly different in character but similar in their possession of genius. Mr. Clark is not an attractive conductor to watch, but the results he obtains are excellently certain; he is, in fact, the most promising, as he is the most enterprising, of our younger conductors. I liked particularly the smooth poetry and the fire of his interpretation of the second and third pieces of the Stravinsky suite, "Horovod" and "The Dance of the Subjects of Koshchei the Immortal." The new works which he proposes to introduce to this country in his next three concerts make these undertakings of exceptional interest.

Roumanian Audiences.

The facts concerning music which the Bucharest Correspondent of this journal sets forth in his letter in this week's issue are extremely interesting, and illustrate well the differences that must exist between the inhabitants of the Roumanian capital and those, say, of London. For though Strauss is at the moment very popular in this country, neither he nor any one else would be sufficient to induce an audience here to pay 100 lei, or about 7s., to hear him; and it is comparatively seldom that any hall in London is crowded. How happy would English concert managers be if they could charge such amounts for tickets; all the dreadful talk that we hear about the inevitable disappearance of orchestral combinations would disappear at once.

AND ANTE.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

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

EGYPT. INDIA: H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught. MESOPOTAMIA. EGYPT (ZAGHLOUL PASHA). (March 22.)

INDIA: Sedition (Prosecutions).—Bolshevik Agents.—Indian Emergency Committee, London.—Opium Cultivation.—Police Grant, Bnbal.—Disturbances, Nagpur.—Germans, Admission.—Army Organisation.—Conspiracy Convictions (Pardons).—Government Newspaper.—Sandhurst Cadets.—Public Works Department.—Railway and Inland Water Traffic (Surcharge).—Railway Station, Gufranwalla.—Dr. Kitchlew and Mr. Rambhaji Datt.—Trans-border Raids and Dacoities.—Prison System, Andamans.—Mounted Officers (Changers). MIDDLE EAST (SOVIET AGENTS). (March 23.)

GREECE (LOAN). EGYPT (ZAGHLOUL PASHA). OTTOMAN REGIE TOBACCO COMPANY. INDIA: Sutlej River Hydro-Electric Scheme.—Civil Service.—Army Officers (Exchange Compensation Allowance).—Import Duties.—Oudh and Rohilkund Railway (Upper Subordinates). (March 24.)

PEACE TREATIES: Turkey. PALESTINE (April 4).

PERSIA. PEACE TREATIES: Russia, Poland, and Angora.—Turkey.—Cilicia. INDIA: Army (Constitution and Strength).—International Labour Conference. EGYPT. PALESTINE. INDIA: Government Service (Contracts).—Public Works Department (Technical Allowance). (April 5.)

INDIA: Bolshevik Rouble Notes.—Army.—Afghanistan. Negotiations.—Wireless Telegraphy.—Burma (Shikho).—Viceroy (Title).—Riots and Casualties. PERSIA. ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL CO., LTD. ARMENIAN REFUGEES. INDIA: High Court Cases (Solicitors).—Burma.—Cavalry and Infantry Regiments.—Government Service (Contracts). (April 6.)

TURKS, INTERNMENT. (MALTA). TURKEY AND GREECE. MESOPOTAMIA. (April 7.)

PEACE TREATIES: Turkey. (April 8).

SERBIA AND FRANCE.

(From Our Belgrade Correspondent.)

The present Yugoslav Minister of Finance, Dr. Kosta Kumanudi, gave a course of lectures in 1918 in the Faculty of Law at the Sorbonne in Paris. On the proposition of the Dean, M. Larnaud, the Faculty has sent Dr. Kumanudi a telegram of hearty congratulations on his elevation to his present high post, for which he is fully qualified by his learning and erudition. Another sign of the relations between Serbia and France was the sending of a wreath, by the blinded veterans of Serbia, placed upon the grave of France's Unknown Warrior.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"THE LEBANON IN TURMOIL. SYRIA AND THE POWERS IN 1860." By J. F. Scheltema, M.A., Ph.D. Yale Oriental Series. Researches. Vol. VII. Eng. Agents, Oxford University Press. 27s. 6d. net.
- II.—"EARLY TRAVELS IN INDIA, 1583-1619." Edited by W. Foster, C.I.E. (Oxford University Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

I.—CHRISTIANS AND DRUZES IN THE LEBANON.

Owing to her central position, wealth, and proximity to trade routes, Syria has ever been mixed up in the great movements which arose or came to a head in that fascinating area where three continents meet. Beautiful and gracious, she offers an easy living to her remarkably prolific sons, who, if classical writers are to be trusted, succumbed to her charms and were notoriously effeminate and sensuous. The Syrian of old, clever to a degree, and with an easy acuteness, possessed a temperament which seemed fated to hinder any progressive advance. Moreover, the land was so exposed to diverse external influences that one might almost assert that there was an "Eastern Question" from the first. At all events, the political instability of Syria is familiar to the historian, and this sect-ridden land had a reputation for religious intolerance even in Roman times; although, if it has been able to enjoy some peace under a strong ruling external hand, the internal factions have also been utilised for their own end by rival external influences.

Of modern disturbances that of 1860 is not only the best known, it was also one of a long chain of episodes, new links in which are even now being forged. The European Powers had tried to settle the quarrels of the Maronite Christians and the Druzes, but with no success; a series of massacres led to armed intervention, and a miserable story of murder and atrocity came to a lame end. Honest attempts to form a lasting conciliation were hampered by international rivalry, and the melancholy chapter has frequently been described and discussed from varying points of view. We now owe to Dr. J. F. Scheltema a translation of an interesting Arabic account of the events by a native Syrian. It does not add much to our knowledge of the broad outlines, but it is of value as an independent version which fills in the inner history and records a number of new details. The writer, a Christian of Armenian descent, served as U.S.A. Consul in Beyrout and later in the Egyptian Government. His work is entitled, "The Book of the Marvels of the Time Concerning the Massacres in the Arab Country by Iskander Ibn Yagub Abkarius." Dr. Scheltema supplements his translation with full running notes, foreword, introduction, and conclusion; and the volume is an instructive contribution to the political history of that unhappy period. As the Editor states, it is an attempt to "put in the proper light a special phase of the everlasting Eastern question," and upon this question he has very definite views.

The native writer is naive and simple, he has aimed at truthfulness and impartiality, and rarely has he relieved the gloom of the narrative (e.g., p. 81 seq.). He rather significantly omits the latter part of the Emperor Napoleon's address to the French troops ("vous allez aider le Sultan à faire rentrer dans l'obéissance des sujets aveuglés par un fanatisme d'un autre siècle," p. 151). He does his best to distribute blame fairly, and if he has a certain pro-Christian bias, the Editor takes very good care throughout to restore the balance, and indeed manifests another bias. The writer clearly shows that there was much wrong-doing on both sides, and when he emphasises the admirable behaviour of some Moslems and their repudiation of the excesses by their co-religionists (pp. 126, 143) we are far more inclined than the Editor to sympathise with his statements which favour the Maronite Christians. The fact was that the terrible massacres were the sequel to years of feud; thus the writer innocently remarks that "in the year 1844 the Christians and Druzes began to fight each other, according to their custom" (p. 62). The massacre at Der-el-Kamar was the sequel to the infamous declaration of a holy war (p. 115 seq.); and it is noteworthy that the carnage at Damascus, on the other hand, "was not sanctioned by the Islamic religious law as some people think" (p. 126), but was due to the rabble, although "persons of rank and dignity" were subsequently inculpated" (p. 158). The writer attributes the Damascus outrage to the laws stipulating the equality of subjects irrespective of religion; the Christians shocked the Moslems by wearing the sacred green and opening wine shops, and the Moslems retaliated and insulted the Cross (p. 127 seq.).

Dr. Scheltema takes the view that the Maronites, urged by the Powers, forced war, and that the Druzes turned the tables upon them. They brought their troubles upon themselves, and Lord Dufferin himself said: "It is idle to speak of the Christians as if they were saintly martyrs" (p. 41). Dr. Scheltema considers plain speaking is now necessary: the Powers must drop "morality-mongering" (p. 173), and cease that "air of superiority which, with a meddling

temper, has so far hindered more than assisted progress" (p. 192). Syria "waits only for the cessation of internal strife, long fostered by European interference" (p. 192), and we do not misunderstand Dr. Scheltema if we infer that, so far from Christians helping the East, we may yet see—what has happened "from times immemorial"—a communion that will redound to "the ultimate spiritual, and therefore most essential, profit of the *soi-disant* civiliser in contact with real civilisation" (p. 193).

Whether a little more detachment would have made this volume less a piece of propaganda we need not discuss; and if we do not share the Editor's view of European responsibility for the bloodshed, it is because he has not taken into consideration the political and religious vicissitudes outside or before European intervention. He forgets that turmoil and fanaticism were recurrent in the ancient East before Christianity. We may dismiss his fatalistic tentative guess that perhaps the bloodshed was one of Nature's contrivances to provide against over-population (p. 9); and if we are unable to apportion the blame fairly may we not agree with the simple native writer: "God, whose decree lies between the Kaf and the Nun, will repay everyone according to his deeds" (p. 143)? One may regret that Dr. Scheltema has not distinguished between the Holy War (p. 115 seq.), with its deliberate incentive to murder or rapine, and all inexcusable, cruel, and foul deeds done contrary to or in spite of religion. The difference between calculated and methodical outrage and "seeing red" is an important one. In general, we may agree with Dr. Scheltema that in the East the religious question is fundamental; this is obvious to everyone acquainted with its psychology, religion, and history; but what is more disquieting is the failure of broad-minded people of all creeds and colours to look for the common basis which assuredly exists. Untold good could be done by a frank and honest discussion of the fundamental questions, but it must be done in a spirit other than that manifested in the present volume.

S. A. C.

II.—THE FIRST ENGLISHMEN IN INDIA.

Mr. Foster has brought together the narratives of seven Englishmen who visited India in the early days, and the result is a book which can be described as thoroughly satisfactory. The narratives are printed precisely as they have come down, the short introductions are models of what such things should be, the footnotes explain such difficulties as the text presents, two maps and some illustrations give further help, and the student of history is thus provided with all the materials needed to enable him to make the best use of the documents; but, if we are not mistaken, the book makes a much wider appeal, and it can be read with enjoyment as well as profit by anyone interested in India or in the work of the English nation. It so happens that these seven writers form almost a microcosm of the time. First comes Ralph Fitch, a merchant on a commercial mission, hard-headed, terse, and matter-of-fact, who spent eight years in the performance of his duties. Next we have John Mildenhall, a private concession-hunter, and an unsuccessful one; his tombstone can still be seen in Agra. Then we have William Hawkins, teaching manners to the Portuguese at Surat, drinking hard with the Emperor Jahangir, and starting homeward with an Armenian wife, to die just at the end of the voyage. William Finch follows, an able merchant, whose commercial report on Surat is a model of such documents, and who was blessed with a genuine gift of style; then Nicholas Withington, also a merchant, but far inferior to Finch; then Tom Coryat (of the "Crudities"), pedestrian and butt, who walked from Aleppo to Ajmere, and is depicted in a contemporary illustration, well reproduced in the book, as riding an elephant with spurs; and lastly the Reverend Edward Terry, a delightful specimen of the cultured parson, whom Mr. Foster serves up, as Purchas did before him, as "a good farewell draught of English-Indian liquor." We like the chaplain best, but the whole company are well worth meeting, and we are grateful to Mr. Foster for bringing them together in so handy a form.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"The Man Who Did the Right Thing: A Romance of East Africa." By Sir Harry Johnston. (London: Chatto and Windus. 8s. 6d. net.)

A Reuter message from Constantinople, dated April 7, states that the Ankara papers give the text of an agreement signed in Moscow on March 1 by Turkish and Afghan delegates, assuring a complete mutual understanding on all foreign questions. Turkey agrees to reorganise the Afghan army and supply officers and arms.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

April 14 (New Style).

April 1 (Old Style).

Shaaban 6, 1339 of the Moslem Calendar.

Nisan 6, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudyard Kipling have arrived at Cannes.

M. Jordania, President of the Georgian Republic, has arrived in Paris.

Viscount and Viscountess Ennismore have returned to London from India.

The Earl and Countess of Carnarvon have returned to 1, Seamore Place, from Egypt.

The Bulgarian Minister visited Sir Eyre Crowe on April 6 at the Foreign Office.

M. Venizelos went to Paris from Nice last week, but has since returned to the South.

Marshal Lyautey left France on April 10 to resume his duties as Resident-General in Morocco.

The Gaekwar Bahadur of Baroda arrived at Marseilles on April 9 from Bombay on his way to London.

The Marquess and Marchioness of Titchfield will return to London from the Sudan in about a week's time.

Princess Bibesco has left Paris for the Hotel du Palais. Biarritz, where she will remain till the end of April.

Lord and Lady Inchcape, who are cruising in the Mediterranean, will return to London about the end of the month.

Captain and Mrs. Rexford Parsons, on leave from India, are in Scotland, and will be with Mrs. Charles Parsons, 110, Park Street, W., for May.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Thomas Archibald Leach, Sudan Political Service, and Miss Jessie Laing will take place on April 28 at the Old Parish Church, Croydon.

Lieutenant-General Sir Francis Lloyd, who has been confined to bed suffering from an attack of influenza, has sufficiently recovered to be able to leave England for Algiers.

M. Antonesco, formerly Roumanian Minister in Paris, has arrived in London, and was on April 8 the guest at luncheon of M. Boeresco, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires.

The annual memorial service in connection with the 29th Division (Gallipoli, 1915-16) will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Eltham, on Monday, the 25th inst., at eleven o'clock.

The King of the Hellenes has appointed M. A. Rizo Rangabé, Greek Minister and Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation in London, a Commander of the Order of the Redeemer.

General Sir Robert Baden-Powell on April 9 reviewed a body of Egyptian Boy Scouts and Girl Guides in Cairo, and in the afternoon inspected the European Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

The marriage of Miss Rita Rattray, only child of Brigadier-General C. Rattray C.B., C.S.I., to Mr. Alfred Claude Burlingham takes place to-day at All Souls Church, Langham Place, London. General Rattray served in Mesopotamia, 1915-1917.

The engagement is announced between Dimitri Papaléxopoulos, C.M.G., captain of the Royal Hellenic Navy, and Miss Dorothy Elliadi, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elia Elliadi, 2, Rue de Saigon, Paris.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society a lecture on "Mesopotamia, 1914-1921," will be given by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Arnold T. Wilson, K.C.I.E., at the Royal Society's Lecture Room, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., to-morrow, April 15, at 4.30 p.m.

General Lord Rawlinson has arrived at Karachi on a tour of inspection of the Western Command. The Commander-in-Chief will visit important stations in Baluchistan, and will afterwards proceed to the scene of the operations in the Mahsud and Waziri country.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Arthur C. De Morgan, of Rangoon, Burma, second son of the late Mr. and Mrs. S. A. De Morgan, and May Fendall, of 41, Belsize Avenue, N.W.3, only child of Mrs. and the late Mr. R. H. Fendall.

Ghaffar Khan Emadol Molk, who was Persian Chargé d'Affaires in London from December, 1919, to November last, is this week leaving London with Mme. Emadol Molk to take up his new appointment as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Stockholm.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain Yovan U. Yovanovitch, Consul-General for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and Florence Elliot, only daughter of the late James Arnott and Mrs. Arnott, 37, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, W.1.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place in August, between Angus H. Gurney, Indian Civil Service, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Gurney, of Thames Ditton, Surrey, and Nancy Mabel, only daughter of Dr. and Mrs. H. Ward Evans, The Old Hall, Newport, Salop.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in June, between Charles F. Fosdick, only son of Mr. William Fosdick, of Auckland, N.Z., and Enid Mary Kathleen, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice B. O'Connor, of Ballygunge, St. George's Hill, Weybridge, and Ballygunge, Calcutta.

A marriage has been arranged between Major Douglas Giffard Oliver, Indian Army Political Department, son of the late Edmund Ward Oliver, of Orlestone, Kent, and Lorimer, third daughter of the late William Cattanaich Donaldson, Bourtreehill, Ayrshire, and Mrs. Donaldson, Ballindalloch, Balfour, Stirlingshire.

On Tuesday, April 19, a dinner and dance will be held to celebrate the Serbian Workers' Reunion, at the Wharncliffe Rooms, Great Central Hotel. Col. Sir Courtauld Thomson, K.B.E., C.B., will take the chair. Tickets, which are 21s. each, may be obtained from the hon. secretary, Miss Marx, 24, Melcombe Court, Dorset Square, N.W.1.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place this month, between Brevet-Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. M. Cornwall, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Royal Field Artillery, son of Mr. James Cornwall, late Postmaster-General, India, 24, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, and Marjorie Coralie Scott Owen, daughter of the late Mr. W. Scott Owen, O.B.E., J.P., and Mrs. Scott Owen, of Cefngwifed, Newtown, Montgomeryshire.

Dr. M. A. Ansari, accompanied by Mr. Ghaffar (Secretary), members of the Indian Muslim Delegation, on April 9 concluded their official visit to this country, and left Victoria by the Continental boat train express on their return to India. Among those present to see them off were Mr. M. M. Chotani, the head of the Indian Muslim Delegation, Shaikh M. H. Kidwai of Gadia (who are remaining in Europe pending new developments in the Eastern question), and a large gathering of Hindoos, Mussulmans, Sikhs, and Parsees, undergraduates studying at the Oxford, Cambridge, and London Universities.

The King, in recognition of services during the operations against Afghanistan, has made the following appointments to the Order of the British Empire:—

To be a Knight Commander of the Civil Division—Baba Sir Gurbakesh Singh Bedi, Kt., C.I.E.

To be Commanders of the Civil Division—Mr. Douglas Donald, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Officer and Assistant Commissioner, Hangu and Samana; Mr. John Moncrieff Wright, Indian Civil Service Superintendent, Chin Hills; Mr. George Arthur Cocks, Deputy Inspector-General, Criminal Investigation Department, Punjab; Temporary Lieut.-Colonel Frederick Charles Isemonger, Senior Superintendent of Police, Punjab; and Lieut. Edward Ernest Long.

The King has given permission for the wearing of the following decorations:—

ORDER OF THE NILE (EGYPT).

Second Class.—P. R. Boxwell, Inspr.-Gen. of Irrigation, Upper Egypt.

Third Class.—P. Swan, Director-Gen., Mech. Dept., Egyptian Ministry of Public Works; L. C. Enness; W. D. L. Roberts, Inspr. of Irrigation, 1st Circle; L. F. P. de Smidt, Inspr. of Irrigation, Zifta Circle.

Fourth Class.—A. D. D. Butcher, Director, Delta Barrage; H. V. C. Johnstone, Director of Works, 1st Circle; G. R. Kinder, Director of Works, 3rd Circle; A. O. W. D.

Pinson, Insp., Main Drainage Dept.; T. H. Smith, Chief Mech. Eng., Main Drainage Dept.
Fifth Class.—E. B. Hewgill, J. M. Edwards.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (March 27):—"The Semiramis Hotel has been the venue during the past three weeks of a most interesting exhibition of pictures. Miss Bridget Keir has been showing there the products of her talented brush—numerous scenes of Italian landscape, a number of excellent impressionist pictures of London landmarks, and many reproductions of well-known Egyptian scenes and sights. It is an admirable collection, and—speaking only of her Egyptian pictures, since one is naturally a greater critic of them—I must say that Miss Keir has caught the Egyptian atmosphere in a wonderful manner. She is remaining on in Egypt for another month, in order to complete certain commissions, and will work her way back to London so as to be there in June, 1922, when she has arranged to hold an exhibition at the Whistler Gallery.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Tchenkeli, the newly-appointed Georgian Minister, has arrived in London.

Dr. Vesnitch, ex-Prime Minister of Serbia, has been appointed Yugoslav Minister in Paris.

Mgr. Nicolaos, Archbishop of Cesarea, has been appointed the *locum tenens* of the Œcumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Commander Matila Costiesco-Ghika, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has been appointed First Secretary to the Legation in Madrid.

Athens telegrams announce the appointment of M. Theotokis to be Minister of War in place of M. Gounaris, who has succeeded to the Premiership.

The King has appointed Sir William Sinclair Marris, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., to be Governor of Assam, India, vice Sir Nicholas Dodd Beatson-Bell, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.

The *Egyptian Gazette* states that Lt.-Col. J. S. Liddell, C.M.G., D.S.O., Under-Secretary of State for Communications, will be appointed as Egyptian and Sudan Government Agent in London, in succession to the late Sir Arthur Webb. Colonel Liddell will be succeeded as Under-Secretary of State by M. T. Borton Pasha, the Postmaster-General, who in turn will be succeeded by Sahib Bey Claudios, the Assistant Postmaster-General.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Vice-Admiral Frederick Owen Pike, C.M.G., D.S.O. His career included service on the *Beacon*, gun-vessel, at the bombardment of Alexandria.

In a much-delayed letter, our Belgrade Correspondent writes:—"The death is announced of a great Yugoslav patriot, Dr. Ivan Orazhen, in his fifty-second year. Dr. Orazhen was a Slovene, but an enthusiastic philo-Serb in the days when that was an unusual and dangerous line to take, and an unrelenting antagonist to the anti-Serb chauvinistic party among the Croats. In spite of powerful opposition, he organised a club of young Slovenes with the title 'Slovenia,' and led a policy of union of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. He was an enthusiastic leader of the Sokols. When Vienna tried to crush the movement on account of its political activities, his skilful handling saved the situation. During the Balkan War of 1912 he went to help his beloved Serbs, and served as surgeon and chief of the military hospital at Belgrade, and afterwards at Kragujevats. He gave an account of his experiences in a book called 'Among Our Wounded Brothers,' which was full of admiration for the peasant-warriors and their patience in suffering. Naturally, he welcomed the union with joy, and his work was crowned by his election as president of the United Yugoslav Sokol Alliance."

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EX-EMPEROR KARL.

A correspondent writes:—"The dramatic appearance of the ex-Emperor Karl at Budapest has naturally aroused a considerable amount of attention in the Yugoslav Press; the tone, however, is not of alarm, but rather of contemptuous amusement, shared by other Slav States. A distinguished Polish official, who had met him in audience while he was still on the throne, described his impression in these words: "I knew him to be thirty years old in appearance, he looked twenty, but when he opened his mouth he seemed to be ten." The Serbian papers refer to him disrespectfully as *Karik bez marjasha*, that is, "Charlie Lack Ha'-pence." Yugoslavia, like Roumania and Czecho Slovakia, are satisfied with Admiral Horthy's declaration, and the consternation is greater in Vienna, where double guards were placed on the Hofburg, while the German Party, the Christian Alliance, and the Social Democrats have issued a declaration against the Hapsburgs, and the latter have called upon the workers to be prepared, if necessary, for a decisive conflict.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

In a recent speech outlining Persia's foreign policy, Zia-ed-Din said that relations with Great Britain were now completely cordial.

The delegation of the Nationalist Turks which came to London for the Near East Conference left Rome for Brindisi, on its way to Angora, on April 9.

It is stated that rapid progress is being made with the evacuation of the troops in Northern Peraia, and by the middle of May all are expected to have left there.

The Prime Minister has informed Sir J. D. Rees, in a written reply to a question, that the Mesopotamian mandate will be considered by the Council of the League of Nations at its next meeting in June.

It is semi-officially announced that a special Afghan Mission, under Mohammed Vali Khan, which is visiting the European capitals, arrived in Berlin on April 8 in order to notify the Government of the accession of the Ameer, Aman Ullah Khan.

The *Morning Post* Malta Correspondent states that notwithstanding the decision of the National Assembly to reject Proportional Representation, the Colonial Office has decided to adopt the system in the Letters Patent granting self-government to Malta.

At the prorogation of the Bengal Legislative Council on April 7 the Governor, Lord Ronaldshay, announced that he intended to provide a further opportunity for discussing the police grant which, from the debate on April 1, he understood the Council desired.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1921.

LORD CHELMSFORD.

Lord Chelmsford has laid down his high office, and a successor is now charged with the duty of carrying out the policy in the initiation of which he played so large a part. On such occasions it is usual to attempt an estimate of the outgoing Viceroy's achievement, and to-day we shall follow precedent, but we shall follow it with caution. There have been Viceroy's whose work was done mainly in the daylight, but this cannot be said of Lord Chelmsford, for more than half his term of office was passed in the obscurity of war, and in conditions which rendered reticence an imperative necessity, while the methods adopted in framing the new constitution were such as to conceal more or less effectively the shares of the individuals concerned in the undertaking. The whole truth of these years will probably not be known until the diaries and memoirs of the protagonists are published for the benefit of some future generation, and while the quidnuncs may experience no difficulty in fixing responsibility or distributing praise and blame, it is both wiser and truer to admit that our knowledge is inadequate for a final judgment. These considerations apply directly to the administrative record of the last five years. Viewed from the outside, it cannot be denied that the administration, while remarkably efficient in comparison with that of most countries, has fallen below the high standard recognised in India. There have been too many regrettable incidents, too many instances of lack of foresight, too little stability, at times too great a tendency to drift. It is easy to recognise such defects, but the apportionment of blame is a different matter. Some observers maintain that Lord Chelmsford has been badly served by colleagues and subordinates not of his selection, others that his best efforts have been nullified by the activities of Whitehall; and while he has never, so far as we know, attempted to urge such considerations, they justify suspension of judgment until the facts are fully known.

It is not, however, as a routine administrator that the retiring Viceroy will be judged. The verdict will be based on two outstanding events, the revival of India's military power, and the introduction of new political institutions. Memories are so short that it may be well to recall the part played by India in the war. At the outset her resources were heroically—we had almost said recklessly—employed in Europe, Africa and Asia, and the effort resulted, as bitter experience was to show, in the destruction of the military machine. A period of inactivity followed, and the Empire began to ask whether India could do nothing. But under Lord Chelmsford the country was speedily reorganised for war; men, munitions, and money were provided on a scale which astonished even the most enthusiastic believers in India's unexplored capacities, and the result was seen first in a steady increase of pressure on the enemy, and then in the spectacular victories in Palestine and Mesopotamia which marked the decisive year. In the course of this reorganisation mistakes were doubtless made in matters of detail, but regarded as a whole the great effort was crowned with success, and while the Viceroy was quick to award the praise to the men who did the work, they on their side recognised that their achievement was due primarily to the vision and the driving force at the centre of affairs. The Services, military and civil, responded to the call, and without their aid Lord Chelmsford could have done little; his merit lay in the facts that he realised the possibilities as well as the

needs of the situation, and that his inspiration transformed those possibilities into accomplished facts.

Military reorganisation did not, however, claim all Lord Chelmsford's energies. Already familiar with Indian political conditions, he had formed the conclusion that the time for a new departure had come, and within a few weeks of his arrival in Simla he took up the question of constitutional reform. The first step was to secure an authoritative declaration of policy from the Government in this country; the pronouncement made in August, 1917, showed what had to be done, and the task was nothing less than the framing of a new constitution, to be moulded to circumstances for which there were no precedents in East or West. The methods adopted were also without precedent. Lord Chelmsford invited the Secretary of State to visit India, and the result of their deliberations was seen in the publication of their joint report within less than a year of the first official recognition of the need for action. The pace so set was maintained to the end. In the winter of 1918-19 the Southborough Committees worked out a large mass of necessary details, in 1919 the constitution became law after a prolonged inquiry by a committee of Parliament, in 1920 the subsidiary rules were completed and electoral machinery was brought into existence; and now the new institutions, both political and administrative, are in being, and the future of India has been decided, so far as the decision lies with human agents. Regarded merely as an example of determined and sustained effort, the achievement is remarkable: Indian methods of procedure are sure but slow, and we have no doubt that Lord Chelmsford was justified in the claim he recently made that, but for Mr. Montagu's visit, elaborate despatches would still be passing between Delhi and Whitehall, unless indeed the internal situation should have developed in a way to render despatches for a time irrelevant. It is, however, by results rather than methods that posterity will judge the work of these five strenuous years. The new institutions have been explained, and on occasion criticised, in these columns, and we do not propose to go over the ground again to-day. Nor do we propose to attempt the task of apportioning responsibility between the authors of the Joint Report. Some critics, indeed, profess to be equipped for this undertaking, and are ready to attribute each separate feature of the constitution to Lord Chelmsford or to Mr. Montagu as the case may be, but for ourselves we prefer to accept it as the joint product of two statesmen who, in the words of the former, worked together with the utmost harmony and goodwill, and who were assisted by some of the ablest men now employed in the service of India. The share of Lord Chelmsford is in any case large; he has himself claimed that the practical initiative was his, and it can be claimed on his behalf that from the time when his view of the position was formed, he has never wavered in the determination to carry his policy to a successful issue, that he has allowed nothing to turn him from his course, that he has discarded time-honoured doctrines and practices when they stood in his way, and that he has been discouraged neither by the hesitation of colleagues, nor by the blows of fortune. The great question remains: Has he judged rightly? and we can answer only that time will show. As yet there is no unanimity among competent critics; it may be that he has misread essential facts, or that the structure reared by him may prove to be too heavy for the foundation on which he had to build; the stresses to which it is exposed will not produce their full effect at once; and while we regard the immediate prospect as hopeful, certainly much less gloomy than it appeared in the autumn of last year, we are not yet prepared to anticipate the final verdict. If Lord Chelmsford's great work stands the test of time, posterity will award him a high place among the statesmen of the Empire, and among the protagonists in the struggle against the secular traditions of Asia; should it fail, the judgment on his achievement must be unfavourable; but, whatever the event may be, we are justified in saying that he will be remembered as a Viceroy who, in a time of the utmost stress, devoted to the service of India the abilities and the qualities of a great English gentleman.

IN THE SECESSION STATES.

ROVING NOTES.

(BY OUR BELGRADE CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, March 11.

Your Belgrade Correspondent, being on tour, feels justified in writing from Bucharest, *de passage*, without any idea of trespassing on the domain of his colleague in Roumania; for he knows nothing of the politics or the language of the country, but finds much of interest on his brief visit. In the first place, after a rather long visit to Europe it was



"THE MAID OF THE INN."

An example of picturesque Roumanian costume.

quite nice to find oneself in the dear old East again; though on leaving the Simplon and going out into the frozen streets and arctic temperature, the scene recalled Russia rather than the Balkans, especially the heavy wadded coats of the cabbies, of the genuine Roumanians, as well as of the Russians of that strange sect the *Skoptsi*, who submit themselves to the strangest self-denying ordinance, and show their devotion to the doctrines of Malthus in their beardless and wrinkled faces.

Bucharest is certainly ahead of Belgrade in many respects, and, in spite of the constant grows against the cost of living, seems cheaper in many ways. Cabs are a great deal cheaper, and driving in them is less of a weariness of the flesh, owing to the flatter roads; and one misses those terrible pavings which some Serbs love so much that they wish to keep them in perpetuity. There is no accounting for taste, for they are, if possible, worse than the famous "pavé pointu" of Petrograd.

The Roumanian peasant does not seem to be so genial a soul as the Serb. He is said to be lazy, and it appears that he is now making such fabulous sums by hiring out his oxen

and carts for transport that he refuses to work in his fields, at least for more than the bare necessities of his family. His independence and indifference to other people's wants were well illustrated when a motor was snowed up in a drift about fifteen kilos outside the town. Ten peasants with oxen and empty carts came by, and were implored by the desperate chauffeur and passengers to lend their beasts to pull the car out of the drift, and were offered untold sums for their trouble. But not they! They had their day's work, and went stolidly by, untempted by the hundreds of lei for a few minutes' work, and indifferent to the troubles of the travellers. Presently there came by a broken-down car, towed by two pair of oxen. A Hungarian chauffeur sat



IN TRANSYLVANIA. "THE BLACK TOWER."

An old Saxon church, built for refuge against the Turks. Modern church in background.

at the wheel. As a brother of the road he was asked to lend at least a pair of the animals, just to get the car out of its trouble. But the selfish Magyar simply swore beautifully, and ordered his peasants to drive on. But they had some more human elements in them, and were persuaded to harness up the leaders, and left the protesting Magyar with a single pair, which was quite capable of pulling him. With the other pair the peasants extricated the chilled and miserable travellers; for a blizzard was blowing. For a quarter of an hour's work these boys earned 300 lei, for they would not look at less, and as they were presumably earning vast sums for towing the Magyar some twenty or thirty kilometres, and picked up an extra 300 lei *en passant*, it is hardly to be wondered at that they find it better to earn in a week with their oxen more than they would probably make in a year by agriculture. It is, however, a serious thing for the country.

One does not notice many traces of the war, beyond an inscription on some of the bank notes to the effect that they



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are issued on the basis of a special privilege, and covered by a deposit in the Imperial German Bank in Berlin. Another inscription, not reminiscent of the war, was too good to pass by, as a specimen of English as she is wrote. It was in the *wagon-lit* office, to the effect that each ticket issued has to be signed by the owner, otherwise the traveller *riks the run* to find no place at his disposal at the station.

LWOW (LEMBERG), March 20.

The Belgrade-Zagreb Correspondent is outside his beat when travelling in these northern regions; but still there is a certain similarity with the more genial climates of the Danube. Two Slavonic languages are spoken here—Polish and Ruthenian—and here, too, we find a young Slavonic State struggling with the same problems. Here we find also plenty of traces of the ravages of the war, and here are racial hatred and plots and intrigues.

Czernowitz is in Roumania, but so far from the province of your Bucharest Correspondent that a mention may be permitted. It is a fine town of big stucco houses, in the usual Austrian style, and one or two quite fine buildings, especially the Residenz. But one has to look quite closely



IN TRANSYLVANIA, A FOREST ROAD.

to find anything in it Roumanian, except the uniforms and some new official inscriptions, or anything Slav, beyond the name, except a few unobtrusive newspapers in Polish and Ruthenian. For the town is essentially German. Almost all the names over the shops are German, and Slavonic names are no rarer than in Berlin. German is the commonest language, and many of the inhabitants know no other. In some form or other, too, it is the language of the Jews who form so large a portion of the population, all stamped with that unmistakable Yiddish look, with unkempt whiskers and beards, shabby black hats, and long, greasy gabardines. The place swarms with men that could have stood as models for Fagin.

The market place is far less interesting than one would expect in the Bukovina, and one notices but few pretty peasant costumes, though the Slavonic type is seen in the country folk who bring in their wares to sell. They are mostly of that strong, coarse type that one associates with the Russian mujik, and their Ruthenian tongue is comprehensible to anyone who knows Russian. The town shows but few traces of the war, although it changed hands so often. There are a few battered houses near the station, and a kilometre or two outside, beyond the Pruth, there is a large military cemetery in an orchard.

The journey from Czernowitz to Lwow, better known under the German name of Lemberg, is to be avoided. There

is no first class, nor are the trains lit. Customs, passports, and other delays are interminable. There is a wait of over three hours at the last Roumanian station, and nearly as much at the first Polish one. To make matters worse, we were told that the thawing ice on the Dniester had broken the bridge, and that passengers would be obliged to walk across and man-haul their baggage at five o'clock in the morning. Fortunately, we were spared this experience, as the Poles had succeeded in patching up the bridge.

On approaching Lwow, one is surprised to see barbed wire entanglements still standing. This, it appears, is not a relic of 1914-15, but of 1919, when the Poles and the Ukrainians were having a private war on their own account for the possession of the much-prized trophy of Lwow; and it is left as a matter of precaution in view of further troubles with the Ukrainians or the Bolsheviks.

Lwow is a fine city, European in type, with good buildings, but dirty. It has some hotels which are superior to the average accommodation offered by Austro-Hungarian provincial towns, but the difficulty is to get a room in one, here as elsewhere in Europe. For the place is full of refugees from across the Bolshevik frontier, and a good sound tip to the hall porter is the only remedy. After all, if the tip is big enough, he can always turn somebody out and swear that the room is requisitioned for a Minister. This method is not without its advantages, but it leaves a certain feeling of insecurity of title.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE.

At the Greek Church of St. Sophia, Moscow Road, Bayswater, on April 10, a *Te Deum* was sung in celebration of the centenary of the Greek War of Independence. The Great Archimandrite officiated, and was assisted by the Archimandrite. There was a large congregation. Among those present were M. Alexandre Rizo-Rangabé, the Greek Minister, with Mme. Rizo-Rangabé, M. Gennadius, Hon. Greek Minister, M. and Mme. Mango, M. and Mme. Primenos, M. and Mme. Ambatielos, M. Yanopoulos, M. Inglessis, M. Vikelas, Captain Kriezis, Colonel Vlassis, Major and Mme. Coliopoulos, Major Rogoti, Captain and Mme. Kypriote, Admiral Mark Kerr, M. Loutsis, M. Kyriakides, Captain Sakellaris, M. G. Marchetti, Mme. Phranzis, and M. Vasiliadi. Subsequently a reception was held by M. and Mme. Rangabé at the Legation.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Mesopotamia Oilfields.

The question of concessions for oil in Mesopotamia is the principal subject dealt with in correspondence between the British Government and the United States Ambassador regarding economic rights in mandated territories, which was issued last week as a White Paper. The most important part of the correspondence is a long despatch from Lord Curzon in reply to a Note from the American Secretary of State, in which he states in detail the British case with regard to the Mesopotamian oilfields. He points out that the whole of the oilfields to which the provisions in the San Remo agreement relating to Mesopotamia refer are the subject of a concession granted before the war by the Turkish Government to the Turkish Petroleum Company as the result of British and German negotiations, and in which the German share was 25 per cent. But for the war the exploitation of the oilfields would long ago have been begun, and he remarks that "it can hardly be contended that his Majesty's Government should now question the validity of an undertaking granted by the Turkish Government in return for consideration received." This part of the argument is closed with the very neat rejoinder that, "and I may add, since the United States Government will presumably expect his Majesty's Government to recognise the rights acquired by the Standard Oil Company in Palestine from the Turkish Government, that these rights . . . are no stronger than those of the Turkish Petroleum Company."

French and Arab Interests.

France's position in regard to the oilfields, it is pointed out, is simply that the German interests have been allocated to our Ally in return for facilities by which it will be possible for the oil to reach the Mediterranean. It is, in short, as Lord Curzon aptly remarks, "the adaptation of pre-war arrangements to existing conditions," and he maintains that the arrangement effected is in the best interests of the Arab State. "Neither the rights of the Turkish Petroleum Company," he continues, "nor the provisions of the San Remo Agreement, will preclude the Arab State from enjoying the full benefit of ownership or from prescribing the conditions on which the oilfields shall be developed." In view of the facts so ably set forth—the whole document is a model of its kind for careful and precise marshalling of the facts—it is difficult to see how America can any longer maintain her case. There is no question of discrimination against the United States, but merely of the maintenance of rights acquired before the war. Apart from the concession in question, it is open to America or to any other country to assist in the development of Mesopotamia's resources, and there is no reason in the world why American and British oil interests should not work amicably together there.

Causes of the Trade Decline.

In his speech at the general meeting of the Chartered Bank Sir Montagu Turner touched on the great trade decline, and pointed out that it is not reasonable to attribute it to any one particular cause, such as the Excess Profits Tax, the labour situation, or the exchanges. Several causes, he added, had come into play—the unsettled world conditions, financial disorder in Central Europe reacting on the exchange, lavish expenditure in unproductive avenues, and especially in this country restriction of output "to a point which rendered it impossible to compete with other nations where each individual was allowed to work to the utmost limit of his capacity without let or hindrance." Sir Montagu further emphasised the point that there was an insufficient appreciation of the fact of the temporary disappearance of Russia from the world of civilisation, "that France, Germany, and Italy could no longer participate as formerly in the trade of the world; in other words that the purchasing power of civilised nations in Europe had dwindled to comparative insignificance."

The Indian Trade Outlook.

Dealing with the effect of the serious decline in the Eastern exchanges on the disposal of manufactured goods in the various markets, Sir Montagu pointed out that the

position had been aggravated in India by the failure of the south-west monsoon and the winter rains in the north of India, by political troubles, and by the refusal of Indian importers to recognise the validity of contracts with European shippers. As regards the rupee exchange, he held forth no hopes of any but a slow appreciation. "On this side," he said, "there are more stocks than we can at present dispose of in the case of tea, jute, cotton, hides, rubber, and hemp, and until these surplus stocks are worked off and prices in India are adjusted to prices on this side we can look for no great improvement in the export trade from India, nor in the appreciation of the rupee. This process of appreciation is likely to be slow unless some unexpected factor is introduced." Sir Montagu ended with a word of encouragement regarding the future course of Eastern trade generally, stating that "indications from the several spheres point to a distinctly better undertone, which we hope will in course of time develop."

Bulgaria's Ports.

I find that the statement of the Bulgarian Minister of Commerce during his recent visit to this country that British shipping lines have no direct communication with Bulgarian ports has given rise to misapprehension in certain quarters, where it has been interpreted as implying that there are no regular sailings from this country. Of course, that was not the meaning the speaker intended to convey. There are, I believe, five lines serving the ports of Varna and Bourgas, and two of them maintain regular and frequent services between Great Britain and Bulgaria, notably the Cunard and Johnston Lines. This is so well known that I would not refer to it but for the misconception that has arisen. What the sentence in question was intended to imply was that there is no sea connection with Bulgaria, other than the roundabout way through the Dardanelles. That is, of course, perfectly intelligible, because while the freedom of the Dardanelles passage would seem now to be settled, he would be a venturesome individual who would assert in these uncertain times that later developments may not once again place Bulgaria in the position of being dependent on the will of a third party for her sea communications with Western Europe.

Export Credits.

One of the leading provincial Chambers of Commerce is responsible for an interesting addition to the long list of export credit schemes. Under this scheme the risk would be equally shared by the Government and the exporter, and the *modus operandi* would be for the exporter to obtain the permission of the Board of Trade to do business, and having undertaken half the risk he would be free to carry out the transaction in his own way. Unquestionably the scheme has its attractions, but it has seen light too late in the day to have any chance of being adopted, unless it should be necessary to supplement the present Government scheme, when it would, no doubt, come in for consideration.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, March 30.

Montenegrin Perper Currency.

The question of the exchange of the Montenegrin perper currency, which, as recorded in *THE NEAR EAST*, was dealt with on generous terms by the late M. Kosta Stoyanovich when Minister of Finance, has been reopened by his successor, Dr. Kumanudi, who has postponed the settlement pending reference to the Consulting Committee of Finance and then to the Ministerial Council.

New Shipping Line.

It is announced that a London shipowner has formed a new steamship service in which financial houses in Belgrade and Zagreb are taking part. The new company already owns three 9,000-ton vessels, and will open its Trans-atlantic service in three months' time between New York and Gruz (Gravosa) and other Adriatic ports.

Development of Fishing Industry.

The fishing industry is to be an important source of revenue. Hitherto it has brought in only from two to three hundred thousand dinars a year. Under the new scheme it is estimated that it will bring in ten millions in the first year, and that this will gradually increase. All feudal fishing rights are abolished, and the rights over all lakes and rivers throughout the country pass to the State. Small lakes and ponds will be granted to the local authorities, and private landowners will retain the rights in streams passing entirely through their property. In sea-fishing the littoral parishes have the right of free fishing for a distance of one English mile from the coast, beyond which, in territorial waters, the rights belong to the State.

New Postal Tariff.

A new postal tariff for international service is announced to come into force from April 1. On an ordinary letter up to 20 grammes the charge will be one dinar, and half-a-dinar for each additional 20 grammes. Postcards will be charged half-a-dinar, and reply-postcards a dinar. Printed matter is rated at 20 para for every 50 grammes, and sample post at the same rate. Registration fee is one dinar.

Railway Services and Coal Supplies.

By the decision of the International Conference in Bern, a series of new train services will come into operation on June 1. This means that for the services in Yugoslavia the daily consumption of fuel will be raised from 4,150 tons of coal to 5,400 tons. The railway directorates are supplied as follows:—Belgrade, by the State colliery at Senj; Zagreb and Liubliana, by local pits; Subotitsa, from Pechuy; Sarajevo, by Mostar; and the Steamship Syndicate, partly from Bosnia and partly from Pechuy. Unfortunately, the output from the native collieries can hardly meet the present requirements, and the output from Pechuy available for Yugoslavia depends upon the Reparations Commission. Therefore, in order to be in a position to maintain regularity of service, the Ministry of Communications has resolved always to carry a three months' reserve in stock, and this must be obtained from abroad, either from Czechoslovakia or from England, or from both. The total reserve required is 150,000 tons, of

which two-thirds are to be in the form of coal and one-third as briquettes.

"Politika's" New Home.

Building is going on actively in Belgrade in spite of the high cost of materials and labour. A new five-floor house has been begun in Poenkareva Street, to be the new premises of the newspaper *Politika*. It is hoped to transfer the press to its new quarters in July, and to have the building finished by November 1. The site was formerly occupied by what was fifty years ago the finest building in the town, a two-storey house occupied by the Sardinian Consul. Here Prince Michael was a constant visitor, as he was very friendly with the Consul, and with him followed with intense interest the emancipation and unification of Italy. To the Prince this was an occasion for rejoicing, for it was his ambition to effect a similar liberation and unification of all the South Slavs and Christians of the Turkish dominions in the Balkans, and he would probably have succeeded but for the intrigues of Russia and Austria. Britain, too, with her pro-Turk-anti-Russian policy, threw obstacles in the way. The *Politika* is an interesting paper, and its director, Dr. Ribnikar, is to be congratulated upon his enterprise. The founder of the paper, Captain Vladislav Ribnikar, was killed in the early days of the war (on September 1, 1914), and his brother, the editor, Captain Darko Ribnikar, fell the previous day.

A Deal that Failed.

During the bad days before the Treaty of Rapallo, when d'Annunzio was still holding court at Fiume, reproaches were frequently laid against unpatriotic merchants and tradesmen in the neighbouring districts of dealing with the poet and with the Italians, who were then regarded as little short of enemies. A story now comes through that these same tradesmen had prepared many truckloads of meat, bacon, and stock for sending into Italy for sale before Easter, as a consequence of which the price of such commodities in Liubliana went up considerably. Suddenly there burst upon them the news that the Italian Government has forbidden the importation of meat and cattle from Yugoslavia, and so these big stocks are thrown on the market and down came the prices, to the consternation of the tradesmen and the delight of the population.

Miscellaneous.

Traffic with Bulgaria, which was hitherto confined to the Tzaribrod route, is now open the entire length of the frontier.

Twenty-five para notes will shortly be issued.

Some one-dinar notes have appeared in circulation with an error in the overprint in the crown values in the Cyrillic text, where the U and the R have been transposed in the word "krone," so that the word appears as "kyrhe" instead of "kryhe." But as the Croatian and Slovene text in the overprint is in order, and the notes themselves are good, the Ministry has decided to issue them for circulation, and they are to be accepted as legal tender.

In the forthcoming negotiations for a commercial treaty between Italy and Yugoslavia the latter kingdom will be represented by Dr. Michael Popovich, a former Minister of Finance; by Dr. Ante Trumbich, former Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Dr. Milan Todorovich, from the Ministry of Commerce.

A project has been completed by the Ministry of Public Works for the erection of a main electrical power station at Kostolatz to supply Belgrade and the whole of the area with light and power. The estimates for the central station and eight sub-stations provide for six million dinars, which was estimated for in last year's Budget. Work upon the station will commence in June, and the plant is to be completed by September, 1922.

The Government has decided to found an agrarian bank with a capital of 10,000,000 dinars to afford financial help to the agricultural associations. It has also been resolved to increase the pensions to war invalids, and to pay them in dinars throughout the country.

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ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, March 29.

Fire at Flour Mill.

A very destructive fire broke out last night in a large flour mill which had just been sold by the bank Mar-moroch Blank for the sum of twelve million lei. The building was completely destroyed, with all its machinery and some twenty waggons of flour and an equal quantity of bran. The damage is estimated at ten million lei. The Fire Brigade, being very imperfectly equipped, were quite unable to quench the flames, though they succeeded in preventing their taking a hold on the neighbouring buildings. Great praise has been given to the Boy Scouts, who saved the archives and other valuables.

Export of Railway Sleepers.

A special commission charged with the control of the export of railway sleepers has come to the following decisions, published in the *Moniteur Official*:—1. Owners of beech sleepers wishing to obtain an export permit in the proportion of 60 per cent. must give proof that they have delivered 40 per cent. of the exportable quantity to the head office of the State Railways at a price of 20 lei each, departure station. 2. Owners of oak sleepers wishing to obtain an export permit in a proportion of 50 per cent. must give proof that they have delivered to the head office of the State Railways sleepers equal to 50 per cent. of the quantity exported and at the following prices:—(a) Sleepers of 1st class (7 to the cubic metre) at 29 lei each, departure station; (b) sleepers of 2nd class (9 to the cubic metre) at 25 lei each, departure station; (c) sleepers of 3rd class (14 to the cubic metre), at 18 lei each, departure station.

An Economic Congress.

A congress of traders from the new provinces is at present holding meetings in Bucharest, and is engaged in drawing up a scheme of proposals to be submitted to the Government for the improvement of trade conditions. Their desiderata include an import tax on articles manufactured in the country, the reduction or complete abolition of export taxes, and the abandonment of import taxes on machines which cannot be manufactured in Roumania.

Visit of Mayor of Lyons.

During the past week Bucharest has been entertaining the Mayor of Lyons, M. Herriot, who, before his departure, gave a donation of 500 francs for the war orphans. The Lyons Fair, which is still proceeding, has awakened a good deal of interest in commercial circles here, and delegates from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce have visited it. M. Herriot gave two public lectures on "The Spirit of France," which were attended by many notabilities of the city. It is rumoured in the Press that he had several interviews with Government officials with a view to raising a loan in France.

Miscellaneous.

M. Trancu-Jassy, Minister of Labour, will bring in a Bill this week for the suppression of vagabondage and begging, and the founding of homes for boys with criminal propensities, and labour colonies. This is a much-needed measure, and will doubtless receive support from most quarters.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA (undated).

Unfavourable Harvest Outlook.

The harvest prospects are not so good as they were. Rain is badly required, and if it does not fall shortly the barley harvest will be considerably less than was expected.

Live Stock Show.

The Agricultural Department held a ram show at Exomitochi village on the 22nd, which created considerable interest amongst the shepherds in the Messoria; also a sale of pure bred middle white pigs and white Leghorn cockerels from the Government stud farm at Athalassa.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL DIVIDENDS.

In the House of Commons on April 6 Mr. Wise asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he would state the amount the British Government has invested in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company and the percentage of the Ordinary dividends since 1913.

Commander Hilton-Young (Secretary to the Treasury): The amount of cash invested is £4,250,000. The dividends on Ordinary shares have been as follows:—For the year to March 31, 1917 (the first dividend paid), 6 per cent., less tax; year to March 31, 1918, 8 per cent., tax free; 1919, 10 per cent., tax free; 1920, 20 per cent., less tax.

The Banca Commerciale Italiana and Romana, of Bucharest, has opened a branch at Galatz.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Bulgaria.

Creosote, etc.—The Bulgarian Ministry of Railways invites tenders for 1,000 tons of creosote and 50 tons of chloride of zinc. May 9.

Egypt.

School Supplies.—The Department of Overseas Trade has received from H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt particulars of the requirements of the Egyptian Ministry of Education for the year 1921-1922. These requirements comprise various descriptions of school furniture, carpets, oilcloth, safes, flags, iron pegs, rubber hose, ropes, wire, brass nozzles, etc. Specifications, quantities, and conditions of tender may be inspected in the Enquiry Room, Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1. Tenders have to be submitted to the Stores Department, Ministry of Education, Sharia el Insha, Cairo, not later than April 23.

Canvas, Hides, Nainsook, Cloth.—The Egyptian War Department invite tenders for the supply of canvas, W.P., chocolate colour; hides (collar and bridle), and basils. Tenders due on April 22. 37,500 yards of cotton nainsook; 400 yards of dark blue artillery cloth. Tenders due April 23. Samples may be seen at the Office of the Inspecting Engineer to the Egyptian Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1.

Globes, Etc.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of glass globes, candles, and mats required for the Hejaz. April 25.

Millboard.—The Controller of Printing and Stationery, Old Ismailia Palace, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 11,000 kilos of millboard. May 19.

Roumania.

Tinned Meat.—The Roumanian Ministry of War is inviting quotations for the supply of four million rations of tinned meat in tins of 400 grammes each. The meat should be of 1921 production if possible. Quotations should be addressed to "Ministère de la Guerre, 7^{ème} Direction Intendance, Rue Jules Michelet Nr. 28, Bucharest." Full particulars regarding conditions of manufacture, year of preparation, price, and proposed method of payment should be given, and it should also be stated whether credit facilities will be given. Particulars may be obtained on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

Yugoslavia.

Cigarette Paper.—Tenders are invited by the Bureau of the State Tobacco Monopoly of Yugoslavia for the supply of 13,750 reams of cigarette paper, each ream of 1,000 sheets of 430/730mm., weight per square metre 14.15 grams, percentage of ash 5 per cent., breaking point 5,000 metres, made of first-class materials. Tenders must be made before 11 a.m. on April 25. Details of the contract may be obtained from the Banque Franco-Serbe (London Agency), 30, Coleman Street, E.C.2.

Cotton Cloth.—The Army Clothing Department (Ekonomsko Odeljenje), Donji Grad, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply of:—1,000,000 metres of cotton cloth ("American") (unbleached) for shirts, etc.; 1,000,000 metres of cotton cloth ("American") (unbleached) for sheets; 7,000,000 metres of cotton cloth for straw mattress covers. A deposit of 10 per cent. for Yugoslav subjects and 20 per cent. for foreigners must be made before the tenders are opened. Each offer must bear a 10 dinar duty stamp. All particulars may be obtained upon application to the Department of Overseas Trade (Textile Section), 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1. April 25.

TENDERS FOR GREEK ARMY REQUIREMENTS.

A decree concerning the presentation of tenders for the requirements of the Greek Army was published in a recent issue of the Greek Government *Gazette*. It states that military tenders are divided into three categories: (1) General tenders concerning the annual supplies for the army, (2) particular tenders for the maintenance of the army, and (3) extraordinary tenders for unforeseen requirements. All tenders will be published in the Government *Gazette* and in daily newspapers for three consecutive days, at least 30-40 days before the adjudication for general tenders, and 14-25 days for particular tenders. In the case of extraordinary tenders the question of adjudication is left to the discretion of the Ministry of War. Where samples have to be produced by tenderers they must be delivered to the Military Department at least two days before the adjudication. A tender made after the end of the adjudication, and prior to the approval of the Minister, is only acceptable if the tenderer declares in writing that his offer is a firm one.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal from March 25 to 31 amounted to 3,130,000 francs, against 3,120,000 francs for the corresponding period last year.

The Yugoslav Government has prohibited all exportation to all countries.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Steaua Romana Company is to be held at Bucharest on April 25, when proposals will be put forward for the increase of the capital from 300 to 310 million lei.

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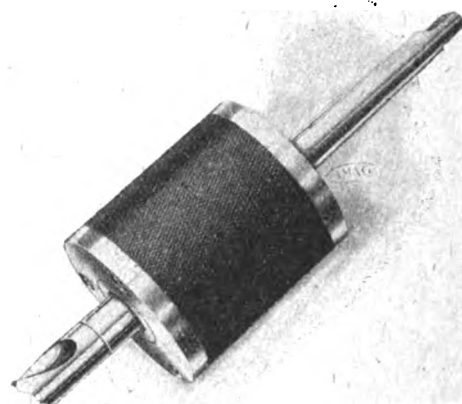
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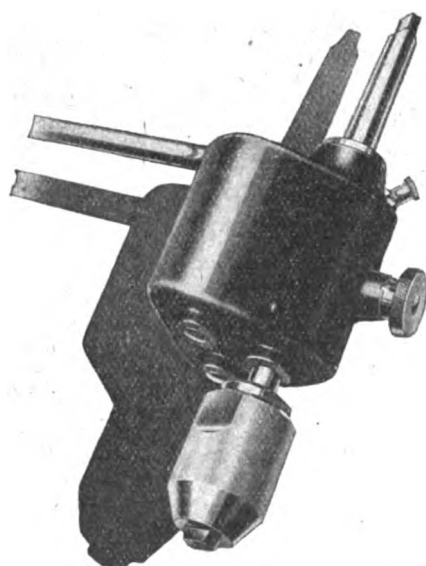
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THE EGYPTIAN BUDGET. UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, March 27.

The financial authorities have had considerable difficulty in framing the estimates for the new financial year, owing to the depressed nature of the local economic situation and the uncertainty of the outlook. The budget for 1921-1922, which the Council of Ministers approved at its sitting to-day, indicates clearly how the State finances are being affected.

Revenue is fixed at ££36,701,000 and expenditure at ££38,682,000, the estimated deficit of ££1,981,000 being provided for by a draft on the general reserve. Compared with 1920-1921, these figures show a falling off of ££3,570,000 in revenue, and ££1,589,000 in expenditure, while in the previous budget the two sides of the account balanced.

The diminution in revenue is in reality greater than appears by comparison with the 1920-1921 totals, since on the receipt side is included an amount of ££4,123,000 from the sales of wheat, flour, meat, etc., which the Government has been purchasing for the local population. Also, owing to the increase in the tobacco tariff, an extra ££800,000 is expected under this head, so that the falling off in revenue is in reality in the neighbourhood of ££8,500,000.

As regards the expenditure, an amount of ££4,709,000 is provided for the cost of the flour and other articles of first necessity, the proceeds of which are credited under receipts, as mentioned above. This represents an increase of ££2,709,000 compared with the credit provided in the preceding year. In addition, a sum of ££650,000 is included for the settlement of claims arising out of the 1919 events. This item is really the carry-forward of the balance left unexpended out of the ££954,000 provided under this head in the preceding year, and in consequence it will be more correct to say that expenditure has been reduced by ££3,993,000. (Incidentally, it transpires from these figures that the loss on the Government purchase and sale of flour, etc., will be in the neighbourhood of ££3,000,000.)

The Finance Committee, in its note on the budget, points out that the decrease in expenditure is due in a certain measure to the fall in the cost of materials, etc., but that the main cause is the drastic cutting down of the departmental budgets. If it had been possible, further reductions would have been made in consequence of the considerable diminution in receipts which may be expected as a result of the fall in the price of cotton; but, as the committee points out, the transition from a year of plenty to a year of want is not easy, especially as the important new works started in 1920-1921 must be carried out, and no reduction in that respect would have been justifiable.

No provision has been made in the new budget for the adoption of the recommendations of the Commission which is studying the re-classification of the Government cadre, as that Commission has not yet reported and the extra cost of its recommendations have not yet been calculated. It is therefore probable that the draft on the general reserve will have to be increased in order to meet this extra charge.

Coming now to details, the main items worthy of note on the revenue side are:—Customs: The total diminution is ££2,421,000. Import dues are expected to fall off by ££2,057,000, owing to the decrease in the purchasing power of the country; export dues are estimated at ££693,000 less, for although the holding up of cotton during the past year cannot fail to increase arrivals in Alexandria and compensate for the smaller area cultivated in 1921, the very much lower price will considerably affect the total collected in dues. If, as mentioned above, the tobacco tariff and certain quay dues had not been raised the reduction in Customs receipts would have been over ££3,000,000.

Railway receipts are expected to be ££280,000 less, owing to the decrease in passenger and goods traffic. On the other hand, Post Office receipts are estimated at ££105,000 more, due to the recent raising of the foreign postage and development of the service. State domains are expected to produce ££536,000 less, owing to the fall in the price of cotton and other agricultural commodities, while interest on funds is fixed at ££1,003,000 less, due to the contraction in the note issue and the decrease in interest on investments owing to the sale of a portion of the stocks in which the reserve is invested. Extraordinary receipts, which include sale of land, are fixed at ££526,000, as against ££4,596,000 in the preceding year. The decrease is due to the fact that it is not anticipated that there will be much demand for land during the coming year.

On the expenditure side, in addition to the two items mentioned above, the most noteworthy differences are:—Under Ministry of Finance there is an increase of ££262,365 under Central Administration due to the purchase of the Koubbeh Palace from the ex-Khedive's estate at a price of ££135,000, and to the provision of a credit of ££99,000 for

the completion of the oil refinery at Suez and the continuation of the geological survey. Under the Mines Department a sum of ££90,500 is also provided for oil-boring experiments. The Civil List of the Sultan shows a net increase of ££157,979, a sum of ££230,000 is provided for the settlement of the repairs to the Sultania yacht "Mahrousa," and one of ££55,500 for further repairs in the various palaces. Under Ghaffirs an increase of ££255,598 is provided. This may be considered to be set off by an increase of ££214,000 in the receipts estimated for the current year, and under War Office there is an increase of ££207,018, due mainly to the recent improvement in the rates of pay.

The main decreases in expenditure are under irrigation, Cairo Tanzim, railways, ports and lights, and indemnities for increased cost of living. Under irrigation there is an increase of ££100,269 under ordinary expenditure, but a decrease of ££550,705 under new works. The latter include ££400,000 for the White Nile reservoir and ££146,000 for work at Abukir. Under railways the decrease amounts to ££2,955,680. This is due to the fact that there is a large stock of coal and material which has been paid for in previous years. The credit for the railways includes an amount of ££1,099,500 for the purchase and repair of rolling stock, etc., but this credit will only just be sufficient for carrying on, and will only permit in a very small degree the undertaking of the arrears of work which had accumulated during the war. The reduction in the indemnities for increased cost of living is due to the recent cutting off of one-third of the war gratuity granted to officials.

With regard to the draft on the general reserve, this is not after all surprising. In a certain measure it is caused by extraordinary expenditure due to the political and the world economic situation. In addition, in the ordinary expenditure are included such items as ££1,099,500 for purchase and repair of rolling stock on the railways, work which should have been done in the war years when ample credits for such expenditure were provided. The credits were not used owing to the difficulty in obtaining the necessary material, and the non-spending of these amounts on repair and upkeep, which has been estimated to amount to approximately ££7,000,000, has meant that surpluses resulted in the war years, and went to inflate the reserve, which is now being called upon to meet extra expenditure in this respect, and drafts on which are, in the circumstances, fully justified, and in fact are what one would have expected. The outlook at the present moment, it is true, is not in regard to the future promising, but there is really no just cause for pessimism, and if only the local political situation can be satisfactorily settled so that all energies can be concentrated on constructive and remunerative work we shall soon find that the country has righted itself, for at bottom it is sound, and its rich natural resources are undamaged.

BANK OF ROUMANIA.

On and after April 18 the address of the Bank of Roumania, Ltd., will be 17, Tokenhouse Yard, Lothbury, E.C.2. The telephone numbers and telegraphic address of the bank will not be changed.

The Egyptian Government has issued a decree fixing the Customs duties on coal and frozen meat at 8 per cent. *ad valorem*, on timber at 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, and on benzine and mineral oil for lubrication at 15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

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 of the company, free of income-tax, for the half-year ended March 31 last. Warrants will be posted on May 18.

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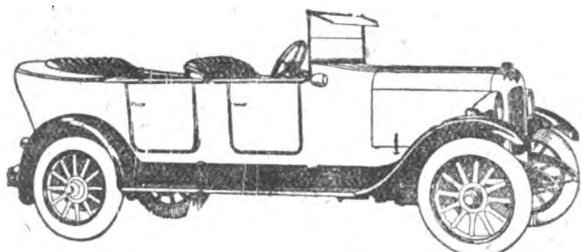
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ENGINEERING.

Motor Road Races.

It is now practically certain that the Tourist Trophy races for all classes of motor-cars will be held in the Isle of Man next year, in addition to a number of other representative and valuable trials. It appears that a certain amount of misapprehension exists with regard to the attitude of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders on the subject of motor-car road races and trials, and having been in correspondence with the society on the subject I am able to say that early last year the society considered the question of road events for 1921. A large number of British car manufacturers expressed the view that any such events would be undesirable in the then state of the industry, and a special meeting of manufacturers and importers was afterwards convened, when a large majority were of opinion that no such event was desirable for this year. More recently the question again arose, and a further meeting, which I believe was thoroughly representative, came to a similar decision. This second meeting further expressed the opinion that the society should take early steps with regard to road events for 1922. Consequently the society immediately got into touch with the Royal Automobile and the Royal Scottish Automobile Clubs with a view to arranging a comprehensive programme of road events next year which should cater for all classes of motor-cars. Considerable progress has already been made in this direction, and further developments will be watched with interest both by the trade and the motoring public.

A New Power Saw.

A new pattern of power-driven hack saw has recently been introduced by Messrs. Alfred Herbert, Ltd., of Coventry, which presents a number of novel and interesting features. It is claimed to be the first machine of its kind to be fitted with an all-gear drive and a single pulley drive, the nearest approach to this having been that of certain American designers, who have supplied a separate gear-box as an extra attachment when specially desired. In the new British production, which is known as the "Novel," the three-speed gear is an integral part of the body of the machine.

From a description supplied, it appears that steel gears, running in an oil bath, are filled and are immediately accessible by merely lifting the cover of the gear-box. The pulley speed is 180 revolutions per minute, and the gears are so proportioned that speeds of 125, 90, and 60 strokes per minute are available at will. This range is ample to enable the machine to deal with every kind of metal from cast-iron and tool or mild steel to bronze, copper, or ordinary yellow brass. A machine of this kind would be found invaluable in a stores or a general engineer's workshop where a variety of materials have to be dealt with in the day's work. It would also be a valuable adjunct to, a repair shop wherein all classes of work are carried out.

Cutting is effected, as usual, on the "draw" stroke and by means of a simple clutch arrangement, which grips a square bar attached to the saw frame; the blade is lifted clear of the work on the return stroke, thus preventing rubbing, loss of power by friction, and undue wear of the teeth. The clutch is of the simplest possible design, and has no teeth to wear, and so cannot easily get out of adjustment or fail to carry out its work. As is usual in this class of tool, the feed is by gravity, and a means is provided whereby additional weight can be brought to bear on the blade when necessary.

As regards the general design, the base of the machine forms a tank, in which the used lubricating suds collect and from which they are driven back by means of a pump to the point of contact between the saw and the work. The pump is of the well-known plunger type, which has been proved to be thoroughly reliable and satisfactory in action. In fact, exhaustive tests of the most practical character have proved its superiority to most forms of geared or shutter pumps, one of the reasons for this being that it is able to deal with a lubricant which contains a good deal of dirt and metal cuttings held in suspension. The drive of the pump is so arranged that it stops and starts by the mere action of turning on and turning off the tap regulating the supply of lubricant to the work, and the pressure cannot by any means be increased in the pipes beyond that required to give an ample and sufficient supply of suds.

The work is held in a vice of special design, which has a loose jaw swivelling through an angle of 45 degrees. This permits of tapering or irregular work being held firmly without risk of slipping, and as the fast jaw can be set to any required angle with the saw blade between 90 and 45 degrees, it is possible for work to be cut at practically any angle.

The machine is started by means of a friction clutch, and as soon as the cut has reached the required depth it is thrown out of action and stopped automatically. Only half

horse-power is required to drive the machine, and it may be of interest to mention that it can be adjusted to take blades of 10, 12, or 14 inches in length.

Slag for Concrete.

The increased use of concrete in construction work has caused a good deal of attention to be paid to the question of suitable material, or "aggregate," for mixing with the cement. Good sharp, coarse gravel is not always obtainable, and whilst the use of ground blast furnace slag has been suggested, it has not as yet come into considerable favour by reason of the suspicion with which any new and apparently untested material is regarded. A number of tests, however, have recently been carried out on the value of slags for both fine and coarse aggregates, and these go to show that concrete so made is about equal in strength to that made with ordinary coarse river sand and gravel. The conclusions arrived at are that crushed slag as a coarse aggregate produces concrete of as high a quality as that made with gravel. The tests were not sufficiently extensive to determine the durability of the slag concrete, but to the extent of the tests there were no signs of disintegration due to the residue of sulphur in the slag. It is interesting to note that slag sand, by reason of its lack of fine material, does not produce an easily workable concrete when used as a fine aggregate. If it is necessary to use it, through the absence of a better material, it may be improved by mixing it with a certain proportion of fine sea sand or slaked lime; but, speaking generally, it would seem better to avoid the use of finely crushed slag when any other suitable material is available.

The British Engineering Standards Association has published a revised edition of its specification for Portland cement which contains one or two marked additions to, or alterations from, previous editions. The association informs me that the following are the principal modifications:—

(1) A paragraph has been inserted making it clear that no cement to which slag has been added, or which is a mixture of Portland cement and slag, will comply with the specification.

(2) Provision has been made for sampling cement when stored in deep silos.

(3) The specific gravity test has been eliminated.

(4) The aeration of cement before testing for setting time has been dispensed with.

(5) A provision has been inserted permitting the deduction from the total lime content of the proportion of lime necessary to combine with the sulphuric anhydride present when calculating the lime ratio.

(6) The medium and slow-setting cements have been replaced by a grade having a minimum initial setting time of 20 minutes, and a maximum final setting time of 10 hours. The quick-setting cement which formed one of the three standard grades is retained in the specification, but is only to be supplied if specially required. A minimum final setting time is not now specified.

(7) The clause relating to the supply by the vendor, free of cost, of a certificate that the cement has been tested and analysed and complies in all respects with the specification, has been modified to provide that if such a certificate is required it must be so specified at the time of purchase.

Jig and Tool Making.

It is not generally known in engineering circles that Messrs. C. A. Vandervell and Co., Ltd., the well-known electrical engineers of Acton, are in a position to supply jigs, tools and special fixtures of the highest accuracy and quality for all branches of engineering, their factory at Brighton being one of the best equipped in the country for this class of work. Inquiries should be addressed to the company at Acton.

Miscellaneous.

During the four days of the Easter holidays—Good Friday to Easter Monday—the Automobile Association's road patrols and mechanical "first-aid" machines assisted motorists in connection with fifty-three accidents (one of which was fatal). Over twelve hundred motorists were assisted in cases of mechanical breakdown and minor roadside troubles.

Under the new Roads Act endorsements which were compulsory under the Motor Car Act are now made discretionary on the part of magistrates, and motorists who have not had any endorsements on their licences for three years are entitled to have the old endorsements cancelled, and have clean licences. Motorists who are in this latter position are invited to communicate with the Automobile Association for advice in obtaining cancellation of old endorsements.

The Dunlop Rubber Company have been advised that Dunlop tyres exclusively were fitted to the vehicles which were used by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught during his recent tour in India. In consequence of the industrial situation the annual dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce arranged for April 12 was postponed. Places allotted will be reserved on behalf of the holders

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

The Labour Situation.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

All other matters in the market during the past week have been overclouded by the industrial crisis, and any untoward developments that have occurred have been due purely to the coal strike. It is no use bemoaning the fact that had the labour situation not grown so critical a substantial business would have been done, and although at the moment of writing the position is extremely serious, the tone of the market is fairly healthy, and inquiry shows no signs of diminishing. It is only natural that progress between buyers and sellers has been checked by the uncertainty as to future production. Cloth manufacturers are very much disturbed at the industrial deadlock, and many have had to lose orders through insisting on the insertion of a strike clause, but some firms have taken the risk and extended the delivery time an extra month. With regard to cloth, only a miscellaneous business has been done for the outlets of the Near East, but it is reported that the position in Egypt and Persia is gradually improving. Isolated sales have taken place for the Levant and Turkey. The Egyptian yarn section has experienced a slight falling off in demand, but prices, taking into consideration the events of the past week, have ruled fairly steady. Cloth demand for India has tended to increase, and fair lines of dhooties and other light cloths have been booked for Calcutta. Shippers to China are slow in raising rates, and business has been patchy. In American yarns for home use the turnover has been smaller than last week. Taking the situation all round, the position of the cotton trade can be termed as improving, but if the Triple Alliance decides to strike, trade will be forced to a standstill.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynold and Gibson, in their report for the week ended April 7, state:—Considering the gravity of the industrial situation in this country at the moment the week closes on a very steady market. There is quite a good undertone, and it is becoming increasingly evident that spinners are beginning seriously to consider the replenishment of stocks, which for some time now they have allowed to run down to a bare working minimum. The present coal crisis has come at a most unfortunate time, and if it proves of long duration, will undoubtedly have the effect of once again deterring the ultra cautious spinner from entering the market. It is extremely difficult to forecast the immediate turn of events, as the reports of the negotiations vary so much from hour to hour, but as we write the outlook is a gloomy one. If, however, some unexpected and favourable development should transpire, we consider it more than likely that a brisk turn for the better in our market would take place almost at once. Sentiment here is more than ever leaning to the "bull" side, in spite of the difficult times through which we are passing. The inquiry, which has been of a general character, has been fairly well maintained, one rather noticeable feature being the renewed interest shown in Tokar cotton, although no actual sales have been reported. Prices still show an advancing tendency. C.i.f. business continues to show a slight improvement, but Manchester reports, after making a gallant effort to maintain their recent encouraging tone, have been forced to give way before the weight of outside circumstances, and to-day's advices are to the effect that business in that quarter is practically at a standstill. The steadiness of the Alexandria market is accounted for by a cable we received stating that the Egyptian Government was recently buying considerable quantities of spot cotton in the open market. Sales for the week, 1,000 bales. Fine Sakel-larides is raised 50 points; other quotations are unchanged. F.G.F. Sakel 17.00d.

An exhibition of Greek products was organised recently at Danzig by the Greek Consul there. The exhibits included the various kinds of tobacco grown in the country, figs, wines, and a number of manufactures.

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LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Currants have been in fair request during the week, and rates are generally higher. There has been a strong demand for Greek sultanias. Figs are in very short supply, and prices are high.

Sugar.—The home refined has been in large request at the official prices. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 60s. to 66s., while American granulated is quoted at 68s. to 68s. 3d.

Coffee.—The futures market has been steady. Quotations are:—May, 38s. 6d.; July, 39s. 6d.; September, 40s. 6d.; December, 41s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—Prices have declined all along the line, with the exception of Indian linseed, which is unchanged at 16s. 6d. Rapeseed is lower with Toria at 17s. 6d., bold Ferozepore at 16s. 6d., and brown Cawnpore at 14s., which is a decline of 6d. in each case. Indian cottonseed is 9d. lower at 9s., and Egyptian black at 11s. 3d. has shed 6d.

Seed Oils.—Prices have in most cases shown a downward tendency. Linseed oil has lost 1s. 9d. at 24s. 6d. Rape oil is unchanged at 46s. Cotton oil has been quiet. The refined variety is unaltered at 38s., but Egyptian crude is 2s. down at 28s. Turpentine has lost 4s. at 44s. 6d.

CURRENT PRICES.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lb. and up, 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 6¼d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 6¼d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 5½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 3½d. lb.; (second), 90 lb. and up, 4½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 4¼d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 4¼d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 3½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 2½d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lb. and up, 3½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 3½d. lb.; (second), 60 lb. and up, 2½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 2½d. lb. Bulls (first), 2½d. lb.; (second), 1½d. lb. Casualty Hides.—Kips, first, 3½d. lb.; second, 2½d. lb.; third, 2d. lb. Calcutta Market prices in rupees per 20 lb.:—Arsenic hides (cows):—Agras, 9 to 12; Durbhargas, 5 to 6; Patnas, 4 to 5; salted cows, 2.8 to 5; arsenic hides (buffalo), 2.8 to 6.8. Skins:—Calf, 6 to 8 per 20 lb.; goat, 130 to 160 per 100 pieces.

General Produce.—Bacon, 172s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 241s. cwt.; cheese, 167s. cwt.; chillies, 107s. 6d. cwt.; eggs, 19s. 6d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 79s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 99s. cwt.; coffee (East India, bold), 113s. cwt.; coffee (Mocha longberry), 93s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos superior), 49s. 9d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochian), 37s. 6d. cwt.; namis, 165s. cwt.; lard, 88s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 3½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 8d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 117s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 90s. 6d. cwt.; sultanias (Smyrna), 126s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 68s. 7½d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 73s. cwt.; sugar (white Java), 67s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 66s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (West India crystallised), 63s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1½d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 22s. cwt.; sago flour, 12s. 9d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 17s. 6d. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), 25 5s. ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; tea (Ceylon), 6½d. lb.; tea (Java), 2½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 85s. 6d. qr.; wheat (English white), 93s. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 77s. 9d. qr.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 9½d. lb.; citric 2s. 2½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 3½d. lb.; ammonia sulphate, £24 11s. 3d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £47 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 11½d. lb.; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 10s. ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 132s. 6d. cwt. Potassium: Bichromate, 1s. 0½d. lb.; chlorate, 6½d. lb.; caustic, £47 10s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 10½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £27 10s. ton. Sodium: Crystals, 150s. ton; bi-carbonate, £10 15s. ton; bi-chromate, 7½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £9 5s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 5s. ton; hyposulphate, £25 ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £20 12s. 6d. ton; sulphate of copper, £34 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 4½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 5½d. oz.; red lead, £38 10s. ton; white dry lead, £41 15s. ton; white ground lead, £52 ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulus), £39 12s. 6d. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £69 17s. 6d. ton; copper (electro), £73 10s. per ton; gold bars 104s. 8½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 150s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 180s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £19 18s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 7½d. unit; molybdenite, 55s. unit; nickel, £200 ton; platinum, 340s. oz.; plumbago, £50 ton; quicksilver, £12 12s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 32½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £24 15s. ton; tin (standard), £159 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 27s. box; wolfram, 12s. 9d. unit; zinc sheets, £37 ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 8.14d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £15 2s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £17 10s. ton; soya beans, £11 13s. 9d. ton; palm kernels, £17 18s. 9d. ton. Oils: Linseed, £26 12s. 6d. ton; soya, £32 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £30 10s. ton; olive, £97 10s. ton; ground nut, £36 ton; palm, £36 5s. ton; rape (crude), £46 ton; petroleum, 2s. 3½d. gallon; turpentine, 49s. cwt. Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 Crepe), 1s. 0d. lb.; smoked sheet, 10½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. per lb.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended March 26 amounted to £7,910.

DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co. report as follows for the week ending April 5:—

Currents.—The uncertainty as to what action the Government intended to take as to the disposal of the remainder of their stock has for some time had a most restraining influence on buyers. It had been realised for some time that the available supplies in the United Kingdom were considerably below the average, and as the stock remaining in Greece was of the smallest dimensions for many years, it was felt that, once the decision of the Government was known, a healthier state of affairs would result, as buyers had continued the policy they have been pursuing for the past few months—that of purchasing only for absolute requirements. As soon as it was known that the whole of their stock had been disposed of, the market took a change for the better, and the last ten days have witnessed an active demand showing an appreciable rise in values; more especially has it been noticeable in quarter-cases, bags so far not having benefited to the same extent. The Bosnian arrived with about 350 tons, which was quickly disposed of at full prices. The closing quotations are:—Pyrgos and Amalias, 62s. to 70s.; Patras, 66s. to 74s.; Zante, 72s. to 76s.; Gulf and Panarit, 72s. to 78s.; Vostizza, 84s. to 95s. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date, 18,900 tons. We understand, according to the statistics of the Greek Chamber of Commerce, that the exports to the United Kingdom totalled 46,318 tons, against 57,413 last year. This accounts, to a certain extent, for the small supplies now remaining in this country. Whereas, we understand, almost double the quantity they had last year was shipped to the United States this season.

Valencia Raisins.—Very little available. A few selected have been sold at 120s. and seedless at 85s. to 90s.

Sultanas.—As the depleted state of the stock of Smyrna fruit gradually dawned on the trade, it became evident that, with anything like a normal consumption, supplies would soon be exhausted, and with a better inquiry from the country the market took a different tone and prices steadily improved, and we closed the month with an advance of 10s. to 15s. over those prices ruling in February.

Afghans.—These have been in more request, and prices also show an advance. Reds have advanced from 85s. to 90s., and the yellow variety, some very sticky parcels, have been on offer and have sold from 95s. to 100s., and good dried quality 110s. to 114s. Greeks have also been in some request at 125s. to 130s. Quotations for Smyrnas are:—Ordinary quality, 115s.; fair quality, 120s.; good to fine, 125s. to 150s.

Figs.—Bags have been in active demand, and a good big business has been done round about 40s., and the small stock remaining is being held for 45s. A small consignment of skeleton cases ex Trentino were disposed of, 70s. layers, 60s. Protoben.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for fortnight ended March 26:—Since our last report of March 12 the sales of opium on our market amount to twenty-three cases at 9s. 9d. to 11s. per lb. c.i.f., as to quality and strength. The exchange per pound sterling to-day for cheque on London stands at Ps.580, and 0.67 dollars for one Turkish pound of Ps.100. The arrivals are 1,285 cases, against 1,520 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second hands is now 1,222 cases.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on April 1 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 17-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 11-16; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £3; Associated Cotton Ginners, £ 13-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 71½; Behera Ord., £E8 17-32; Behera Priv., £3 3-16; Bonded Stores, £10 9-32 ex; Brasseries d'Egypte, Priv., Fr. 120; Building Lands of Egypt, £ 21-32; Cassi di Sconto, Priv., Fr. 106; Ciments d'Egypte, Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte, Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £1 1-32; Consolidated Land, £T6½; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 596; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 7,300 ex.; Credit Foncier 1886 Oblig., Fr. 338; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 237; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 228½; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 77; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 107; Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord., 26s. 7½d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4½; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10 15-16; Gabbari Lands, £ 13-32; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des., £5½; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2½; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Ord., 110s.; Kom. Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £5 7-16; Kom. Ombo Ste. Ane. Fondateur, £35; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turcs, Fr. 46½; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, £T315; Nungovich Hotels, £7½; Rameh Railway, £1½; Salt and Soda, 28s.; Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 43½; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 60; Union Foncier d'Egypte, £2 9-16; Egypt Hotels, £2; Urbaines and Rurales Ste d'Entr., £3.

LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

The following are further extracts taken from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for February, the first portion of which appeared in our last week's issue:—

Flour and Cereals.—Flour imports during the month fell to the comparatively low figure of 3,750 tons, which arrived from America, Australia, and Egypt. Early in the month there was a distinct tendency towards a hardening in prices. In the third week, however, the Egyptian Government offered on the Alexandria market large surplus stocks of flour and wheat for immediate sale at prices 25/30 per cent. below the price of similar quality American flour. Prices immediately dropped here, and the market remains in a very disturbed state. Stocks in hand have fallen to about 5,500 tons, or sufficient to feed the population of Constantinople, estimated at 1,400,000, for twelve days.

Barley.—During the month only small quantities of Roumanian barley were imported, and these for local consumption and for Smyrna, at prices varying from Ps. 10½ to 8½ per oke. Re exports from Constantinople were small, as prices here and in Roumania were higher than those obtaining on the Continent and in the United Kingdom, where only 35s. per 400 lbs. was paid for March shipments. The market received a shock from Egypt when the Egyptian Government offered their surplus stocks of Roumanian barley c.i.f. Constantinople at a lower price than the cost in Roumania. The month closed with barley at Ps. 9-9½ per oke.

Sugar.—Arrivals during February amounted to about 2,500 tons, from America, Belgium, and Holland; of this, about 250 tons were re-exported to Batoum, and about 150 tons to Mersina. Prices declined during the month from £46 per ton c.i.f. to £41 per ton. The present stocks are small, but heavy arrivals of about 4,000 tons are expected during the next fortnight or so, and a consequent further decline in prices may be expected. Closing price: £41 per ton, c.i.f. Constantinople.

Canned Goods, etc.—With the continued financial stringency, the public continues to be unable to purchase largely, and the alimentary business suffers to a great extent. At the same time, inasmuch as food is a necessity, this branch of business has suffered perhaps less than any other by the world slump in prices. For the replenishment of stocks, new orders are placed at very low prices, which has caused a certain amount of anxiety to those who held large stocks before the slump commenced, and who have not yet liquidated their old stocks. Nevertheless, the market is so overstocked with some lines that no fresh orders are given abroad, despite the sharp cut in prices.

In the soap market it is estimated that there are sufficient stocks of "Sunlight" to last the population of Constantinople nearly two years. For new business large reductions have been made by certain manufacturers in their quotations for c.i.f. Constantinople; one well-known British firm is now offering at 40 per cent. below their price of about a month ago.

The demand for sardines, tinned milk, and fish in barrels is maintained. The shortage of hams is still noticeable, and there has been no reduction in the price, which is still about £T8 per oke.

Some difficulty is being experienced in replenishing stocks of whisky. There are many cheap and inferior brands on the market, most of them unsaleable; but the best known Scotch whiskies are practically impossible to obtain now.

Textiles, Dry Goods, etc.—The general tone of the market continues to be dull, February having brought no relief to the depression. There have been inquiries for spring and summer woollens, and also for cotton goods, but prospective buyers will buy only at greatly reduced prices, and very little business has resulted. Italian flannelettes are still being imported into Constantinople in place of British goods, due to the more favourable exchange of the Italian lira.

Coal.—There are still large stocks of coal here, although imports have been cut down to a minimum. Prices have fallen slightly with the reduction in the export price of Welsh coal to 57s. per ton f.o.b. Cardiff. American coal has followed suit. The export tax imposed by the Kemalist Government on all coal exported from the Heraclea coalfield has been reduced to £T1 per ton. Still a radical cut in prices is necessary before any business can be done in Turkish coal, which has earned a bad reputation for quality. For domestic requirements, Cardiff coal is now supplied at £T35 per ton at coal merchants' depots, or £T38 delivered.

Tobacco.—The tobacco trade suffers from the world-wide depression. Occasional inquiries are received, but merchants here refuse to sell at the low prices offered. The total exports during February were only 54,000 kilos, which compares very unfavourably with 1,100,000 kilos for February of last year. Parcels are still being exported from Kavalla, for which brand 40 drachmae per oke, or about 5s. 8d. per lb., is paid.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended April 2 amounted to £9,919.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended March 20 amounted to £E8,725, making the total for year £E472,594. For the corresponding periods of last year the receipts amounted to £E11,278 and £E383,491 respectively.

The phosphate exports of Algeria and Tunis last year amounted to 1,870,500 tons, 953,000 tons of which went to France, 400,000 to Italy, and 242,000 to Britain.

Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China.

HEAD OFFICE: 38, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON.

Incorporated by Royal Charter.

CAPITAL, in 600,000 Shares of £5 each - £3,000,000

RESERVE FUND - £3,600,000

Court of Directors.

Sir MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, Chairman.
Sir DUNCAN CARMICHAEL.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.
Sir ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.
Sir WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, K.B.E.
The Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.

The Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN NEWELL JORDAN, G.C.I.E., K.C.B.,
K.C.M.G.
WILLIAM FOOT MITCHELL, Esq.
JAMES MAXWELL GRANT PROPHIT, Esq.
LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.

Chief Manager: W. E. PRESTON.

Managers: J. S. BRUCE; G. MILLER.

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.

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

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

Presented at the Sixty-seventh Ordinary General Meeting, 8th April, 1921.

The Directors have now to submit to the Shareholders the Balance-Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of the Bank for the year ended 31st December last.

These show a net profit, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, of £849,601 9s. 11d., inclusive of £172,830 6s. 10d. brought forward from the previous year. The Interim Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum paid in September last absorbed £140,000. The amount now available is therefore £709,601 9s. 11d., and the Directors propose to pay a Final Dividend at the rate of Fourteen per cent. per annum, together with a Bonus of Six shillings and three pence 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 £3,600,000, to add £35,000 to the Officers' Superannuation Fund; to write off Premises Account £100,000, and to carry forward the balance of £209,601 9s. 11d. Interest on Instalments of New Capital (£1,000,000) and Premium (£500,000) from dates of payment to 31st December, 1920, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum free of Income-tax has been paid. The New Shares will rank equally for dividend with the Old Shares as from the 1st January, 1921.

It is proposed that the Rt. Hon. Sir John Newell Jordan, G.C.I.E., K.C.B., K.C.M.G., already a provisional Member of the Board, be formally elected a Director.

Sir Duncan Carmichael, Sir Harry Goschen, K.B.E., and the Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton, G.O.S.I., 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 Friday, the 15th April.

By Order of the Court, A. S. HEWETT, Secretary.

LIABILITIES AND ASSETS, 31st DECEMBER, 1920.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
To Capital, 600,000 Shares of £5 each	3,000,000	0	0	By Cash in hand and at Bankers	9,740,946	4	5
Reserve Fund	3,500,000	0	0	Build on Hand and in Transit	1,385,432	8	3
Notes in Circulation	2,837,818	1	6	Government and other Securities	3,081,090	10	7
Current and Other Accounts, including Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts and Contingencies	32,073,798	16	4	Security lodged against Note Issue and Government Deposits	1,805,000	0	0
Fixed Deposits	16,628,534	17	4	Bills of Exchange, including Treasury Bills	21,131,473	7	5
Bills Payable:				Bills discounted and Loans	28,585,930	18	10
Drafts on Demand and at short sight				Liability of Customers for Acceptances, per Contra	3,720,598	0	0
on Head Office and Branches	£4,175,762	3	6	Due by Agents and Correspondents	196,784	1	6
Drafts on London and Foreign Bank- ers against security, per Contra	191,849	19	9	Sundry Assets, including Exchange adjustments	674,672	19	3
				Bank Premises and Furniture at the Head Office and Branches	610,816	5	6
Acceptances on Account of Customers	4,367,612	3	3				
Loans payable, against Security, per Contra	3,720,598	0	1				
Due to Agents and Correspondents	1,020,000	0	0				
Sundry Liabilities including Rebates	17,421	17	1				
Profit and Loss	3,057,359	10	4				
	709,601	9	11				
	£70,932,744	15	10		£70,932,744	15	10

Liability on Bills of Exchange re-discounted, £9,585,249 7s. 4d., of which £8,391,757 6s. 1d. has run off at 21st March, 1921.
Outstanding Forward Exchange Contracts for Purchase and Sale of Bills and Telegraphic Transfers, &c., £28,933,891 8s. 11d.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December, 1920.

[illegible]

W. E. PRESTON, Chief Manager.
J. S. BRUCE, } Managers.
G. MILLER, }
CHAS. R. HYDE, } Accountants.
S. JONES, }
London, 23rd March, 1921.

ALFRED DENT,
J. M. G. PROPHIT, } Directors.
L. A. WALLACE.

Examined and found correct, according to the Books, Vouchers and Securities at the Head Office, and to the Certified Returns made from the several Branches.

D. C. WILSON,
H. C. K. STILFEMAN, } Auditors.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA AND CHINA.

Future Course of Eastern Trade.

Better Undertone.

The sixty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China was held on April 8 at the bank's premises, 38, Bishopsgate, E.C., Sir Montagu Cornish Turner (the chairman) presiding.

The Chief Manager (Mr. W. E. Preston) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Before moving the adoption of the report I should like to make a few remarks with regard to the business of the past year. When we met in this room at our last annual meeting, just twelve months ago, we were in the enjoyment of a period of great commercial activity. In many cases the demand for goods exceeded the supply, with the result that prices soared to record heights, wages rose by leaps and bounds and exceptional profits were made, only to be swallowed up by the insatiable demands of the tax-gatherer and the omnipresent rate collector. It was very evident that, with an unsettled world and a half-developed peace, this condition of feverish activity in trade and delusive prosperity could not last. We all felt that a decline in trade was inevitable, but few of us realised that the collapse would come with such lightning rapidity, or that the effect would be so deep and so widespread. Some people are inclined to attribute the great collapse to a particular cause, such, for instance, as the imposition of the 60 per cent excess profits tax. Others attribute it to the vagaries of exchange, or the attitude of labour in bringing about constant strikes. It is not quite fair or reasonable to attribute the disaster to any one particular cause. Several causes have come into play. The unsettled state of the world, financial disorder in Central Europe resulting in the absolute upset of foreign exchanges, lavish expenditure in arms and munitions and various other avenues of unproductive expenditure, and in this country especially the ill-advised action of labour in limiting the output to a point which rendered it impossible to compete with other nations where each individual was allowed to work to the utmost limit of his capacity without let or hindrance. Nor did we sufficiently appreciate the fact that the vast Russian Empire had temporarily disappeared from the world of civilisation; that France, Germany, and Italy could no longer participate as formerly in the trade of the world; in other words, that the purchasing power of civilised nations in Europe had dwindled to comparative insignificance. So it is that traders in this country and in America are overloaded with raw material or manufactured goods to dispose of, which will take some time, and must, I fear, entail serious losses.

Decline in Values.

As instances of depreciation in values I would quote the following:—

Cotton has declined from 29.90d. per pound on March 1, 1920, to 6.38d. per pound in March, 1921, a fall of 23.52d., showing a drop of 78 per cent.; jute from £70 per ton to £32 per ton, a fall of £38 per ton, equal to a drop of 54 per cent.; hemp from £76 per ton to £40 per ton, a fall of £36, equal to 47 per cent.; copra from £72 per ton to £32 per ton, a fall of £40, equal to 55 per cent.; wool shows a fall of 75 per cent.; linseed from £66 10s. to £18 per ton, a fall of £48 10s., equal to 68 per cent.; rapeseed from £51 to £15 5s. per ton, a fall of £35 15s., equal to 71 per cent.; rubber from 2s. 7d. per pound to 1s. 1d. for crepe, a fall of 1s. 6d., and from 2s. 7d. per pound to 11d. for Para, a fall of 1s. 7d., equal to a drop of from 50 per cent. to 62 per cent.; tin from £409 10s. to £159 10s. per ton, a fall of £250, equal to 61 per cent.; silk from 64s. to 20s. 3d. per pound, a fall of 43s. 9d.; shellac from 825s. to 300s. per cwt., a fall of 525s., equal to 63 per cent.; and hides and skins show a fall of from 60 per cent. to 75 per cent. Silver has fallen from 84d. per ounce in March, 1920, to 32d. per ounce in March, 1921, a fall of 61 per cent.

Eastern exchanges have dropped, as the following list will show:

T.T. SELLING RATE ON LONDON.

	March 1, 1920.		March 1, 1921.		Diff.		
Place.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	p.c.
Calcutta	2	7½	1	3½	1	3½	50
Hongkong	5	7	2	4½	3	2½	57
Shanghai	8	7	3	2	5	5	63
Saigon	6	4	2	3½	4	0½	63
Manila	2	10	2	2½	0	7½	22

The serious decline in Indian and Chinese exchanges has in a measure accounted for the difficulty of the disposal of manufactured goods in the different markets, but in India the position has been aggravated by the failure of the south-west monsoon and the winter rains in the North of India, by political

troubles, and the very regrettable refusal of Indian importers to recognise the validity of contracts with European shippers. At many points stocks of goods in the East are not greatly excessive, and I shall be disappointed if the surplus stocks are not worked off within a measurable distance of time, but until this is effected shipments to the East should be discouraged and limited to bare necessities of trade.

The present low level of the rupee is the inevitable result of the temporary collapse of the Indian export market. On this side there are more stocks than we can at present dispose of in the case of tea, jute, cotton, hides, rubber, and hemp, and until these surplus stocks are worked off and prices in India are adjusted to prices on this side we can look for no great improvement in the export trade from India, nor in the appreciation of the rupee. This process of appreciation is likely to be slow unless some unexpected factor is introduced.

I am glad to see that the tea market has improved of late, but I can see no chance of a real and substantial improvement in this or other of our Eastern markets until the world has really settled down to a true and genuine peace basis and free and unrestricted trade prevails in and with all nations of the world.

Capital and Reserves.

As regards the report and balance-sheet which we ask you to accept to-day, you will notice that with the increased capital sanctioned at the special meeting held on October 9 last, and confirmed at a subsequent meeting, the capital of the bank now stands at £3,000,000, made up of 600,000 shares of £5 each, as against the old capital of £1,200,000, increased last year to £2,000,000, and the shares of a par value of £20. The increase of capital from £1,200,000 has been of invaluable assistance, enabling us to meet the requirements of trade generally, and especially of late, when the demands of our customers, many old and valued friends, have been somewhat larger than usual. In all cases we have endeavoured to meet legitimate trade demands as far as the resources of the bank have permitted.

The reserve fund now stands at £3,500,000, and it should be our object gradually to increase this figure as opportunity occurs. We have also thought it necessary to set aside £100,000 on premises account, in view of our building engagements where it has been found necessary either to rebuild or to purchase new sites and build to meet the requirements of the business and the staff. You will notice that interest has been paid on instalments of new capital up to December 31 last, and the new shares ranked for dividend as from January 1 last.

Turning to the figures of our balance-sheet, it is exceedingly satisfactory to note that, in spite of the severe drop in prices to which I have referred, and also to the equally severe fall in the Eastern exchanges, our total figures on either side of our account should amount to the satisfactory item of £70,932,744 15s. 10d., against £68,741,695 14s. 8d. at December 31, 1919. While our current accounts show a small shortage of £366,723 11s. 6d., our fixed deposits show a very pleasing increase of £1,136,886 15s. 9d., which would point to current account money being transferred from a call to a fixed basis, which is very gratifying indeed at a period such as the present. Our liability on loans payable, it will be noticed, has been reduced from £2,429,028 0s. 4d. to £1,020,000. The reduction under bills payable to £4,367,612 3s. 3d. from £6,681,709 17s. 3d. is, of course, entirely due to the lower rates of exchanges now ruling.

Criticism has in certain quarters been made that banks generally have not played their part in financing this country's trade to the full extent of their resources. I think that in our case a comparison of our figures under the headings of "Acceptances on account of customers" and "Bills discounted and loans"—namely, £3,720,598 0s. 1d. and £28,585,930 18s. 10d. respectively, against our 1919 figures of £1,679,929 0s. 9d. and

Banque Franco-Serbe

Capital - Frs. 20,000,000.

London Office:—

30, COLEMAN STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones:
LONDON WALL 8934, 8935.

Telegrams:
"FRANCOSERB AVE, LONDON."

Manager - H. E. EVITT.

HEAD OFFICE: PARIS, 16, Rue le Peletier.

BELGRADE.

ZAGREB (Agram), BITOLJ (Monastir),
SKOPLYE (Uskub), and SALONIQUE.

Agents throughout JUGO-SLAVIA, the BALKANS,
AUSTRIA, HUNGARY, CZECHO-SLOVAKIA,
Etc., Etc.

The London Office collects Drafts and Documents; issues Cheques and effects Mail and Telegraphic Transfers; accepts Bills; opens Documentary Credits; issues Letters of Credit and conducts all operations of Foreign Banking. Current Accounts opened in Sterling, Francs, Dinars, etc.

Insurances effected through the Bank's Brokers.

Applications for Terms invited.

£17,561,394 2s. 8d., will convince most that we at least have done all that could reasonably have been expected of us in this particular respect. And, while rendering this great assistance to the trade of our country, we have been careful to see to it that the percentage of our cash resources to current account liabilities—over 30 per cent.—has not been allowed to be unduly entrenched upon, in addition to which our other liquid resources, in the shape of Government securities and bills of exchange, including Treasury bills, aggregated £24,212,563 18s.

Better Outlook.

As regards the future course of Eastern trade, it is dangerous even in normal times to attempt to forecast the course of events, and to essay to do so now, under present abnormal world conditions, would be more dangerous still; but it may not be imprudent to state that, judged from cables reaching us this week from our respective agencies and branches, the outlook in the East is much happier, and that indications from the several spheres point to a distinctly better undertone, which we hope will in course of time develop.

The satisfactory results shown in the report are indeed gratifying, and we must congratulate Mr. Preston and his colleagues on the very successful result of his and their indefatigable labours. Nor do we forget to appreciate the efforts of the managers and the staff both at home and abroad. Mr. T. H. Whitehead, who for many years filled the important position of chief manager in this bank, has retired after forty-six years' arduous and successful service. He left with the good wishes of a very large circle of friends, of his late colleagues, and of the board. We hope he may enjoy many happy and restful years in the retirement he has so well earned. In Mr. W. E. Preston, who has succeeded Mr. Whitehead, we are fortunate in having a very able and competent chief, in whom the board and all who know him have the fullest confidence. Under his management and that of his colleagues, Mr. Bruce and Mr. Miller, we have no fear as to the future prosperity of the bank.

You will be asked to-day to confirm the election of Sir John Jordan, G.C.I.E., to a seat on the Board. Sir John has had an extraordinary period of service in China from 1876 to 1920, and for the past fourteen years filled the position of British Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary with great honour to himself and with great advantage to the British Empire. By his tact, his diplomacy and his genial nature Sir John Jordan has won a name for himself among official and non-official Chinese which will never be forgotten. With these remarks I beg to move the following resolution, namely:—“That the report now presented, together with the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, be approved and adopted.” I will ask Sir Alfred Dent to second that resolution.

Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Dividend and Bonus.

A final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 6s. 3d. per share, making 20½ per cent. for the whole year, free of income tax, was declared, payable on and after April 15.

The election of Sir John Jordan as a director was confirmed, and the retiring directors and auditors were reappointed.

Mr. Frederick Tomkinson said he had to propose a resolution which he was sure all the shareholders present would cordially adopt. The resolution was that the best thanks of the shareholders be given to the directors and the staff for their successful management of the bank. After listening to the very clear and excellent address of the chairman it seemed, in view of the circumstances he had described, very remarkable that such a satisfactory report should have been submitted to that meeting. The figures quoted by the chairman indicated the great depression in trade, especially in the East, and he thought it was really almost miraculous that the board had been able to present such a satisfactory report and pay such a handsome dividend, in addition to placing a considerable sum to reserve. He considered that the board and the staff both at home and abroad deserved very great credit for that achievement and the very sincere thanks of the shareholders. He would like, however, to emphasise that the dividend had been earned not only by the capital of £3,000,000, but by the money which the shareholders had provided for the creation of the reserve fund, which was £500,000 more than the capital. He would like particularly to emphasise that point, because in these socialistic days it was not desirable that it should go forth that they were earning 20 per cent. on their capital alone.

Mr. W. C. Green seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The Chairman, in returning thanks, said that the last twelve months had been a period of very great anxiety, and therefore it was all the more to the credit of their managers and staff that the company had been able to show such excellent results. He would point out, also, that the results shown were after

making provision in every possible way for what might be called bad or doubtful debts, or any possible loss that they could see in the present or the near future. He was very happy, therefore, in being chairman of that institution, and in being supported by such a very able, efficient, and zealous staff, who so ably looked after the interests of the shareholders.

The proceedings then terminated.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Egypt's Economic Position.

The twenty-first annual general meeting of the National Bank of Egypt was held on March 29 at the head office of the bank in Cairo, Mr. B. Hornsby, C.B.E. (the Governor), presiding.

The Governor said:—Gentlemen, I have the honour to-day to preside for the first time at the general meeting of the bank's shareholders, my predecessor, Sir Frederick Rowlatt, having retired from active service on February 28, at the end of his third quinquennial period as governor. Some little time ago Sir Frederick intimated to the board that after thirty-three years of strenuous work in this country he did not desire to take office for a further period. The directors received this decision with great regret, but I am happy to state that we shall not lose his services entirely, as, subject to your ratification to-day, he will remain as a member of the board, and we hope to have for many years to come the benefit of his profound knowledge of this country and of his wise counsels. We have also to report to you that H.E. Boghos Pacha Nubar, who has been a director of the bank since its formation, has resigned from the board, being detained in Europe on private affairs. We desire to put on record the valuable services he has rendered to the bank, and to say how sorry we are to be deprived of his presence and advice.

We have pleasure in submitting to you the balance-sheet and the profit and loss account for the year 1920. Our gross profits, after making the usual provisions, have reached the large sum of £1,269,211, from which we have to deduct our expenses and the amount necessary to provide for the depreciation on our securities. The net profit is £580,431, of which we propose to place £100,000 to special reserve, to distribute £450,000 as dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. (including the interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid last September), and to increase the carry forward by about £30,000, making the latter £172,364.

Year by year, for several years past, we have hoped that the depreciation of our securities would have been arrested, but each year our hopes have been falsified and we have had again to devote £246,000 to this purpose. Our holdings now very largely consist of short-term securities, and as they fall due for payment we shall reap the benefit of our present prudence. Our expenses have again increased, largely owing to increased remuneration to our staff, and also to the normal development of our business. We are glad to see that at last there are signs of a fall in the cost of living, which will make the situation easier all round. Despite these two factors, our profits are higher than they have ever been before, and reflect the exceptional prosperity which Egypt enjoyed through the greater part of the year 1920. The picture is somewhat changed to-day, but I will refer to that presently.

Balance Sheet.

Turning to our balance-sheet, you will find that our total figures have shrunk from about 43 millions to 28½ millions. This shrinkage is almost entirely accounted for by the fact that at the end of 1919 we were holding a large sum for the Egyptian Government, which was paid out in the ordinary course of business during the year 1920. The deposits of the general public were reduced by about 1½ million, which was only natural, as our customers were able to get goods from abroad which had not been obtainable during the war. The deposits still include some fairly large sums of a non-permanent nature which are destined shortly to disappear. Our advances on merchandise fell from 7½ millions to under 2 millions, and our foreign bills discounted from 7½ millions to 1½ million. Both these reductions are due to the same causes; first, the fall in the price of cotton has caused our customers to require less money to carry on their business, and, secondly, the stagnation in the export trade is such that our largest customers, instead of owing us money, as they usually do during the winter months, have money to their credit and have few export bills to sell us. In so far as it shows the strength of their positions this is very satisfactory, but it will have its effect on the profits for the year in course.

On December 11, 1919, the note issue reached the figure of £68,200,000, since when it has steadily declined, till at the end of 1920 it was only £40,400,000—a drop of nearly 28 millions in that interval. The fall began in the natural course of events in the early part of the year, and continued until the end of September. The commencement of the cotton season arrested

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the fall for a few weeks, but by the middle of October, owing to the state of the cotton market, a further decline set in, which has continued up to the present without interruption, the figure at the end of February this year being £36,000,000.

It is sometimes thought in this country that it is in our power to increase or contract the note issue at will, whereas, of course, the changes are automatic and depend on the state of the country's trade. So long as the value of exports largely exceeded that of imports, and high prices demanded a larger volume of currency for carrying on trade, the amount of the issue constantly increased, in response to a legitimate trade demand, each increase being guaranteed by the deposit in our Issue Department of British Treasury bills for an equivalent amount. But as soon as the balance of trade turns against Egypt, as it now has, notes have to be surrendered in payment of the excess value of imports over exports, and consequently the Issue contracts. The Treasury bills previously deposited are released, and their proceeds are utilised to pay the foreign exporter.

The figures for the year in course will probably show a large balance against the country, and we are now, in common with the rest of the world, passing through a period of acute depression. Our principal product, cotton, which at one moment, in February last year, attained the price of £39 per cantar (100 lb.), is now down to about £6, and the eager demand which was such a characteristic of last season is replaced by a feeble stream of orders; in particular, during the six months ended February, 1920, we had exported to Great Britain 2,207,201 cantars and to America 1,593,832 cantars, as against 936,211 cantars and 175,093 cantars during the six months ended February last.

Restriction of Cotton Area.

It is needless to say that this heavy fall in price has caused keen disappointment to the growers, most of whom, misled by the high prices of a year ago, looked forward to still higher prices this season. The Government has again issued a decree restricting somewhat the area which may be planted in cotton, and doubtless many cultivators will still further reduce their area and turn their attention to other crops. But the prices of these latter have also dropped considerably, whilst on the other hand costs of production have not yet done so to the same extent; fortunately they continue to show a downward tendency, and it is obvious that prices and cost of production must fall into such relation as will enable the grower to realise a profit. The adjustment process may be long or short, but in any case it is bound to be unpleasant. Fortunately, the years of exceptional prosperity which we have just passed through have endowed all classes with increased powers of resistance; debts of all kinds have been paid off, bank deposits have largely increased, a large quantity of Government stock and other Egyptian securities have been purchased from abroad, and the people of the country still hold some £30,000,000 of bank notes, to say nothing of over £6,000,000 of silver currency, both issued since the commencement of the war.

That there has been a serious set-back cannot be denied, but the general financial situation of the country is fundamentally sound, as that of a fertile country with an industrious population should naturally be.

We must hope that the revival of trade and commerce throughout the world will not be long delayed, and in particular that spinners of Egyptian cotton will begin to buy more freely than they now seem able to do.

The economic and financial conditions of the Sudan continue to be very satisfactory. The increase in the value of imports in 1920 over 1919 is chiefly due to the growth of the purchasing power of the population, the enhanced prices which ruled during the year, and also to the considerable capital expended in the country by the Government, principally on irrigation works at Makwar, on the Blue Nile, where a dam is being constructed. The growth of the export trade is chiefly due to enhanced prices, the good cotton crop of 1920, and the demand for Sudan cattle in Egypt; 88,000 cantars of ginned cotton, valued at £1,605,742, were exported during the year, as against 49,742 cantars, valued at £360,295, during 1919, and the value of live-stock exported was £963,749, as compared with £710,639 in 1919.

The Government finances, consequent upon the development of trade, have greatly benefited, and the revenue is anticipated to attain the figure of £4,390,000, against an estimate of £3,500,000.

Reference was made by us last year to the Sudan Government Loan of £6,000,000 for the purpose of irrigation works, including the construction of a dam at Makwar, on the Blue Nile, and also for the extension of the railway system in the Sudan. The first instalment of £3,500,000 was raised in 1919, and the balance has recently been issued. The irrigation works are being pushed forward with great activity, and it is anticipated that on the completion of the scheme both the Government resources and the external trade of the country will considerably develop.

Our own business in the Sudan continues to progress satisfactorily. We now have, in addition to offices at Khartoum, Suakim, and Port Sudan, sub-agencies at Omdurman, Wad Medani, El Obeid, and Tokar. The establishment of these offices enables us to play our proper part in the development of the trade of the country.

The directors who retire this year by rotation are Mr. E. W. P. Foster, H. E. V. Harari Pasha, and Colonel the Hon. Sidney Peel, and we submit their names to you for the honour of re-election. We also ask you to confirm the nomination of Sir Frederick Rowlatt as a director.

In conclusion, we desire to render our thanks to our staff for their services; we have endeavoured, by liberal increases of salary and by temporary allowances, not only to put them in a position to meet the increased cost of living but also to improve their general position. Our efforts have been appreciated, and your affairs are cared for by a loyal body of servants.

NEW COMPANIES.

Marmara.

The Marmara Co., Ltd., was registered as a private company on March 11 with a capital of £60,000 in £1 shares. Objects:—To take over the marble quarries and freehold and leasehold properties, machinery and chattels in Island of Marmara, Turkey, to adopt an agreement with Walton, Gooddy and Cripps, Ltd., F. C. Stoop, G. Bernieri, R. N. Cripps, and A. D. Stoop, and to carry on the business of quarry owners or masters, quarrymen, masons, importers, exporters, ship and barge owners, etc. First directors: F. C. Stoop (chairman), West Hall, Byfleet; A. D. Stoop, West Hall, Byfleet; H. K. Cripps, Redcliffe, Clifton Down Road, Bristol; H. Gooddy, 84, Talbot Road, Highgate, N.; R. N. Cripps, Redcliffe, Clifton Down Road, Bristol.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 4:—During the week ending March 26 general crop prospects unchanged. Bombay cotton market quiet, but steady; fine M.G. Oomra, May Rs.228, July Rs.241. Piece-goods market optimistic, with fair demand and improved tone. Bleached cloths in good demand. Calcutta jute market quiet, but steady; crops reports to date favourable, though smaller acreage expected; Hessians rather firmer; heavy goods distinctly firmer, with improved demand, and prices advanced. Improvements, however, possibly only temporary, due to accumulation of orders during holidays. Further reductions in freights on jute and gunnies to America, they being now 40s. New York, 45s. Philadelphia, 7 dollars Pacific ports. Freights for Australia will be reduced after June. No change in bank rates. Central Cotton Committee, with headquarters at Bombay, constituted, as recommended by Indian Cotton Committee.

A cable dated April 6 states:—All Indian wheat crop supplementary forecast, 1920-21. 24,502,000 acres as compared with 28,921,000 acres for the period ending March 31, 1920. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to March 25, 1921, amounted to 1,633,000 bales as compared with 2,017,000 bales during the corresponding period of the previous year. Trading in forward contracts recommenced, but minimum rates for May and July-August Broach still in force. There were 80,700 packages of imported piece-goods in Bombay Port Trust warehouses at end of February, 1921—that is 1,060 packages more than the January figures—nevertheless, up-country bazaars known to be short of stocks.

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Purchase of Allahabad Bank Shares.

An option was offered to the shareholders of the Allahabad Bank to exchange their shares for those of the P. and O. Banking Corporation at the issue price of the latter, and just over 94 per cent. of the ordinary shares in the Allahabad Bank has now been acquired, and 9,417 of these will be paid for by the issue of new shares in the P. and O. Bank, the balance being paid for in cash. A dividend of 18 per cent. has been paid in each of the past thirteen years on the ordinary shares of the Allahabad Bank, and for the present it is the intention to continue it as a separate institution, with its headquarters at Allahabad.

At a recent meeting of the directors of the Manchester Cotton Association it was reported, says *Cotton*, that a further letter had now been received from the Board of Trade of March 15, 1921, in reply to the association's letter regarding the cultivation of Pelion cotton in Egypt, which was to the effect that the inquiry conducted by the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture proved that there was no longer any ground for the fear which was at one time entertained that Pelion cotton cultivation would be undertaken on a large scale, also a law had been passed with a view to preventing the mixing of varieties of cotton, and also that the technical question of maintaining the purity of the Sakellaridis variety is receiving the attention of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture.

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ON 'CHANGE.

More Cheerful Tendency.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

Despite the critical labour situation the markets generally have been holding up well, and the more favourable developments at the week-end have resulted in almost a buoyant tone prevailing to-night, showing plainly that the Exchange is very confident that a settlement will be reached.

The gilt-edged market has been fairly firm. War Loan Fives are 1 up at 87 3-16. Consols, however, are $\frac{1}{4}$ lower at 48 $\frac{1}{4}$. Foreign bonds have, on the whole, been strong.

Industrials generally, after drooping considerably, have shown a harder tendency on the latest news. Various Shipping shares have been in demand, notably P. and O. Deferred. Oils have been in fair request, and some of the leading lines have been noticeably strong. Rubbers remain depressed.

Near Eastern securities have remained about the same. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. are unchanged at 64, as are Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. 1855 at 68 $\frac{1}{2}$. Greek Guaranteed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. 1898 are 2 up at 65 $\frac{1}{2}$.

There are no special movements to record in Greek shares. The 5 per Cent. 1881 and the 5 per Cent. 1884 Loans are both unchanged at 44, while the 5 per Cent. 1890 also remains at 44. Fundings are 3 down at 41, but the 1910 Loan is unchanged at 42. The 5 per Cent. 1914 Loan is unchanged at 41, as is the 1902 Loan at 38.

Banks have been firm. Agricultural 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Bonds are the same at 51 xd, while the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 53 xd. Imperial Ottoman Banks remain at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$; National Bank of Egypt are 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd; while Land Bank of Egypt are unchanged at 5.

There have been few changes in Land shares. Beheras are unchanged at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the preference shares remain at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Egyptian Consolidated Lands are the same at 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Delta Lands at 8s. 9d. and Gharbieh Lands at 1 3-16 are unchanged. New Egyptians are 6d. up at 22s. 6d., while Union Foncières have improved $\frac{1}{8}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Sudan Plantations are 1-16 lower at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$.

In Oils Anglo-Egyptians are unchanged at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, Phoenix are 1s. 3d. up at 12s. 6d., while Roumanian Consols are 3d. better at 12s. 9d. Steaua Romana are 1s. 3d. down at 14s. 3d.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions, Abyssinian Corporations are 2s., while Alexandria Waters remain at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Morums are 9-16, while Salt and Sodas are 6d. down at 27s. 6d. Egyptian Markets are unchanged at 18s. 6d.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{4}$
Athens	Drachmae to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	53-70-54-75
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	138-140
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1-3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bucharest.....	Lei to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	255-265
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee.....	24d.	1-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1-3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	570-590
New York.....	Dollars to £	4-86 $\frac{1}{2}$	3-92-3-93
Paris	Francs to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	54-95-55-27
Prague	Kronen to £	24-02	280-290
Rome	Lire to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$ -89 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sofia	Levas to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	330
Teheran	Krans to £	50	55
Vienna	Kronen to £	24-02	1,350-1,525
Warsaw	Marks to £	20-43	3,000-3,200

In some cases quotations are nominal.

FUEL ECONOMISING DEVICES.

Sweeping Claims for an Invention.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN YUGOSLAVIA.)

A Russian engineer, M. Feodor Feodorovich Bogatyroff, now a refugee in Belgrade, has been causing a sensation by his announcement of an invention which will revolutionise life and be an immense boon for the people. The authorities, willing to grasp at anything which may conceivably reduce the terrible cost of living in Belgrade, have appointed a technical commission which will examine his plant.

He has prepared for this investigation the following plant with the following claims:—(1) A kitchen stove which will in one hour cook a two-course dinner for twenty-five people with the expenditure of only one kilogram of wood. (2) A heating stove which with 12-15 kilograms of wood, in mid-winter, will warm a room of 500 cubic metres space to a temperature of 16-20 degs. C., and maintain the warmth for twenty-four hours. (3) An oven which with 7-8 kilograms of wood will bake 150 kilograms of bread in 30-40 minutes.

Further, he has patented a new kind of material useful for constructional purposes, with the following remarkable properties:—It can be made of any conceivable kind of rubbish, sweepings, dead leaves, and so is extremely cheap. It is so light that it will float on water; it is so tough that a board of it 3 cm. thick will stop a bullet from a 12 cm. gun; yet it can be easily sawn; it is unflammable and a non-conductor of heat, impervious to damp, and, finally, an ideal building material.

The inventor worked for eight years with Edison, and then as an engineer for seventeen years in Moscow. He offers his invention to the State on the condition that it be not exploited by capitalists, but developed for the good of the people, for the solution of both the fuel and housing problems, two of the most pressing questions to-day in Yugoslavia, as indeed elsewhere. The claims are so extravagant as to excite a smile, but the Government are making a serious investigation.

Our Correspondent adds in a later message:—

The invention has been tested officially in Belgrade. A technical committee has issued a detailed report, which is summarised as follows:—(1) The ovens are good in principle and economical in practice, and (2) with regard to economy of fuel, time, and labour, they show a marked saving, and are to be recommended. The inventor recently gave a demonstration which has aroused a great deal of interest in Belgrade.

FRANCE-MOROCCO AIR MAIL SERVICE

The Postmaster-General announces that the Air Mail for Morocco now leaves Toulouse four times, instead of three times a week, viz., on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at 10.30 a.m. The latest time of posting at the General Post Office, London, is 6.30 a.m. (for printed papers, 6.0 a.m.) on the preceding day, except in the case of the Monday air service, for which the latest time of posting at the General Post Office is 11.0 p.m. on Saturday (or 6.0 a.m. on Sunday with an extra fee of 1d.). Packets for Morocco posted on any day of the week, in London or the provinces, should normally be accelerated in transmission by the use of the air service.

The Roumanian Chamber has passed a Bill establishing a monopoly of the internal distribution of oil products.

At the court of directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation held on April 6 it was decided to recommend the general court, to be held on April 27 next, to declare a further dividend of 9 per cent., less income-tax, making 16 per cent., less income-tax, for the year 1920.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

INSURANCE OF GREEK SHIPS.

Lloyd's Decision.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, March 20.

The decision arrived at by Lloyd's to discontinue insuring Greek ships, also to cancel within a month's time all insurances effected on ships flying the Greek flag, has been a fresh blow to Greek shipping. During the last six months forty-five wrecks of Greek ships occurred from sea risk, whereas during the whole period of the war the number of wrecks was considerably smaller. The writer is informed that two representatives of Lloyd's have arrived in Athens to inquire into the matter and submit a report to London. The Greek shipowners, realising the gravity of the situation, have appointed a deputation which interviewed the Minister of National Economy and discussed with him the steps to be taken in order to convince Lloyd's of the shipowners' *bona-fides*, and request the former to cancel the over-drastring measures decided upon. It is to be hoped that the Greek Government will take the matter in hand without delay, and will do all that is possible to persuade Lloyd's to reconsider their decision, which, if carried out, would certainly have disastrous effects on the Hellenic mercantile marine.

YUGOSLAV SHIPPING COMPANY.

The Minister of Trade and Industries of Yugoslavia announces the formation of a new shipping company, which is to be called the Yugoslav Lloyd Co. The capital amounts to 3,000,000 dinars, and the headquarters of the company is Belgrade.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. *Circassia*, for Bombay (Liverpool, April 25).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. *Macharda*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 27); s.s. *Mangalore*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 11); s.s. *Matra*, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 21); s.s. *Matheran*, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 9).

Bibby Line.—S.s. *Warwickshire*, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (London, April 19; and Birkenhead, May 11).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. *Lord Byron*, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 23).

Olan Line.—S.s. *Millewa*, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, April 14); s.s. *Clan Ogilvy*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 28).

Cunard Line.—S.s. *Antinea*, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, and Galatz (London, April 16); s.s. *Tyria*, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, May 7).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. *Grodno*, for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, April 16); s.s. *Asturian*, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, April 30).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. *Branksome Hall*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 18); s.s. *City of Cairo*, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, April 20); s.s. *City of Calcutta*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 2).

Glen Line.—S.s. *Glenluce*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 28); s.s. *Glenishane*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 19).

Harrison Line.—S.s. *Architect*, for Calcutta (Liverpool, April 21); s.s. *Orator*, for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Birkenhead, in May).

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Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

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ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

106. Old-established English trading company with branches in Mesopotamia and Persia is willing to accept agencies there for manufacturers, etc.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 519.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Greco Turkish Campaign.

The lull in the fighting in Asia Minor has been broken by isolated attacks by the Turks on the Greek positions. Both sides claim to have had the better of each encounter, and there the rest of the world will be content to leave the matter. In the meantime, the respite afforded the British Government by the collapse of the menace of a general strike in sympathy with the coal-miners has apparently served to remind the Allied Powers that the recent London Conference stands adjourned for a month, and that it ought, therefore, to be meeting again, as the specified period has already passed. If an early date should be fixed for the gathering, the incongruity of allowing the fighting in Asia Minor to continue must become still more apparent. It must in any case stultify the Conference in large measure, as in the absence of a reply from the Turkish Nationalists the position in regard to the Treaty of Sévres remains where it was before the ninth Conference assembled.

Reconstruction in Bulgaria.

After his successful tour abroad M. Stamboulisky has now had time to pick up the threads of internal administration once more, and the hardest part of his work has begun. He will have learned from his observations in the various countries that the art of government entails a delicate balancing of forces, and that it is not good for a country when one party rides roughshod over the interests of other sections of the community which are not under its own political banner. The advent to power of the peasants in Bulgaria constitutes a valuable object-lesson for a large part of Europe where peasants form the bulk of the population, and M. Stamboulisky's administration is being carefully watched. He is fortunate in having at his side the Inter-Allied Commission, to whose eagerness to give him any assistance or advice in its power all the Commissioners have testified. In these circumstances it is unfortunate that a Budget should have passed the Sobranje before the Commission could get to work; for it would have been invaluable to have a first Budget compiled at this juncture with the knowledge and approval of the Commission, so that its relation to the actual expenditure and receipts of the current year could have been followed more closely by the Commissioners. Disappointment has been expressed that the exchange rate has not responded more noticeably to the Commission's presence in Sofia; but in this connection it must be borne in mind that exchange rarely adjusts

itself to sentimental considerations. It is determined by the hard facts of production and of revenue and expenditure. In common with most countries, Bulgaria has allowed expenditure to soar. It must be curtailed and revenue increased before any great improvement in the exchange can be expected. Above all, drastic restrictions must be placed on currency note issues, a subject which might well engage the Commission's attention, if it has not done so already.

Compulsory Labour in Bulgaria.

If the report that the Allied Governments had protested against the scheme of compulsory labour introduced by the Bulgarian Government on the ground that it tended to perpetuate under a different guise the military organisation of conscription was true, it would seem that Allied misgivings on the subject have been removed, as the system, according to the latest news from Bulgaria, is now in general operation. It has been applied primarily in the schools throughout the country, and pupils of both sexes have recently been engaged in various forms of open-air work, planting trees, improving parks and public gardens, and building roads. In Sofia itself provision is being made for some fifteen thousand workers under the scheme, and the programme includes the construction of a water channel, the laying out of a public park, and the cutting of a main avenue through Boris Park. At the same time a fresh effort is being made to popularise service in the volunteer army imposed upon Bulgaria under the terms of the Treaty of Neuilly. The first attempt to secure recruits proved a fiasco. The pay now offered is 2,280 leva a year (£90 at the old rate of exchange, about £7 at the present rate) for privates who have already served in the army, and 1,800 leva (£72: £6) for those who have not served previously, subject to increases every three years during the twelve years with the colours, as well as to certain supplementary payments enjoyed by State employees. The terms include a month's holiday every year, the right to marry, freedom from compulsory labour, and opportunities for learning a trade: At the end of the period of service each soldier will receive a gratuity of 5,000 leva or Government employment.

Sir William Willcocks and—

Another stage in the long-drawn-out Nile Irrigation Case was reached last Saturday when Judge Grain, who has been hearing the action, passed sentence on Sir William Willcocks, the principal defendant. In doing so, the learned judge explained that he could no longer wait for the conclusion of the case against Colonel

Kennedy, as he would have to leave Egypt shortly to take up another post, which, a Reuter's message states, is in the Supreme Court at Shanghai. Holding that Sir William had become obsessed by the belief that his statements with regard to the Nile projects were correct, the judge merely bound him over for one year on the charge of libel; but warned him that should he again publish seditious matter he would be deported immediately. The great services which Sir William Willcocks has rendered to Egypt, to Mesopotamia, and to other countries, his extraordinary energy and enthusiasm, and his courage and originality have won him friends all over the world, and the regret caused by his appearance in this case has been sincere and widespread. But it has been recognised that the charges he advanced could not be left unanswered, and that in view of his methods of advancing them they could only be met as they have been; and in all probability the general feeling to-day is that he has been dealt with very leniently.

—Sir Murdoch Macdonald.

At the same time there will be very lively satisfaction that Sir Murdoch Macdonald is at last free from the cruel strain that has been put upon him, and which he has had to bear so long. For it would have been on his shoulders that the whole of the responsibility would ultimately have fallen had the various charges made by Sir William Willcocks been proved. They have been disproved, and Sir Murdoch Macdonald and the others against whom they were launched are to be congratulated on the result of the trial. It has been an unpleasant, and for Egypt a very costly, business, and everybody will hope that the last of it has now been heard.

The Egyptian Negotiations.

Latest reports available indicate that a more or less silent trial of strength between Adly Yeghen Pasha and Zaghloul Pasha is still in progress. The former, it seems, has the support of the more intellectual Egyptians, while Zaghloul still remains the idol of the students and the more demonstrative elements of the population. The former has not varied in his policy of moderation, but Zaghloul Pasha appears to be still not quite decided what course to follow. A significant incident occurred at a banquet last Friday, when during a speech he was making Zaghloul Pasha was interrupted by a member of the Legislative Assembly, with a request for information regarding the policy he actually intended to follow. The mere request gave rise to an uproar, and the seeker after information had a somewhat narrow escape from violence at the hands of the students. If the latter regard such a natural request with disfavour, it hardly argues their fitness to take any part at all—let alone such a prominent part as they arrogate to themselves—in the important negotiations now proceeding.

The Situation at Teheran.

The new Cabinet at Teheran is following faithfully the course mapped out for it by its leaders at the time of their *coup*. By its determined suppression of lawlessness at various points it has made itself respected as few, if any, of its predecessors have been, and its steady pursuit of the policy of making—or endeavouring to make—former high officials disgorge some of the wealth they accumulated by means that were not at all doubtful evidently has the full approval of most Persians. A few days ago the Prime Minister, Seyyid Zia ed-Din, outlined the Government's foreign policy—proving himself, by the way, quite up-to-date in choosing to do so in the form of an after-dinner speech. Relations with this country he declared to be completely cordial now that the Anglo-Persian Agreement has disappeared, that Agreement having served only (according to him) to create misunderstandings. Persia was bent on sincerely friendly relations with Great Britain and Russia, and she would look to other countries also to help her with advice: to France for legal advisers, to America for agricultural advisers, and so forth. If he gave any indication of where Persia is to raise the money of which she stands in such need, the reports of his speech telegraphed home have curiously omitted to inform us on

the point. Perhaps, however, he is still awaiting the return of his Financial Adviser, in which case his reticence is merely the latest example of his wisdom.

The Indian Legislatures: Their Strength

Evidence continues to accumulate that the new legislative bodies in India have made a really satisfactory start. One may perhaps charge a little discount on the eulogy delivered by Mr. Whyte, the President of the Assembly, in an after-dinner speech, the text of which has now reached this country, but the verdict of less friendly critics, and, most of all, the detailed reports of the proceedings, show that his favourable opinion is substantially correct. Lack of experience has naturally been manifested from time to time, but nobody can complain of that feature when opportunities for gaining experience have been so rare, and the outstanding fact is the rapid growth of a sense of responsibility such as the old Councils ordinarily failed to display. A few unwise decisions may have been taken, but they are not irremediable, and the number of fantastic or dangerous proposals which have been quietly set aside is really surprising. As yet there has been little time for constructive legislation, but the voting of the Estimates, an entire novelty for India, has given ample opportunity for the display of parliamentary capacity, and we are inclined to think that even the framers of the constitution must be a little startled at the aptitude shown by their progeny.

—and Weakness.

Many critics feared that the Legislatures would at first be inclined to spend money too lavishly, but in fact they have begun by making a vigorous stand for economy, and in doing so have given evidence of what may prove to be a serious weakness, a tendency to take short views, which is seen in the opposition to unpopular but necessary expenditure. The forests, for instance, need a large and immediate capital outlay if they are to produce their full revenue, but forest regulation is unpopular, and in one or two provinces the forest grants have been selected for attack by town-dwellers, who have not yet learned to realise their urgency. The most discouraging incident, however, of the debates of last month was a large reduction of the provincial police budget in the Bengal Council. The police are half-starved in every province, but they are three-quarter-starved in Bengal. It is hopeless to expect an improvement in *moral* without providing reasonable conditions of service, but the force has to bear the burden of the unpopularity which it undoubtedly earned in the centuries of Moslem rule, and so the Council would deprive it of the opportunity of rising above its past. The inhabitants of Bengal have of late shown so much genuine capacity for progress that we hope by next budget time they will have realised the necessity for giving their police a chance.

The Civil Servant as Politician.

Of matters outside the Councils, the most striking item of recent news from India is the cautious invitation to civil servants to mount the platform and instruct the people on current political questions. This change of policy was foreshadowed in a famous passage of the Joint Report, which declared that in the new India the civilian "must explain and persuade, and argue and refute": but its immediate occasion is the obvious need for countering the propaganda of non-co-operation by all the means at the disposal of the Executive. In this matter the lead has already been taken by Lord Sinha in Bihar and Sir Harcourt Butler in the United Provinces, and the orders which they have issued should help to bring home to the people the essential fact that the doctrine of non-co-operation is a threat to the future of India as a whole, and consequently a movement to be opposed by all men of goodwill. There are still large parts of the country where the masses instinctively look for guidance to officials rather than politicians. It is to the masses that the non-co-operators are now devoting their attention, and district officers will be quick to realise that this new and arduous task calls for their most strenuous efforts.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

A Week of Crisis.

Last week was easily the most exciting time since the Armistice. The coal strike bade fair to extend into a general strike, there was talk of revolution and civil war, and then suddenly the bubble burst. The reason was simple—the majority of people kept their heads; England looked over the edge of the precipice, decided it would be a very uncomfortable long jump, and drew back again. Hotheads on both sides exhorted us to "have a shot at it," and "get it over this time." But it was not a simple matter of swimming across a stream; what we were asked to do was to put out on an ocean of which nobody could see the other side.

In the earlier discussions on the coal strike the miners steadily improved their position in public opinion. Mr. Hodges, their spokesman, argued coolly and well for the national pool. His arguments did not convince, but the coal-owners did not argue at all, but put up a blank negative. On that matter therefore the public began to turn towards the side that seemed most reasonable. On the matter of the actual wages offered, however—which was not discussed at all—it became evident that the cuts suggested were altogether too drastic. The rule as to falling wages is simple. They rise as prices rise, and always as a consequence of increased prices; therefore they should fall as prices fall, and the fall in prices should precede the fall in wages. The mine-owners made a heavy cut far in excess of the fall in prices. That was their first mistake; their second was that they presented it as an ultimatum, with a "take it or leave it" air. The day for that kind of thing has gone in any case, and it is inconceivable that a round-table conference would not have suggested adjustments. After all, it was common ground that wages should fall; the question was as to the amount and the method.

The owners therefore put up a *non possumus*: Labour retaliated by the threat of a Triple Alliance strike, which would have included railways, trams, all forms of transport, and possibly electricians. This was interpreted (quite naturally) as a threat against the community; it was, in fact, really a strategic move, intended to make the owners give way. A few people believed the cry of civil war; most of us kept cool, doubted the reality of the general strike, and assumed that the mine-owners would compromise at the last moment.

It was perfectly obvious on Thursday that the Triple Alliance wanted to build a golden bridge. Its leaders had a long talk with Mr. Lloyd George in the morning. In the evening the mine-owners put their case to private members of the House of Commons; the miners followed them. The judgment of the private members was on the whole in favour of the miners; like the rest of the non-mining world, they knew little of the merits of the dispute, but it was evident that the wage-cuts were too heavy, and perhaps more important still, the miners had again offered to negotiate the whole question.

At that moment the miners had the game in their hands. The next morning they lost it. The Miners' Federation went back on its representative, Mr. Hodges, and refused to negotiate; this unreason transferred itself from Capital to Labour. Thereupon the railway and transport men declared the general strike off; they had been against a strike all along, but had come into line, with some misgivings as to the consequences for themselves and the nation, in order to strengthen the hands of the miners. When the latter committed their blunder in tactics, their allies were only too glad to withdraw.

In any event, it appears that the strike would only have been a partial one. It was said—I do not know on what authority—that about half the railwaymen would have remained at work, and disregarded the strike order. In that case it is perfectly clear that the strike would have failed had it been persisted in.

Its Consequences.

But with all this we are not precisely where we were. It is said that a thunderstorm clears the air, and that is true. But it also makes an untidy mess of the trim

flower-beds. The events of this week will have certain reactions.

In the first place, the Government is not quite where it was. It will get some votes out of the turmoil, for John Citizen hates being disturbed in his avocations, and although he admits that the mine-owners were wrong, he will take it out of the Labour Party at by-elections—that is, until the Coalition candidates make themselves ridiculous by calling every Labour man a Bolshevik, which will infallibly cause a reaction.

But the real shock to the Government is not in the constituencies but in the House of Commons. The despised back-benchers intervened when the Government failed, and their intervention made all the difference. For years past the Government has increasingly dominated the House; the House has shown in a crisis that it can act independently of the Government—and with greater effect. That is an extremely important point.

In the second place, Capital is not quite where it was. Its tactics were wrong, and its methods were wrong. In any big industrial dispute that involves the nation in future, Capital will have to argue its case as well as Labour. The public is the silent umpire, and, on the whole, it is reasonably fair; it discounts all the talk of Communism on the one side, and all the talk of Bolshevism on the other, and gets down to the real matter in dispute—the wages—on which its judgment is of value. It is not enough for Capital in these great industrial troubles to consider itself sacrosanct, and to believe that it will get public support unconditionally. It has got to prove itself just in its actions.

In the third place, Labour is not quite where it was. The Triple Alliance has not functioned. We shall probably hear a good many explanations during the next few days, and even recriminations—for the trouble is not yet over—but the probable truth of the matter is that the ordinary union member did not think there was sufficient ground for a strike. He will follow his leader up to a point, but beyond that point he will think for himself. In the present case, Mr. Thomas of the railwaymen was clearly aware that the point was passed at which the normal discipline could be imposed. It must be remembered that a trade union, like any body of professional men, is in effect a State within a State, and that the only persuasion or coercion it can ultimately rely on is the general opinion of the majority of its members. In the present case counsels were divided, and the projected move collapsed.

The Labour Party is likely to have a good many arguments over the events of the week, and the atmosphere at some of their private meetings in the immediate future may be heated. The miners will certainly accuse the railwaymen of betraying them, which is not a pleasant accusation. But the real truth of the matter seems to be that the miners made a false move at the critical moment and precipitated the collapse of their policy themselves.

New Lord Chief Justice.

This is the day of the sturdy veteran. The Government being unable to spare the services of Sir Gordon Hewart, the Lord Chief Justiceship has been offered to and accepted by Mr. Justice A. T. Lawrence, who is seventy-eight. And in order to relieve the congestion in the Divorce Court a retired judge of that division, who is now turned eighty, has consented to sit again. We no longer say: "Too old at forty" in these strenuous days; at threescore years and ten a man is just getting into his stride.

The Winter Returns.

It is a curious fact, of which the superstitious can make what they will, that the coal strike began in summery weather—some good folks called it providential—and that since then we have returned to winter, with snow, wind, hurricanes, and hail. It was not likely that the British climate should let itself be ignored during these disturbances; but it has had to share the honours with the interest excited by a famous trial now proceeding, in which an Archdeacon is appealing to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council against a judgment of the Consistory Court for immorality.

The case is fully reported day by day, and discussed in every tram and omnibus, as the Archdeacon is one of the most celebrated preachers of the time; but as it is still *sub judice*, printed comment must be deferred.

Improving Education.

There has been some outcry against education by the reactionaries in the Press of late and something like an organised opposition to Mr. Fisher, the Education Minister, because he was spending too much money—even Dean Inge, who ought to know better, having joined in the denunciation. Fortunately, there was no echo of this clamour in the House of Commons, and the estimates went through without a murmur.

Popular Divorce.

The statistics of divorce are higher than ever before, and the lawyers, who thrive on the catastrophes of love, are beginning to reap their harvest from the epidemic of matrimony in the past few years. The actual number of suits entered for hearing year by year are:—1912, 448; 1913, 431; 1914, 389; 1915, 378; 1916, 351; 1917, 306; 1918, 639; 1919, 855; 1920, 1,451; 1921, 2,384. A superficial glance at the figures seems to indicate that while we were fighting the Germans we were too busy to fight our wives; but that is not the full truth of the matter. The increase is mainly due to the facilities now given for "poor person's divorce"; in other words, the apparent demand for divorce, like everything else in this world, depends to some extent on the facilities offered. No fewer than 1,945 out of the 2,300 cases are undefended, and the bulk of them are to be tried without a jury. In view of the increase of population and the notorious fact that many people married during the war who hardly knew each other by sight, it would be premature to found any conclusions as to the decay of morality on these figures.

But I am assured by lawyers who specialise in this branch of the profession that if a new divorce law were passed there would be a great rush of petitions for some years of people who want a divorce but cannot get it under existing conditions, and that then things would

probably quieten down. But there is not the least prospect of any such Bill being passed this Session. Last year the House of Lords showed itself far more open to consider the reform of the divorce laws than the Commons.

The Week's Books.

"Man's Descent from the Gods" (Heinemann), by Anthony M. Ludovici, is a most extraordinary work, as a quotation from its first pages will show: "Prometheus, far from being a great benefactor of mankind, as modern thought, owing to a deliberate misunderstanding, supposes him to have been, was therefore, as the myth reveals him, a creature who outraged both gods and men. Not until Dionysus appeared with his medicines, and particularly his dispensary of fermented liquors, were the appalling evils resulting from Prometheus's theft of fire-production mitigated and neutralised. The chemical changes that take place in the cooking of food, as also the physiological effects of these changes, are adduced to show how deleterious are the results of the application of fire to natural products used as human food; and in the chapters dealing with Dionysus I show how these deleterious results have been checked, and may still continue to be checked, by the use of fermented liquors. Prometheus versus Dionysus is thus the theme of the book—Prometheus, with his unhealthy civilisation, being the evil genius; and Dionysus, with his healthy dietaries, his mead, his wines, and his ales, being the saviour of mankind." A very novel thunderbolt against "Pussyfoot."

A word should be given to "Oxford Poetry: 1920" (Blackwell). This is now a well-known annual, and it contains some good, although not great, verse.

OCELLUS.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes:—A congress of Yugoslav Socialists has been held in Belgrade, under the presidency of Dr. Nedelko Koshanin, in which all the districts were represented. The chief business was the unanimous condemnation of the Communists and of their methods, which would have only brought disaster and chaos upon the country.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, April 3.

The Political Situation.

The political situation continues satisfactory. Messages and visits of congratulation continue to pour in upon the new Cabinet, which at the present moment, at any rate, appears to have the whole country at its back. The Sultan on Thursday last paid a State visit to Zagazig, where he had an excellent reception, and Adly Pasha came in for quite an ovation. The most active preparations are being made to receive Zaghloul Pasha, but opinion is very much divided as to what his attitude will be.

Investiture at the Residency.

A picturesque ceremony took place at the Residency on Monday afternoon, when the High Commissioner held an investiture in the garden. There were over one hundred and seventy recipients, among them quite a number of Egyptians, to whom Viscount Allenby made a short address before beginning the distribution of decorations. At the close of the ceremony the recipients and their friends were entertained at tea.

Warriors' Day.

Warriors' Day was celebrated by a most successful ball under the patronage of Lady Allenby. For the occasion Ghezira Casino, which has in the past been associated with so many similar brilliant functions, was reopened, thanks to the generosity of Emir Lutfalla Bey, who recently acquired the Palace and the Casino. The High Commissioner and Lady Allenby were among the earliest arrivals, and stayed until very late, watching with interest the gay scene, which was rendered more than ordinarily attractive by the fact that it had been agreed that in honour of the occasion decorations should be worn. Exactly how many were present it would be difficult to say, but it could not have been far short of eight hundred. A certain number who purchased tickets were prevented from going, but the organisers expect to obtain at least £E1,200 from the venture, and I should say that their estimate errs on the conservative side.

A ball was given on the same day at Alexandria, another will be held to-morrow at Port Said, and other entertainments have been organised. It will not be at all surprising if, together with the subscription list, which, at the eleventh hour, has received substantial additions from some of the more important industrial houses, the efforts in Egypt, Palestine, and the Sudan of the organising committee, of which Col. Hussy Walsh is the able honorary secretary, result in a total of well over five figures.

Considering the present commercial depression, the care which has been taken not to make collections through administrative channels, for fear of the same political mistake as occurred in connection with the Red Cross collections, and the fact that most of the British community are people with fixed incomes, and so have been affected by the high cost of living, this result is in the highest degree satisfactory.

A British Union in Egypt.

The formation is mooted of a body to be known as the "British Union in Egypt," to watch over and protect the interests and promote the welfare of British subjects in Egypt. Its objects, which are political, civic, economic, patriotic, and benevolent are: to secure a closer union between Egypt and the various parts of the British Empire; to promote and maintain British prestige in Egypt; to bring forward the opinions of its members on all matters affecting their welfare; generally to promote the interests and safeguard the rights of the British community in Egypt; to watch legislation as far as it affects British interests in Egypt, with a view to detecting and rectifying any defects and modifying such legislation as circumstances may require; to aid in the

development of patriotic movements and of charitable and educational institutions; and to assist in the defence of any member accused of an offence against criminal law or in defending any civil proceedings in circumstances which appear to the Union to bear a political or racial significance, or otherwise to undertake or contribute to the costs and expenses of any member in instituting or conducting any criminal or civil proceedings, and in making representations to Government or any other public or private body in like circumstances.

All members of the British community, male and female, resident in Egypt will be eligible as ordinary members of the Union, which it is proposed shall be affiliated to the British Empire Union in England, and have a central organisation in Cairo under the direction of an executive council, with local councils and branches in Alexandria and other towns in Egypt. The idea of this Union has grown out of the council of the British non-official community of Cairo, which was formed in April, 1919, to consider certain political and other developments that were looming in Egypt. In view of the change in régime which is now contemplated, the constitution of some body has become necessary for the protection and safeguarding of British interests. Such a function cannot possibly be carried out by a chamber of commerce, and it has been decided to call a meeting of the British community on April 20 and submit to it the scheme for the formation of the British Union, which will represent all interests and all sections of the British community in Egypt and take on occasion such action as circumstances may require.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, April 19.

Politics.

The Constituent Assembly has met again, after the labours of the Committee, and listened with great interest to the speech of M. Drashkovitch on the Communist plot of four months ago. The Government had been challenged to produce proofs of its allegations that the Yugoslav Communists were in direct touch with foreign intriguers, and that there was a definite plot to overthrow the State and the union. The Minister of the Interior pointed out that the Communists held a congress in Belgrade in 1919 which was innocuous, as they rejected the Bolshevik programme; but in 1920 a second congress, which was held at Vukovar, was much more serious, accepting the Third International and the full Communist programme, for Lenin's agents had been busy in the meantime, disappointed at the patriotic and national result of the Belgrade congress. The Communists here had, in fact, admittedly ceased to be a Yugoslav Communist party, and declared themselves a sector of the vast, international, communist war against the bourgeoisie. M. Drashkovitch then proceeded to describe the measures taken by the Communists. First, they captured the simple Labourers party with their fair words and promises of a millennium, and exploited their strikes. The Government was in possession of proofs that they received money from abroad, from Russia, from Hungary, and from America. One communist had admitted that he had received twenty million kruna from Hungary. Moreover, jewellery had been found in the country which had been

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identified as part of the Imperial Russian collection of gems, and loot from Russian churches and museums. They had succeeded in getting their own men into Government posts as spies, and actually had their own agents in the postal and telegraph service. They had received uncensored telegrams from abroad at a time when the censorship still existed. In the *Radnicki Dom*, headquarters of the Labourers' party, they had found a whole mass of stolen archives and Government documents from various offices. By their specious promises they had actually succeeded in winning over some gendarmes and officers. In 1919 they persuaded many soldiers to desert. They were in direct touch with organised gangs of international thieves; and in this connection the Minister quoted a number of crimes that had been carried out in the direct interest of Communism. They had been intriguing constantly with the avowed enemies of the State: documents had been found proving intrigues between the Communists and the Bulgarians. During the Austrian Occupation, the Communists had openly performed services to the enemy, both Austrian and Bulgarian; and the Government had absolute proof that by this means they had done many good Serbs to death. In 1917 a prominent Communist, a "second Lenin," wrote to the Bulgarian supply department promising to use all their power to arrange supplies for the Bulgarian army. They had a whole series of documents containing threats to prominent people in Southern Serbia and Montenegro at the time of the elections. The ringleaders were mostly men who had been in Russia and Hungary and learnt their Bolshevism there. There are some genuine Communists in Croatia who had been identified with the looting of the Serbian Ministry in Petrograd and Moscow. But most of the Communists were foreigners, and many of them had come into the country in the Austrian service during the war. In Dalmatia there were many foreign Communists, who had remained all the time in direct touch with Italy. They had a central committee of three or five, who organised the business.

and drew lots to choose the perpetrator for various assassinations and other criminal attempts. On the eve of the general strike there had been a meeting of them in Belgrade which 1,500 attended, when the word was given to be ready for action at any moment. A deputy, Ljubomir Radovitch, had stumped Croatia with the catchword, "Long live Austria," and they were busy spreading pro-Italian ideas in Dalmatia. Finally, the Minister wound up by saying that the Government would not have taken the vigorous action that it did were they not satisfied of the existence of a carefully planned and organised plot against the State and the union, in direct touch with all the enemies of Yugoslavia.

As may be expected, this sensational declaration had a profound effect upon the House, which proceeded to a vote of confidence in the Government which was carried by a large majority; and so M. Pashitch's position is stronger than ever. But it is interesting to observe that there was much cross-voting. An outstanding feature was the voting of a Radical, Dr. Momchilo Ivanitch, against the Government. Dr. Ivanitch is an enthusiastic supporter of M. Stoyan Protitch, who is not in the House. This unbending politician took advantage of this occasion to attack his former chief, M. Pashitch, and the Radical Party that he led so long, in an article in the *Tribuna*, in which he declared his secession from the Radical party.

The country is naturally greatly excited by the adventures of the ex-Emperor Karl and the consequent events in Hungary. It is rumoured that troops were massed on the northern frontier ready for any eventuality, and that a reactionary plot has been discovered, by which, as soon as Karl was restored, Prince Rupprecht should be proclaimed King of Bavaria. In connection with this, the northern provinces of Yugoslavia were to be restored to Hungary, in which the Royalists were, of course, supported by the Frankovist Croats, who were financed by the "Bauernbund" of Steiermark under clerical influence. Raditch's politics were connected with the

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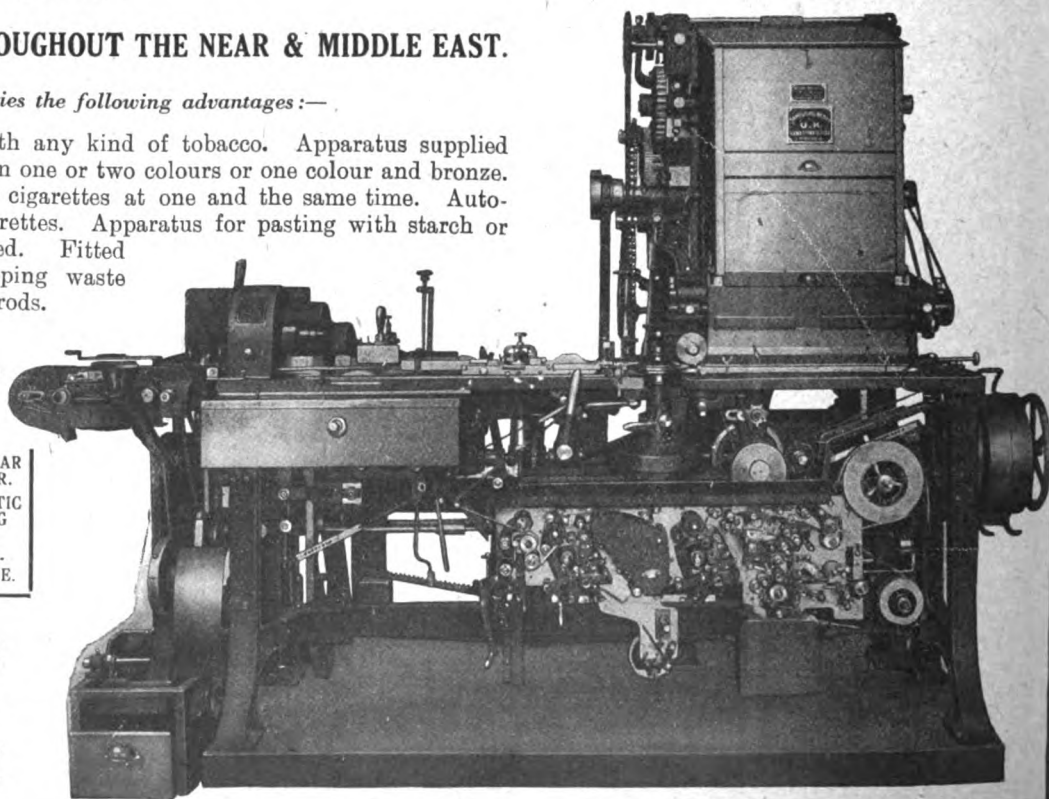
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move, and the Communist activities were made use of by the royalists. In fact, the extreme Right and extreme Left met with the common object of overthrowing the existing regime, which neither can tolerate. The Press states that Raditch was a well-known Hapsburg agent, during the war: that he is, in fact, a republican vis-à-vis the Serbian dynasty, but a monarchist in other respects. Probably he is first and foremost a Raditchist.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, April 5.

Political.

During the last few days the chief pre-occupation of political and other circles has been the *coup d'état* of the late King Charles in Hungary. The fullest reports of the event published in the newspapers come from Berlin. It has evidently come as a surprise to the neighbouring countries, not excepting Austria, though it was known, of course, that affairs in Hungary were not going very smoothly, and that there was a large party in favour of the return of the King. The event is naturally causing a good deal of anxiety in Roumania on account of its possible effect upon Transylvania, where the Hungarian population is unfortunately still very unfriendly towards the new administration. For once the Press of all shades of opinion is at one in urging that Roumania must take a very strong stand against such a violation of the Treaty of Versailles as the restoration of the Hapsburgs would constitute. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Také Jonescu, lost no time in instructing the Roumanian Minister in Budapest to make strong representations in the same sense to the administration there, and in getting into communication with the other Allied countries of the Balkans in order to arrange for united action in the event of King Charles persisting in his attempt to seize the Throne. In view of the determined attitude adopted by Britain, France, and Italy, the anxiety is becoming gradually less acute, and it is felt that the ex-King's adventure is not likely to succeed.

The police are still busy investigating the anti-Roumanian plot recently discovered in Transylvania, and a number of arrests have been made.

General News.

The King has left Bucharest and gone to his shooting lodge at Pelesh.

The racing season has begun, and the first meeting took place at Baneasa on Sunday, April 3.

The drought still continues. For almost six weeks there has scarcely been a drop of rain and the outlook for the harvest is growing serious. For several days lately dark clouds gathered, and people in the streets might be seen casting hopeful glances at them, but the wind cleared them all away. Only yesterday morning there was a very slight fall of snow (there is said to have been a considerable fall at Sinaia) and these last two days have been distinctly colder, but no frost.

The Socialists in the Ardeal have finally excluded the Communists from their organisation. At Cluj and Oradea Mare the latter are in a very small minority.

It is reported from Berlin that forty-one railway companies which formerly had their head offices at Budapest have decided to remove them to the Ardeal. If this be true it will add several millions a year to the Roumanian State resources.

GREECE.

ATHENS, April 3.

The Premier's Return.

The President of the Council of Ministers, M. Kalođeropoulos, returned to Athens last Monday morning, accompanied by the majority of the technical advisers of the Greek delegation, as well as M. Stergiadis, Secretary.

The Premier was received at Piræus by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Baltadji, who welcomed him by saying that "never before had a Greek Prime Minister returned to his country from a diplomatic mission broad bringing with him so many victories and laurels

as he in whose hands is to-day the destiny of Greece." The Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs is evidently not aware of M. Kalođeropoulos's huge blunders at the Conference, which necessitated the hurried departure to London of M. Gounaris.

Replying to the representatives of the Athens Press, who had asked him what his impressions were, M. Kalođeropoulos stated that in spite of a very strong opposition the Greek delegation succeeded in averting a revision of the Treaty of Sèvres. The Hellenic Army is now having the last say in the matter, and its bayonets will definitely solve all the national questions now in suspense. Speaking of Mr. Lloyd George, the Premier said he was a great statesman, and he felt an immense admiration for him.

On Tuesday M. Kalođeropoulos was received in audience by the King, to whom he communicated the details of the London Conference and put him *au courant* with the actual position of Greek affairs.

At a Council of Ministers held under M. Kalođeropoulos's presidency it was decided to convoke the Constituent Assembly on the 8th inst. M. Gounaris, who is expected back during the middle of the week, will be present at the re-opening of the Chamber, and will make important declarations.

More Men Called Up.

The following classes have been called up during the last few days: The reserve officers belonging to the 1910 and 1911 classes: all regular officers who had resigned their commissions and belonging to the 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913a, and 1913b classes; the refugees of the 1913b, 1914, and 1915 classes who have acquired Greek nationality; all reserve cavalry officers and warrant officers belonging to the 1913b, 1914, 1915, and 1916 classes; the sanitary officers of the 1907 and 1908 classes, and the pharmacists of the 1910 class. There are many rumours to the effect that at least three more classes of N.C.O.s and men will be called up during this week. Nothing will, however, be decided upon until M. Gounaris returns.

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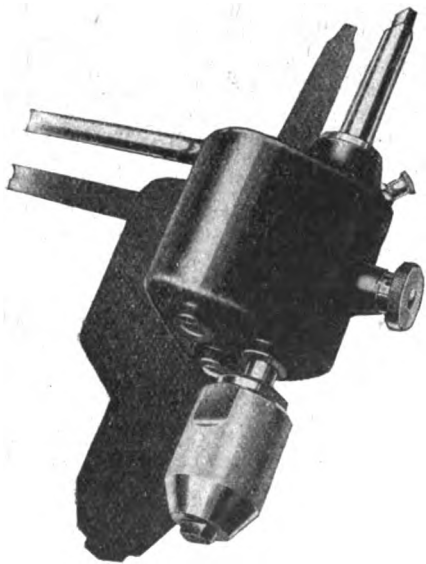
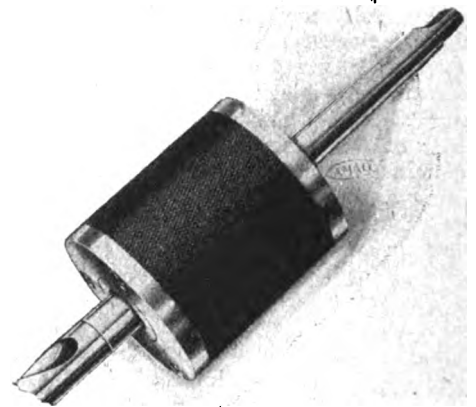
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National Assembly who belong to the classes called up, also a limited number of civil servants whose services are considered absolutely indispensable at the various Ministries, are exempted from military service.

Miscellaneous News.

The *Progrès d'Athènes* says that the Serbian authorities at Monastir have forbidden the sale of Greek newspapers in that town.

During the last four months 12,573 decorations were awarded by the Government to various people.

Mr. William Leeds, son of Princess Anastasia of Greece, formerly Mrs. Leeds, has become engaged to Princess Xenia, daughter of the Grand Duchess Maria, King Constantine's sister. The marriage will probably take place in Athens next July. Mr. Leeds is only eighteen years old and his future wife seventeen.

In reply to the allegations which have of late frequently appeared in the Greek Press to the effect that the Italians are supplying the Kemalists troops in Asia Minor with war material and foodstuffs, the Italian Minister in Athens has caused a statement to be published in the papers denying these charges most categorically.

The first batch of 563 wounded, 40 of whom are officers, arrived here to-day from the Asia Minor front.

The *Kathimerini* says that during one of the Greek attacks at Afion Karahissar, the Greek officer commanding the 6th Company of the 4th Archipelago Regiment, was killed. A major of the British Army who had been following the operations immediately took command of the company, which renewed the attack with increased energy. Before long, however, the British officer was mortally wounded by shell fire and it is reported that he died in hospital a few days later. The major's name is not given. [This report has been officially denied.—Ed.]

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 6.

The Failure of the Offensive.

It is too early yet to attempt to define the exact positions of the opposing armies in Anatolia, but there can no longer be any doubt as to the Hellenes having suffered a reverse of no little importance. It is possible, and quite probable, that the offensive will be renewed with still stronger forces as soon as the Greek Army has had a rest, but the result of the attempt to take Eskishehir has shown clearly that those who doubted the ability of the Greeks to settle the Turkish question by force of arms had good grounds for their opinion. Even though the Greeks may be more successful in a second attempt, it is now more than ever doubtful whether any kind of peace worth having can result from the policy of making Greece the "mandataire of Europe," as the propagandists are accustomed to call her. Despite outward and official appearances, Italy has never regarded the Greek invasion of Anatolia with a favourable eye, and whatever may have been the policy of the Clemenceau Administration, France, it seems, would rather have peace with Turkey than a "mandataire" in Anatolia. In present circumstances it must be admitted that the French point of view is eminently practical, and in harmony with the economic interests of Europe as well as of Turkey—not to mention Greece herself.

The story of the offensive is simple enough, although only the barest details of the fighting are available. The reports published in the Press by either side in this respect must be taken with the greatest caution: for both are alike subject to the usual Oriental failing of exaggeration. All seems to have gone well for the Greeks until they reached Soyud, north of Eskishehir and to the east of the railway line, where the Turks had organised very strong defensive positions and wired entanglements supported by heavy artillery. The artillery seems to have been abundant and remarkably well handled, with the result that for the first time the Greek advance was definitely checked. Progress still continued on the right flank, however, and owing,

it is said, to a mutiny on the part of the Turkish garrison, Afion Karahissar was captured. The Greek commander then tried to break the Turkish defences to the west of Eskishehir, and at the same time to work round the south of the city and take the Soyud positions in the rear and flank. After nine successive days' heavy fighting, however, the Greek army seems to have become exhausted, and as a result of the commencement of a counter-offensive on the part of the Turks, it became necessary to retreat to the original defensive line to the east of Brusa. According to a conservative estimate, the Greek losses in killed and wounded were only about five or six thousand—by no means a heavy total in view of the number of troops engaged; but it is not clear whether this figure applied to the entire line or only to the centre. The Nationalists, of course, state that the Greeks lost about five times the number mentioned, and talk about entire divisions being annihilated, but that is merely a manner of speaking in this part of the world.

Naturally, feeling is running very high between Greeks and Turks, and the former have certainly made matters worse by their incurable loquacity.

The Aftermath.

What is the situation now, and what are the prospects of peace? So far as we ourselves are concerned, the outlook is by no means promising, for, despite official disclaimers, both Greeks and Turks are convinced that the British Government was behind the Greeks in their decision to renew hostilities. Unfortunately our Allies seem to be doing all they can to strengthen this belief. On March 28, the *Temps*, in the course of an astonishing leading article, openly accused the British Government of double-dealing in the following words: "Clearly General Papoulas would never have taken the offensive, if the Greek Government had not found the necessary support in London. Although the contrary is averred, no one will hesitate between evidence and a denial." If another conference is held, what will be the attitude of the Nationalist delegates this time? Success is a very heady wine, and in southern Europe and Turkey there are no heads steady enough to quaff it without suffering the after-effects of a distorted vision. The tone of the Nationalist Press does not augur well for the prospect of a speedy and satisfactory peace.

SMYRNA.

SMYRNA, April 7.

The Turco-Greek Fighting.

Though the Treaty of Sévres expressly forbids the Greeks to enrol Ottoman subjects in their army, they are nevertheless doing this, and angry protests to the Allied High Commissioners are being made by European firms who are, in consequence, losing their employees. Many of these Greek-Ottoman subjects were compelled to serve in the Turkish army during the great war, and naturally fear that, should they be taken prisoners, they will be summarily shot as traitors.

Many batches of wounded men are reaching Smyrna from the Eskishehir front, where the Greek losses appear to have been very heavy. The Turks claim that the Greek army on that front has been annihilated, but this is considered in Smyrna to be a foolish exaggeration. One thing is clear: the Greek offensive has been a ghastly failure so far, and few Smyrna Greeks have any wish to fight for Constantine's cause.



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MUSICAL NOTES.

The Sevcik Quartet.

Czecho-Slovakia seems above all other countries to abound in performers of chamber music, and it is no bad choice of the London Chamber Concert Society to engage for three of its concerts the Sevcik Quartet, a body of musicians that has not been in England since 1913. This quartet, which, incidentally, has just come from Egypt, has distinctively a freedom and certainty of rhythm that few string quartets possess, and also a lightness of touch and sureness of intonation that are a delight. But none of these qualities could make Novak's quartet in G major, with which they began the concert at the Wigmore Hall on April 12, hold our interest, for it is a work the ideas of which are neither genuine nor sufficiently discreetly stated. Grieg's quartet in F major was certainly better, but here again no great gifts of interpretation were necessary. On the whole, the Sevcik Quartet was a slight disappointment to me; I had looked for things as big as we have received from the Flonzaleys, the Bohemians, or our own London String Quartet, but they had in no comparable measure the glorious fulness of tone, the full-blooded fire, or the exquisite finish that are the characteristics of these others. However, they are playing at the next two concerts of the London C.C. Society (Wigmore Hall, April 19 and 26), so that there will be further opportunities of judging them. At this concert Miss Harriet Cohen played Bar's sonata, which is still in manuscript, very finely indeed. The stark imagination of the work was magnificently portrayed, and the pianist heightened immensely the impression a previous hearing of the sonata had made. But that Miss Cohen's virtues are those of a pianist was shown in an Elizabethan composition that she played as an encore (it was Byrde's "Pavane, the Earl of Salisbury"); her keyboard knowledge and technique were obviously developed on the modern instrument.

M. Leff Pouishnoff.

By unassuming ways and sheer merit M. Pouishnoff, on whose unusual possessions I have frequently spoken in these notes, has become a favourite with the discerning public, and it was pleasant to listen to a recital by him which was given by request. At the Wigmore Hall on April 13 he once more proved how wide is his command over the pianoforte. He has played better than he did at this concert—there were too many notes missed or mis-hit—but even in the big works where his youth plays impetuous tricks, in Liszt's Sonata in B minor, or in Schumann's "Carnaval," for example, his quite remarkable powers, both of expression and of endurance, were again manifest. He gave to Beethoven's 32 variations in C minor a vitality that only great pianists are able to infuse into them; and his rendering of slight but genuine Scriabin pieces was wonderful in its individualism. It is in the smaller works, where his impetuosity is not so easily able to run riot, that M. Pouishnoff excels; but there is no doubt that in a few years' time, when his intellectual control has equalled the facility of his technique, he will take his place among the world's pianists.

A Chamber Concert.

Mr. Josef Holbrooke, a British composer of copious achievement, must have had some fun from the three chamber concerts that he has organised at the Mortimer Hall. He has been playing at each concert three pianoforte pieces by unknown composers, and has offered prizes of money to anyone who could get the names right. He has, he said, a sympathy with the underdogs among the composers, a sympathy which has prompted him to dig up among the fossils of the recent past stray things that have taken his fancy. Now to him, as I say, this must have been fun. But for the public, the only people who can do this sort of thing with impunity are the Busonis and Lamonds of to-day, and one's complete ignorance of what Mr. Holbrooke was playing with such studious nonchalance was no matter for shame; rather was it swamped by amazement that a man in a public hall could be so selfish as to crack a joke and keep it all to himself. However, there was one fine thing done at the last concert on April 11, and that was the Pizetti Sonata for violin and pianoforte, played by Miss Evelyn Hunter and Mr. Holbrooke; it is a work the beautiful strength of which becomes more apparent with every hearing. There is little superficial attractiveness in it, but study of it shows how unusually fine its contents are. Mr. John Goss, a singer whom I much admire, introduced some "Sporting Songs" composed by Mr. Holbrooke, the words of which (excluding "Caswallawn" by T. E. Ellis), are taken from G. K. Chesterton's "Flying Inn." Unhappily, the composer has forgotten that Mr. Chesterton's famed lines sing of themselves, and that all they require is a good tune. It is the absence of this that robs Mr. Holbrooke's clever efforts of significance.

ANDANTE.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

April 12.—Sir Philip Lloyd Greame informed Mr. Wise that there are at present 2,589 Russian refugees in Egypt, and that the total cost per annum falling upon the British Government for their maintenance is £162,224. Every effort was being made to liquidate the obligations of the British Government towards these refugees, but it was impossible to give any definite date upon which they would cease to be a charge on public funds.

Sir Philip Lloyd Greame informed Commander Kenworthy that the Greek Government is not receiving any financial or other assistance, either direct or indirect, from the British Government in their operations against the Turkish forces in Anatolia, and, further, that no ammunition or other stores are being supplied to the Greeks from either British or Egyptian sources. In connection with the same subject Mr. Chamberlain informed Colonel Wedgwood that the British Government have not sent, nor have they assisted in sending from Egypt any volunteers, reservists, or munitions to Greece.

Sir Philip Lloyd Greame informed Mr. Hayward that General Wrangel's Russian troops are still at Chatalja, Gallipoli, and Lemnos, and that, so far as the British Government are aware, France is the only country now contributing towards their maintenance.

April 13.—In reply to General Townshend, Mr. Harmsworth stated that until a Treaty of Peace has been ratified a technical state of war still exists between Great Britain and Turkey, and that with regard to the present Græco-Turkish hostilities the attitude of the British Government is one of neutrality.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Major Glyn that all questions concerning the administration of the Sudan should be addressed by members to the Foreign Office, and those of a purely commercial nature should be addressed to the Department of Overseas Trade.

April 14.—In reply to a question by Lord Curzon regarding the situation in Asia Minor, the Prime Minister stated that on the northern sector the Greeks had fallen back to their original position east of Broussa. On the southern sector the Greeks have evacuated Afion-Karahissar, to which they advanced early in the operations. As to the losses on either side, there was no definite information, and the rival claims were most conflicting.

Mr. Hilton Young informed Mr. Lambert that the approximate estimated cost during the current financial year in connection with the occupation of Constantinople and Egypt is as follows:—Constantinople Army Services, £3,000,000; Air Services, £40,000; Foreign Office Services, £10,000; Egypt Army Services, £5,000,000; Air Services, £1,576,000.

Bolsheviks near Enzeli have shelled a Persian Cossack force at Naglobar.

The High Commissioner for Palestine, attended by Colonel T. E. Lawrence, is to visit the Emir Abdullah at Amman, in the Oultre-Jourdain.

Jewish settlers in Bessarabia have pledged themselves to give, for the next five years, a tenth of their possessions and earnings to the Palestine Foundation Fund, and, in addition, the proceeds of a self-imposed tax on wheat and flour.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"AN AID TO PRACTICAL WRITTEN ARABIC." By J. Van Ess. M.A. (Oxford University Press. 21s. net.)
 II.—"THE EARLY HOURS." By Marmaduke Pickthall. (London: Collins and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

I.—WRITTEN ARABIC.

This volume was prepared at the request of the Administration of the Territories of Irak in British occupation. The book was printed in 1920 at the Oxford University Press under the guidance of Rev. D. S. Margoliouth, D.Litt., Laudian Professor of Arabic in the University of Oxford. It does not claim to be a standard authority, its aim being to help in acquiring a sufficient knowledge of Arabic to enable the student to use the everyday language of newspapers, petitions, letters, etc.

The first section of the book deals with the explanation of simple grammatical rules, a knowledge of which is essential for a beginner. In this section an attempt is made to expound such rules as are really necessary for an ordinary knowledge of the language. It is to be noticed, however, that the author has at the same time endeavoured to raise very minute grammatical questions which are really beyond the scope of the book, and which are not of great practical value. Errors are occasionally met with, and the examples quoted to illustrate the rules under treatment are not always of a practical or generally accepted type.

The second section contains reading selections, which on the whole seem to be of a suitable kind. They represent considerable variety, including Koranic and Biblical texts as well as quotations from magazines and newspapers of different Arabic-speaking countries. Some of the quotations, however, such as those taken from the Koran, are by no means easy enough for students who are only beginning the study of the language, and who are consequently not too ambitious. The section ends with a set of Arabic proverbs, which are very useful and which are of current use.

The third section gives specimens of manuscripts. It begins by illustrating the formation of letters in various combinations, as taken from standard copy-books of a famous Arabic expert in caligraphy.

It then proceeds to give a wide variety of scripts, including petitions, letters, invitation cards, documents dealing with commercial and civil transactions, etc. These are given as they are ordinarily written by hand, together with the corresponding copies in print and their translations in English. The idea is an excellent one, and should remove many of the difficulties that the ordinary English student has to overcome in his attempt to obtain an adequate knowledge of the language as used in ordinary life.

The next part of the book consists of a vocabulary which takes up the greater part of the book. It is arranged in alphabetical order, and not according to roots as nearly all Arabic dictionaries are arranged. It is by no means an easy task for people who happen to be in the unfortunate position of not being profound Arabic scholars to look up a word in an Arabic ordinary dictionary. One has to know the root form of the word before he can find it in a dictionary, and if he happens to be unacquainted with the root, he is practically unable to find the word. The attempt to do away with the root system in the arrangement of the vocabulary should be a great help to students. One of the features of the vocabulary is that it is practical in so far as it even introduces Turkish words that have become of general use in Irak.

The last chapter is perhaps the best and most useful section of the book. It attempts to give the derived measures which are more or less difficult to discover under their respective roots.

The book, on the whole, represents an adequate effort on the part of the author who must have acquired a thorough grip of the colloquial Arabic as used by the people of Irak. It is to be hoped, however, that before a second edition is contemplated, a thorough revision of it will be made with a view to eliminating such parts as may seem to be unnecessary and rectifying such mistakes as may be found in the first section of the present edition. It would be highly desirable that a more careful selection of examples to illustrate the grammatical rules should be made.

II.—THROUGH TURKISH SPECTACLES.

Anyone who has ever heard the East a-callin' will certainly enjoy this book. Enjoyment may be checked now and then by the intrusion of politics into the story, but the story itself is truly Turkish. Camruddin and many of his fellow-countrymen are as likable as they are admirably drawn; and

Mr. Pickthall has lost none of his talent for setting before us, in a few words, pictures of the East in its most fascinating aspect—pictures which set us longing to be off to the shores of the Bosphorus and the bazaars of Stamboul again, as soon as they are freed from their present visitors! Briefly, the story is that of an ex-soldier of the Hamidian Army, who, after serving with credit in the Yemen, and winning the favour of his General by his gallantry, returns to his home only to become involved very quickly in the events that led up to the revolution of 1908. In a very short time he is in the thick of it, and—after a narrow escape from being put away by Abdul Hamid's spies—takes part as a *fedai* in the first rising, under Niazi Bey. For a while Fortune smiles upon him as she can smile, surely, only in Oriental lands, and he has a period of happiness to which his simple goodness and his sturdy championship of what he conceives to be the right fully entitle him. The counter-revolution casts its shadow over him; the Italo-Turkish war, very naturally, shakes his faith in the justice of Europe when the Turk is concerned; and the attack by the Balkan League brings disaster upon him and his. One other piece of great good fortune comes to console him for his losses and his sufferings, but the fate of his beloved country saddens him utterly, though it cannot embitter so good a Moslem as he; and the book closes on a sad note.

Interwoven with the simple story of Camruddin, Gulraane, his first wife, and the lady Reshidah, his second, there is a great deal about the doings of the C.U.P. and the Young Turks; and to tell truth, towards the end of the book we find the predominance of this element rather irritating. We can understand, and sympathise, with the author's indignation at the way Turkey was treated by Europe—and especially by her secular foe Russia—and the story of her attempt to secure British advisers, and even administrators, and of its failure owing to our pusillanimity is truly deplorable. But we cannot follow Mr. Pickthall all the way. Turkey had enemies enough, and to spare; but even of those outside her own borders very few could have been found in this country. Nor were all the "Old" Turks so incompetent as they are represented in "The Early Hours"; while to ask us to believe that all the C.U.P. leaders were inspired only by worthy motives is, frankly, to ask the impossible. Occasionally, the author's hero-worship carries him to strange lengths, as for example, when he tells us (p. 255) that Mahmud Shevket Pasha—for whom we have a very real admiration—had to be threatened with violence before he would consent to become Grand Vizier. To yield to threats what he would not yield to argument would surely be unworthy of such a brave man.

But, after all, this laudation of the Committee of Union and Progress, although it occupies much space in the last third of the book, is not the story. The effect produced by the upheaval upon Camruddin and the others is what interests us, and we enjoy being with them in their picturesque surroundings, and seeing life for a while through their eyes. In that way the book has afforded us very real pleasure, and we are grateful accordingly to Mr. Pickthall.

We regret that in our acknowledgment of the receipt of "When Turkey was Turkey," by Mary A. Poynter, the name of the publishers was wrongly given. Messrs. George Routledge and Sons are actually the publishers. The price of the book is 12s. 6d. net.

A Reuter message from Athens states:—After a somewhat stormy debate the proclamation of martial law was voted by the Constituent Assembly on April 12. Before the division the Prime Minister, M. Gounaris, declared that martial law was required in order to permit of the establishment of a censorship on military subjects only.

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MESOPOTAMIA—1914-1921.

Speaking before a meeting of the Central Asian Society held at Burlington House on April 13, Sir Arnold T. Wilson said that neither the Treaty of Versailles nor that of Sévres said in so many words that we undertook to guard and maintain an independent Arab Government in Mesopotamia; but such a pledge was implied in both treaties, and the British Government had repeatedly affirmed this as its policy. Of the elements composing the population of the country the Shias numbered half as many again as the Sunnis. Between these two sects the division was profound, almost like that between different nations, extending to every activity of their lives and contributing to a difference of outlook which it would be impossible to ignore. It was from the Sunnis that Government officials of every kind were drawn, while the Shias had always held aloof, and none of them were included in the present Arab Government. They chiefly inhabited the country from Felujah inclusive below Baghdad; north of that the bulk of the population was Sunni as far as Mosul, beyond which again it consisted chiefly of Kurds. The social organisation of Kurdistan was little able to resist a powerful and unscrupulous individual with armed men in his pay, and sometimes the prestige of a saintly name to support him; so that there, even more than with the Arabs, a foreign Government was required. Previously to the war the various discordant and irreconcilable elements that made up the population of Mesopotamia had been loosely governed by the Turks. That government was an Oriental bureaucracy, bad from many points of view; but were a plebiscite to be taken to-day in Irak on the subject of Turkish versus Arab government, there would be a large majority in favour of Turkey. Bad as the record of the Turks was, it was already forgotten, and the national feeling of the Arabs was not a unifying factor. We must, however, support the Arab Government.

Dealing with the economic aspect, the lecturer said that the total area of Mesopotamia was about half as great again as that of the Punjab, but its population was only a quarter as many; its exports were entirely agricultural and pastoral. Dates amounted to about £2,000,000 a year, of which a half came to this country, a quarter went to India, and a quarter to the United States. The £2,000,000 could be doubled in ten years; the water was there for this. But we must first find fresh markets for the dates, teach the Arab to grow them better, and ourselves learn to pack them better. The average quantity of cereals raised was about 100,000 tons—a quantity no greater than the port of Karachi could handle in four days. The first consignment of cotton had arrived in London; it amounted to only ninety-two bales, but was of first-rate quality. The silkworm had formerly flourished in the country, and we had begun to encourage its rearing again. There were possibilities with sugar beet. Wool to the value of £250,000 annually was exported, also hides and leather. This trade might be expanded, but it would be better to encourage a local leather and woollen industry. There was oil in Mesopotamia, but the difficulty was to get it out. At present it was almost inaccessible, and needed a pipe line 500 miles long to get it to Busreh. Mesopotamia was no El Dorado, and the Mesopotamian would have to be furnished with a fresh set of ideals and imbued with an idea of progress before he could be made to work harder. Immigration offered no solution, only fresh problems. The peoples of Central Asia would not forsake their present life to labour in Mesopotamia, and as to India, that country itself offered greater attractions to the stalwart Mohammedan cultivator, who alone would make a good settler.

Turning to the probable effect of our abandoning our mandate, the lecturer said that such a course would be followed by anarchy in Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Syria, such as those countries had not witnessed for centuries; and this would spread to Egypt and India. No government could be firm in the Middle East without our support and assistance. The case was analogous to that of the Soudan. That country we had abandoned, and had gone back to it after ten years, to find the population reduced nearly two-thirds by famine and the sword. He assumed that Parliament would ratify the mandate. To make the mandate a success, we needed first and foremost commercial enterprise. Another necessity was a measure of restraint on the part of public speakers and the Press. Our task in Mesopotamia last year had been made much more difficult than it need have been by an orgy of ill-informed opinion from the United Kingdom; much of this had been reproduced in the native Press. He believed that from the time of the Armistice until now not a single newspaper in Great Britain had thought it worth while to send a special correspondent to Mesopotamia; a *Times* representative had once spent a week in the country, but he was on his way to Teheran.

The lecturer concluded with a personal reference. He said he had applied for permission to retire from Government service with a view to taking up other, he hoped, not less useful employment in Mesopotamia. This was not because of the prospect of earning higher pay, but he held it to be the duty of us all to serve civilisation in the best way we could. He hoped to play a humble part in the creation of wealth, which he believed could best be done on commercial lines. Governments had endeavoured to do this but had failed.

A short discussion followed.

It is stated from Malta that the Government has arranged for a regular steamship service to Sicily. A British vessel will ply four times a week, and will thus remedy a grievance long felt by British officers and residents homeward bound.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

April 21 (New Style).

April 8 (Old Style).

Shaaban 13, 1339, of the Moslem Calendar

Nisan 13, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Islington has arrived in Paris from Biarritz.

Lady Crosfield is making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

The Earl and Countess of Ossory have arrived in London from Egypt.

Lord and Lady Inchcape have arrived at Cannes in their yacht *Rever*.

Viscount and Viscountess Milner have returned from the South of France.

Sir Rennell and Lady Rodd will return to London early next month from Rome.

The Emir Faisal arrived in Cairo on April 14 on his way back from London to the Hejaz.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania is expected to arrive in London shortly from Bucharest.

Lord and Lady Chelmsford and the Hon. Anne Thesiger arrived in London this week, where their address will be 18, Queen's Gate, S.W.7.

M. Costiesco-Ghika, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, left London on April 17 for Madrid, where he has been appointed First Secretary.

Mohamed-Ali Khan, who has been appointed Counsellor to the Persian Legation, has arrived in London from Teheran and entered upon his duties.

Mrs. Rosita Forbes will arrive in England on April 26, and will be at 56, Eaton Square until May 11, when she will return to her flat at 69, Curzon Street.

Flying Officer Cox, Adjutant of the 14th Squadron, whilst taking part in air manoeuvres on Friday, says a Jerusalem telegram, had his machine crash, and was killed.

The Sultan has given £10,000 (£2,000) to the Red Crescent Fund which has been started at Constantinople, but only about £130,000 (£6,000) has as yet been subscribed.

Mr. Neville George De Brecton Priestley, of West Hill, East Putney, managing director of the South Indian Railway Company, who died on December 13, left estate of the value of £28,861 gross and £24,821 net.

The marriage arranged between Captain Leonard Newton, of The Laurels, Mold, North Wales, and Margaret Wolseley, elder daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel T. W. Haig, C.S.I., C.M.G., C.B.E., will take place on the 27th inst. at Lahore, India.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place shortly, between Percy Hamilton Maffin, M.C., Executive Engineer, Indian State Railways, and Eleanor, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bartrum, Coniston, Bromley, Kent.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes:—Count Michael Karoly, whom nobody seems to want, has obtained permission from the Yugoslav Government to live at Dubrovnik (Ragusa), and has arrived with his family at Zagreb on his way to Dalmatia.

In aid of the Rheims Cathedral Restoration Fund (30, Regent Street), a lecture on "The Miracle of Modern

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Morocco," illustrated with lantern slides, will be given by Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond at the Æolian Hall at three o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

Major-General C. P. Grant, C.B., has arrived in Palestine, from England, says the *Zionist Review*, to take up his post as Director of Public Works. Lieut.-Colonel C. W. Gray Donald, O.B.E., will act as Deputy to the Director of Public Works.

Sir Alfred Macdonald Bulteel Irwin, C.S.I., of Ailesbury Road, Dublin, formerly a puisne Judge of the Chief Court of Lower Burma, who died on February 1, son of the Ven. Henry Irwin, Archdeacon of Elphin, has left personal estate of the value of £7,581.

The Egyptian Government invite competitive designs for the new buildings of Qasr el Aini Hospital and School at Cairo, with accommodation for 1,225 beds. Particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Royal Institute of British Architects, 9, Conduit Street, W.1.

M. Yankovitch, Yugoslav Minister for Agriculture, has warmly thanked the Duke of Portland, President of the Agricultural Relief of Allies Committee of the Royal Agricultural Society, for the gift of seeds and implements to the value of £15,000 contributed by British farmers for the benefit of the peasants of Serbia.

The marriage was celebrated on April 14 at St. Andrew's Church, Roker, by the Rev. A. du T. Pownall, assisted by Rev. E. W. Bolland, Vicar of Southwick Parish Church, between T. V. Holmes, M.A., LL.B., son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Stephen Holmes, Jesmond, Newcastle, and Miss Molly Bird, daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. R. R. Bird, of Cairo, Egypt.

Under the auspices of the Royal Society of Arts, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Edward W. M. Grigg, K.C.V.O., C.M.G., D.S.O., will deliver the Sir George Birdwood Memorial Lecture to-morrow, April 22, at 4.30 p.m., at John Street, Adelphi. His subject is "The Common Service of the British and Indian Peoples to the World." The Earl of Lytton, Under Secretary of State for India, will preside. On the same occasion the medal awarded for the Birdwood Lecture given last year will be presented by Mr. A. A. Campbell, F.R.S., Chairman of the Council, to Sir Valentine Chirol.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

General Dousmanis has been appointed Chief of the Greek General Staff.

Mr. Peter A. Jay, Counsellor of Embassy at Rome, has been appointed American Minister to Roumania.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Hugh McPherson, C.S.I., I.C.S., to be a member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bihar and Orissa, in succession to Sir Walter Maude, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., who is retiring this month.

The King has been pleased to approve of the promotion to the rank of Field-Marshal of General Sir Arthur Arnold Barrett, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., retired pay, late Indian Army, in succession to the late Field-Marshal Sir Charles Comyn Egerton, G.C.B., D.S.O.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Henry Staveley Lawrence, C.S.I., I.C.S., to be a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of Bombay in succession to Sir George Seymour Curtis, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., whose tenure of office expires this month.

Mr. N. G. Davidson, Advocate-General of the Sudan Government, has accepted, says the *Sudan Times*, the post of Legal Adviser to the Mesopotamian Government, in succession to Sir E. Bonham Carter (formerly Legal Secretary, S.G.), who has resigned his post in Mesopotamia.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

A further declaration of British neutrality has been sent to the Greek and Turkish Governments.

A Port Said telegram announces the arrival of the Japanese Crown Prince at the port on April 17.

Greece has reimposed a Press censorship in order to prevent the publication of misleading news about the military situation.

A Cairo message reports a collision between two aeroplanes at Billbeis on April 14. The four occupants of the machines were killed.

The proceeds of the Egyptian Warriors' Day entertainments, which are not yet concluded, are expected to exceed £10,000.

April 13 was kept as the anniversary of the Amritsar tragedy. A *hartal* was declared, and public meetings were held in Bombay and elsewhere.

An Athens *communiqué*, dated April 14, states that there were slight attacks against the Greek lines at Tulu Bunar, which were easily repulsed.

The Anglo-Hellenic Agreement of September 4, 1920, relating to the suppression of the Capitulations in Egypt, has been published [Cmd. 1237, 1d.]

Bekir Sami Bey and other members of the delegation of the Turkish Nationalist Government travelled from Brindisi to Constantinople in an Italian destroyer.

A message from the Viceroy to the India Office announces that 181,329 persons are now being relieved in certain parts of India, and that the famine is spreading.

M. Gounaris, the Greek Prime Minister, speaking in the Chamber last week, stated that there had never been any question of the King's going to the front.

Marshal Lyautey, the Resident-General in Morocco, landed at Casablanca last week on his return from France. He was presented with a Marshal's baton of honour by the oldest French resident.

The members of the Georgian Government have issued from Constantinople an appeal to all Socialist parties and workmen's organisations for support against the invasion of their country by the Russian Bolsheviks, who "hide their Imperialistic characteristics under the flag of Communism."

Writing on April 11, Reuter's Smyrna correspondent reports:—As the result of the indiscriminate fire of Greek troops passing through the town on their way to the front four people are reported to have been killed. Great uneasiness is being experienced by the Turkish population, and the Greek military authorities appear to be unable to put a stop to such undisciplined action.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1921.

THE MESOPOTAMIAN MANDATE.

It is to be hoped that the domestic crisis will have lost some of its acuteness to enable both members of Parliament and the public as a whole to give their full attention when Mr. Winston Churchill announces the policy of the British Government in regard to the mandated territories. In spite of the efforts that have been made in a section of the Press to discredit Great Britain's acceptance of the mandates for Palestine and Mesopotamia, we believe that the bulk of the British people is prepared to accept the responsibilities entailed as an inevitable post-war extension of the nation's burden, while naturally anxious to see the financial commitments connected with these fresh responsibilities reduced to a minimum. Most of the criticism levelled against the mandates has centred in the alleged abrogation of national rights in favour of the League of Nations and in the charges to be imposed upon the British Exchequer. With regard to the former, it may be pointed out that if the principle of the League of Nations is good—it has been accepted for better or for worse by Parliament and the country—any deference paid by Great Britain to the League in connection with the mandated territories can only serve to enhance its prestige and usefulness. In the case of the cost likely to be incurred through the mandates, an entirely unjustifiable attempt has been made to argue, first, that the expenditure in Mesopotamia during the last two years is due to the acceptance of the mandate, and, secondly, that the current Budget may be taken as a fair indication of expenditure in the future. Neither argument will hold good. The course of events in Mesopotamia after the Armistice was not influenced in any way by the decision to bring into existence the League of Nations or by the prospect of a mandate being offered to Great Britain. The chief item in our Mesopotamian expenditure has been the military establishment; and it is obvious that this will not be maintained at the strength which has been necessary during the last two years. Indeed, the terms of the mandate are the best guarantee that military expenditure will be restricted within the narrowest possible limits, while the aim of the mandatory Government will be to make the country as quickly as possible self-supporting.

As far as Mesopotamia is concerned, the chief interest in Mr. Churchill's speech will lie in the measures that it is proposed to adopt with a view to keeping expenditure on the country within reasonable limits from next year onwards. It has been made abundantly clear that the policy of scuttle finds no favour with the Government. If any doubt on this point had still lingered in the public mind, it will have been dissipated by the very able lecture delivered before the Central Asian Society by Sir Arnold Wilson, formerly Civil Commissioner in Mesopotamia. Sir Arnold Wilson accompanied Mr. Churchill to Egypt in an advisory capacity, and, although he no longer has official authority, we shall

not be wrong in supposing that on main lines his views in regard to the future of Mesopotamia are shared by the Government. Now, from the fact that nothing has been allowed to leak out regarding the Cairo conferences it is safe to infer that there was general agreement among those who met in consultation. Consequently when Sir Arnold Wilson in a public lecture condemns the suggested policy of allowing the Arabs to fend for themselves while the British retire within the perimeter of Busreh, we may be sure that Mr. Churchill will have equally potent arguments against such a policy. No Arab Government, in the opinion of the late Civil Commissioner, could be formed without British support and assistance. Were we to abandon the mandate, he added, Islam, already suspicious, would finally, perhaps for a century, turn definitely against us. With anarchy would come loss of trade, and in a short time civilisation in these regions would be submerged, as it was in the Sudan when the British Government abandoned that country in deference to much the same complaints as were now being made. The analogy is an apt one, and should be taken to heart. But we may hope that, after Mr. Churchill's *exposé* of the situation and of the Government's intentions, the last will have been heard of a complete withdrawal to Busreh. There need be no delay in creating a national Arab force, but it is evident that some time must elapse before such an organisation can be efficient enough to stand alone and to meet all the requirements of the extended territory that it will have to serve.

British policy in Mesopotamia has been simplified by the terms of the mandate. We are pledged to the establishment of a national Government, and to this end we must count upon the support of the so-called Nationalists. It is true that they were mainly responsible for the spread of the recent rebellion, if not for the original outbreak; but that movement was effectively quelled, and most of the participants have learnt their lesson, even though they may not have admitted the fact. The proclamation of a general amnesty, if it did not convince the extremists that they had misjudged the British character, would at least strengthen the hands of the more moderate element. It so happens that the Nationalists as a body are more or less united on the question of the future ruler of Mesopotamia. An inquiry on this subject, it will be remembered, was set on foot before the 1920 rebellion, and while opinion up and down the country showed marked differences more support was given to an Emir of the Shereefian family than to any other. In those days, as Emir Faisal seemed destined to rule over Syria the choice inclined towards his brother, Emir Abdullah. Whether on the strength of his war exploits popular favour would now incline to Emir Faisal remains to be seen, but on this point the Arabs of Mesopotamia must decide for themselves. As far as Emir Abdullah is concerned, a post will in all probability be found for him nearer home. A few days ago in Cairo Emir Faisal admitted that he had received unofficial proposals to accept the throne of Mesopotamia, and he knows that he can count upon a welcome from the British Government. The latter, however, can take no steps in the matter until the choice of the people has been clearly indicated. Of Emir Faisal it can certainly be said that his personal qualities offer the best possible augury for a successful reign in Mesopotamia. He has shown himself patient, conciliatory, and steadfast; left to himself, he could probably be relied upon to evolve a successful *modus vivendi* with his Turkish and Kurdish neighbours to the north and with the powerful Arab chieftains of the region west and south-west of Mesopotamia. Whatever the result of the Cairo Conference it is to be hoped that no time will be lost in giving effect to its decisions in so far as they are calculated to stabilise conditions in Mesopotamia and enable the country to settle down to the new era.

ST. GEORGE OF ENGLAND.

By Estelle Blyth.

St. George is a very real and living personality to the people of Palestine, whether Christian or Moslem, and after living in the warmth of their belief it is strange to find at home a widespread ignorance and indifference about him. He is the Patron Saint of England, and, therefore, in a sense, of the whole Empire, a splendid figure, bold, chivalrous, and ready—surely the very type of English manhood; and yet there are still many who know so little about him as to think that George the Tribune and George of Cappadocia are one and the same. Let us contest the heresy at once. George of Cappadocia (or, more correctly, of Laodicea), who is canonised only by the ignorant, championed the Arian heresy against Athanasius; later, though still an Arian, he became Archbishop of Alexandria (A.D. 356-61), and was torn to pieces by his infuriated flock on Christmas Eve, 361. This was in the reign of Julian, who annexed the heretic's fine library and removed it to Rome. George the Tribune was martyred A.D. 303 (some even give the date as 292); Arius propounded his heresy about 318, and was condemned by the Council of Nicea in 325. Making full allowance for the inaccuracy of oral tradition, we must still confess it is most unlikely that in the short space of fifty-seven years men could lose all remembrance of the soldier's steadfastness unto death, or of the archbishop's far from blameless career. It is worth mentioning also that there was (and still may be) a very ancient church in Syria in whose ruins was found a Greek inscription, dated 346, which referred to the holy martyr, George. The error crept in about the end of the fifth century; English readers, no doubt, take it on trust from Gibbon. It would not be worth referring to but for the fact that people are so slipshod and slovenly in their history as to think that such a man as George of Cappadocia could be England's Patron Saint.

Who, then, was St. George?

This is his story, as I have been able to piece it together from many sources, old and new. He was not an Englishman, but a Roman, born in the Province of Cappadocia, the son of a Christian nobleman who suffered for his faith. After his father's death, St. George, while still a boy, took his mother to Lydda in Palestine, where she had property, and would be safer from heathen vengeance. The early Christians were as strictly forbidden to provoke martyrdom, as they were to deny their faith if directly questioned. His mother died a few years later, when St. George, a generous, fearless boy of seventeen, had already won distinction as a soldier. The beauty of his person and his character attracted the notice of that wayward tyrant, Diocletian, who made him a tribune and showed him great favour and affection, once even sending him on an Imperial Mission into Britain. It is strange that the Emperor never suspected the young Tribune of being a Christian; for it is on record that St. George sent much help, both in money and in kind, to the persecuted Christians of Armenia. St. George, for his part, served the heathen Emperor faithfully, until the latter's fearful persecution of the Christians swept the young Tribune, in a blaze of righteous anger, to the tyrant's presence, to protest against the inhuman savagery that spared neither age nor sex. He proclaimed himself a Christian, to the utter fury of Diocletian, and was straightway by him given over to prison and to torture. The guards placed his feet in stocks, and laid a heavy stone upon his breast; he spoke no word, but silently endured their cruelty. The following day they bound him to a wheel set with spikes of steel, which tore his body fearfully as the wheel was forced round. As the guards laboured at their horrid task, a voice cried out of heaven: "George, fear thou nothing, for I am with thee!" and the soldier, looking upwards, beheld One clad in robes of brightest glory, from Whom a wonderful, unearthly light shone out. Two of the guards, also saw the vision, became Christians, and instantly were put to death. The broken body of the Saint, who yet lived and was fully conscious, was unbound from the wheel, and he was carried back to prison. Here he was allowed to see an old servant, whom he charged to carry his body to Lydda for burial. Diocletian again and again offered him full pardon if he would but scatter a few grains of incense on the altar of some Roman god. In fact, the savage Emperor laboured to save his favourite's life, but as St. George still held firm he was beheaded (April 23, 303). One is thankful for the clean sword sweep that ended those days of brutal torture.

Naturally "a death so noble" was seed from which would spring a ready crop of legends. The episode of the dragon (which need not necessarily be a legend *only*), took place at Berytus (Beyrout), where the monster had made its lair by

the watersprings outside the city, and thus caught its prey without much trouble. St. George killed his dragon in fair fight, and it is not surprising that the people of Berytus at once embraced their champion's faith; after which St. George further "glorified the land with many miracles." The early pilgrims invariably visited the place where the dragon was slain; the modern traveller may have it pointed out to him as the scene of Andromeda's rescue by Perseus.

The story soon found its way into Britain; it was one to touch the heart and fire the generous imagination of English youth. From England the cult spread through Europe, and very soon Aragon, Valencia, Portugal, Malta, and Genoa (all seafaring countries) adopted him as their Patron Saint. England early on displaced the weak-kneed Confessor from being her Patron Saint in favour of St. George the Soldier. There are two versions of how this came to pass, the latter being probably the true one. The earlier version says that Robert of Normandy was hard pressed to hold his own at the Siege of Antioch (July 3, 1098), but at the crucial moment, when the Christians had almost failed under the overwhelming numbers of the infidel, St. George, that valiant knight, was seen "with an innumerable army coming down from the hills, all in white, with a red cross on his banner." The Saracens fled, feeling, no doubt, unequal to fighting a heavenly, as well as an earthly, host, and so Antioch was won by the First Crusade. "This story made St. George extraordinarily famous . . . and to be esteemed a patron, not only of England, but of Christianity itself. Not but that St. George was a considerable saint before this." The other story tells us that, at the Siege of Calais (1349), Edward III. led a spirited attack with the cry, "Ha, St. Edward! Ha, St. George!" utterly routing the French, who lost two hundred good men slain. That year saw also the foundation of the Order of St. George (now the Order of the Garter), which "exceeds in majesty, honour, and fame all chivalrous Orders in the world," according to Selden. A hundred years earlier (1222) the Council of Oxford enjoined that St. George's Day should be kept as a national feast. In the ancient Use of Sarum we find a special Collect, Epistle (St. James i. 2-12), and Gospel (St. John xv. 1-7); and though in Prayer Books of subsequent date April 23 is only a black-letter day, there are still special observances for it—three Collects, with an Introit and the Gloria. It was Edward VI., the *enfant terrible* of English History, who changed the name of the Order of St. George to the Order of the Garter, and also cut out of the Prayer Book the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the day. One wonders by what happy chance he was withheld from snuffing out the day entirely.

To go back a little way, we find Edward I. flying the Ensign of St. George on the four battleships which bore his wooden bridges north in his first Scottish War (1303). In an "Old Art of War" (found in a library abroad, but without date), I discovered an "Item" to the effect that "all Souldiers entering into bataille, assault, skirmish, or other faction of armes, shall have for their common cry and word, 'St. George, forward,' and 'Upon them, St. George,' whereby the souldier is much comforted and the enemy dismayed, by calling to mind the ancient valour of England, who with that name has so oft been victorious." Henry VII., surely the harshest of our kings, forbade the Irish to use their national battle-cry, commanding them to call instead upon St. George, or "on the name of their sovereign lord, the King of England for the time being" (1495). In the twelfth century English soldiers began to wear the red cross of St. George upon their surcoats. It came easily enough to English soldiers to call upon their Saint as they went into action; and not once or twice only did he appear to succour Christian arms in Palestine. It is not strange that the Crusaders' ardent faith in him spread to the Saracens, and has remained in Palestine until this day.

In the pages of the early Pilgrims to Palestine there are many references to St. George and to the Georgians, who were both a people and a sect. Sir John Maundeville writes of them thus: "There are others who are called Georgians, which were converted by St. George, and they worship him more than any other saint, and to him they cry for help, and they came out of the realm of Georgia. These people have their crowns shaven, the Clerks have round crowns and the laity have their crowns all square; and they hold the same Christian doctrines as the Greeks" (Chap. x., A.D. 1322). Later on he describes the kingdom of Georgia, which "commences at the east (of the kingdom of Media), at the great mountain called Abzor, and contains many people of different nations. . . . Their kingdom extends towards Turkey and towards the Great Sea, and towards the south it borders on the Greater Armenia. . . . The King of Georgia is in subjection to the Great Cham. . . . And know well that in the kingdom of Georgia, Abchaz, and the Little Armenia are good and devout Christians; for they shrive and house themselves always once or twice in the

week, and many house themselves every day" (Chap. xiv.). The Georgians held various churches and chapels in Jerusalem, and in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. When they came into Jerusalem the Saracens dared exact no tribute from them, as they did from all other Christians, for they were a fighting people (even "their noblewomen were trained in the use of arms"), and they welcomed any excuse for joining battle with the infidel. They were stout, if not always dependable, allies of the Christian Kingdom during its brief existence.

St. George of England is buried at Lydda (Ludd), on the Plain of Sharon, a little town as old and venerable as any in the land. It was a city in the portion of Benjamin, and was then called Lod. Later, the Romans called it Diospolis, City of Jupiter, and that name is found on coins of Septimius Severus (A.D. 211), and Caracalla (217). St. George lies in the crypt of the ancient church (now restored to the Greek Church), exactly under the high altar; over the grave there is a fine recumbent figure of the saint, which is said to be the one effigy allowed in the Greek Church. A narrow road now runs through the midst of the old church, one half of which is a mosque; only part of the nave and the north aisle have survived to our day. The ancient church was a very splendid building; it was oblong in shape, and of very early construction, though it is doubtful whether William of Tyre is correct in ascribing it to Justinian. Richard I. in 1192 encamped for twenty-two days between St. George (Lydda), and Ramula (Ramleh), suffering almost equally from the heavy rains and the enemy's lightning attacks. In 1483, Felix Fabry found the church in very ruinous condition, though the Greeks still held services in one part, and lamps burned continuously before the altar. A constant stream of pilgrims and others came to worship at St. George's tomb, and many wonders were performed there. On their authority we have the terrible story of one who, scoffing, laid his hand upon a marble column whereat the saint had been scourged, and then was unable to withdraw his hand until the saint had been appeased by the sinner's prayers and penitence. They, too, relate with horror how an "intruded Bishop of the Latin rite" in 1185 tried to move the marble slab that marked the grave, when fire rushed out upon him, burning one man to death and injuring another.

The peasants of Palestine, both Christian and Moslem, deny that St. George is dead, while at the same time they regard his tomb with the utmost reverence. They call him "Khuddr-el-Hai"—literally, the Always-Green, which we may render as "the one who never dies." A Moslem once told me that the natives believe that St. George will answer their cry to him for help, and I have often heard a woman call out his name if a little child tumbles down. The Moslems point out a large stone in the courtyard of the Mosque of Omar where St. George comes every night to pray. The Mohammedans, who usually identify St. George with the prophet Elijah—El Khudr, the forerunner of Messiah—at Lydda, confound his legend with another about Christ Himself. Their name for Antichrist is Dajjal, and they have a tradition that Jesus will slay Antichrist by the gate of Lydda. This notion sprang from an ancient bas-relief of St. George and the Dragon on the Lydda church. But Dajjal may be derived, by a very common confusion between *n* and *l*, from Dagon, whose name two neighbouring villages—Dajûn and Beit Dajûn—bear to this day, while one of the gates of Lydda used to be called the Gate of Dagon. If the derivation be correct, then it is indeed a curious process by which the monster, symbolic of heathenism conquered by Christianity, has been evolved out of the first great rival of the God of Israel. And could there be a fitter scene for such a legend than the town where Hebrew touched Philistine, Jew struggled with Greek, and Christendom contested with Islam? ("Historical Geography," G. A. Smith. Chap. VIII.) The Jews of Jobar, near Damascus, worship at the shrine of Elijah, whom they call El Khuddr, men with men, and women with women, dancing a sort of Nature dance. ("Religions of Palestine," Bliss.) In every Greek church there are found pictures of "St. George, with a long spear upon a jolly hackney that gave the dragon his death-wound, as the painters say, in the throat"; and every autumn the Greek Church keeps the Feast of Lydda as a general holiday, the Patriarch himself going down to celebrate mass, while people crowd in from all parts of the country. This feast is mentioned by an Arab writer, Mukaddasi, as long ago as 985, but it was then held on St. George's Day.

The fact that the Patron Saint of England is buried in Palestine is one of the many links that bind the people of the Holy Land to the England who freed them; they will not grudge England the charge of his sacred dust. Let us no longer be indifferent to the honour of our Patron Saint, whose cross is the first and oldest on our Flag. St. George, as Patron Saint of England, is also the Patron Saint of the Empire that has grown from our little, ever-living England. No member of that Empire, be he great or small, can wish to forget that it is England who has

drawn around her the other countries far and near; that it is to England these countries look; England, at whose need they spring to arms, whose tongue they speak, whose literature is their heritage, whose laws are their standard, whose fall would break the Empire into a hundred incoherent pieces.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

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

INDIA: Political Department (Pay). Royal Indian Marine (April 11).

EGYPT (PRESS CENSORSHIP). GREECE (ANATOLIAN OPERATIONS.) ROYAL MALTA ARTILLERY. RUSSIA: Afghanistan.—General Wrangel's Troops. INDIA: Dr. Denning's Claim. (April 12.)

INDIA: European Goods (Boycott).—Officers' Pay and Pensions.—Army Reductions.—Reserved Departments, Bengal. HAJI MOHAMMED ABDULLAH. INDIA: Colonel Frank Johnson.—Burmese Associations (Protest).—Bolshevist Gold.—Census.—Amir of Afghanistan.—Native Regiments.—Government of Madras (Public Park). TURKEY. SUDAN (April 13).

PEACE TREATIES: Turkish Prisoners (Rahmy Bey). GREECE: British Debt.—Asia Minor Operations. NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST (BRITISH OCCUPATIONS). INDIA: Royal Army Medical Corps Officers (Pay). (April 14.)

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

The Council Meeting of the above Society was held on April 5 at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Mr. S. G. Hough being in the chair. The following new members were elected:—Capt. Gilbert Blaine, A5, The Albany, Piccadilly, W.; G. F. Covey, Hazardside, Poundhill, Sussex; Major T. B. Goodchild, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo; Lt.-Col. Fredk. F. Lance, Wexford, Wrotham, Kent; Major Sydney A. Metcalf, Aylands, Waltham Cross, Herts; Brian E. S. Mountain, West Hill House, Epsom; Miss J. L. Cave Penney, Rogues' Roost, Ashburton, Devon; S. W. Steane, Scrinagar, Kashmir; Major E. Claude Thomas, Ray Lodge, Lingfield.

The settlement of an action brought by Messrs. J. W. Benson, Limited, jewellers, against the Dowager Maharanee of Cooh Behar was announced in the King's Bench Division on April 14. The claim was in respect of jewellery sold. Mr. Barrington Ward, K.C., for the plaintiffs, said it had been agreed that the defendant should submit to judgment upon terms which had been endorsed on counsel's briefs.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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British Interests in Egypt.

Particulars are given by our Cairo Correspondent in his letter this week of a movement to establish a British Union in Egypt for the protection of British interests there. The proposal is the logical development of the step taken in 1919, when in view of the change in the outlook a council was formed for that purpose as the outcome of meetings of the British community at the British Chamber of Commerce, which had, up to that time, looked after British interests, but which had, of course, been primarily concerned with commercial matters. Future needs clearly made some more permanent organisation desirable, hence the present proposal for the formation of a body which will be representative of the whole British community in Egypt, and as such will consequently possess an influence which no body, however powerful, representing sectional interests, could ever hope to possess.

The Rupee Problem.

The Indian exchange position was dealt with in detail by Mr. Robert Williamson at the general meeting of the National Bank of India. He pointed out that the conditions of trade with India had all been adverse to the success of the scheme for the establishment of the rupee exchange at 2s., and declared that having regard to the adverse trade figures "a long time must elapse before the 2s. rate is made effective, if it is ever reached at all, and one may well have doubts on that point." He suggests the possibility that the Indian Currency Committee may again be called together to review the situation, and evidently is of the opinion that the difference between the statutory rate of exchange and the current market price necessitates further consideration being given to the problem. It is interesting to note in this connection that the committee in its report contemplates conditions which would render it "necessary to consider the problem afresh, and take the measures which might be required by the altered circumstances." Whether it will come to that must remain to be seen. It may be noted, however, that there is a growing body of opinion which strongly holds the view that it was a mistaken policy ever to attempt to alter the value of the rupee.

The Eastern Markets.

Mr. Williamson was far from optimistic in dealing with the trade position. He commented on the overstocking of the Eastern markets with goods of all kinds, and pointed out that there are stocks of produce in this country, in America, and even in Germany, "waiting to be moved into consumption, and the off-take is very slack." The liquidation of these operations would require much time and patience, he remarked, before it was brought to a close. "There is now," he added, "a marked falling off in shipments to the East, and also from that quarter to this side, which ought to improve the position there and here, and if this should lead to a speedier realisation of supplies, even although accompanied by curtailment in our current business, we shall rejoice and certainly need not grumble."

Romanian Consolidated.

A circular has been issued by the directors of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., describing the progress made with the work of reconstruction, and outlining the plans of the board. A very satisfactory review is given of the general position and outlook. Since the Armistice good progress has been made, and the company has now seventeen producing wells and twelve wells in course of being drilled, three of which are close to oil. The actual output since the company recovered possession of its property is over 40,000 tons, and the possible production has already recovered to 150 tons per day. The general manager estimates that with the supplies of casing and other material

now forthcoming and adequate power the company will by December 31 regain its pre-war production, "and so rich and extensive are the company's lands that it is only a matter of systematic drilling to double that production in the near future."

The Company's Claim.

The position with regard to the company's claim for compensation is dealt with at length in the circular. The decision of the Court of Appeal, it will be recalled, was that Roumania was primarily liable for the destruction, and this liability has been admitted, and steps have been taken to ascertain the amount of the damage, which has been fixed at 296,591,675 lei, equal at an exchange of 285 lei to the £ to £1,040,672. The British and French Governments maintained that they were only responsible as guarantors for part of the loss sustained, and the directors state that they have received information which justifies them in stating that the amount for which the two Governments will admit liability will not be less than £300,000. No date for payment has yet been fixed, but the British Government have authorised the statement that they will urge the committee that will be appointed to settle the matter to deal with this company's claim first.

Proposed Increase of Capital.

Pending the settlement of the company's claim, additional working capital is required, and this need the directors propose to meet by offering new convertible debentures to shareholders in proportion to their holdings. For the purpose of giving conversion rights it is proposed to increase the company's capital from £1,750,000 to £2,500,000 by the creation of 750,000 shares of £1 each. The debenture issue is to be offered at 95 per cent., and will bear interest at 10 per cent. per annum, and be redeemable at par in five years. In view of the strength of the company's position it is clear that the debenture issue would be fully secured, and shareholders may be expected to avail themselves of the opportunity, more especially as the conversion rights will in all probability prove a most valuable consideration.

Apathy of British Film Producers.

My recent criticisms of the apathy of British film manufacturers as regards Near Eastern markets are fully borne out in a letter in the current issue of the *Times Trade Supplement*. "Here in Egypt," says the writer, "I have never seen a single British film at any cinema. French, Italian, American, Spanish, and, since the Armistice, German films are imported on a large scale." The result is, of course, that the trade of all these countries benefit, for the cinema, whatever its merits or demerits, is of undoubted value as an instrument of commercial propaganda. What the reason is for this lack of enterprise on the part of British film producers it is difficult to say. Possibly now that this industry is also participating in the trade "slump" they will be able to "discover" the great markets for films in the Near East.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, April 5.

Crop Prospects in Bessarabia.

Information collected by the Secretary for Agriculture in Bessarabia goes to show that the autumn sowings of wheat in that province amounted to 20,000 hectares, and of rye to 6,370 hectares. According to the local official statistics, 3,542 hectares have been sown with beetroot this year.

As is well known, Bessarabia is an exceedingly fruitful province, and produces magnificent harvests both of cereals and fruit. It used to contain many large estates, but these have all been reduced by the new agrarian law to a maximum of 300 hectares each.

The prospects for this year's fruit crops are summarised as follows:—Cherries look well and promise a good crop. There will be an excellent crop of plums unless they are damaged by a late frost or destroyed by insects. Pears and apples promise a medium crop. Vines promise well if they are not attacked by the mildew. Nuts also look promising.

Petroleum Distribution.

The Bill for granting to a private company the monopoly of the distribution of petroleum within the boundaries of Roumania is now before the House, and is giving rise to a great deal of discussion. The Decree Law authorising the formation of such a company was published in the *Moniteur Officiel* some months ago, and now awaits confirmation. An interesting speech on the subject was made on March 28 by M. Stere, the member for Soroca in Bessarabia. He condemned the present project as lacking in clearness and advocated the nationalisation of the whole petroleum industry. The Liberals showed signs of approval at this, but the speech was listened to in a more or less hostile silence. The Committee in charge of the Bill has eliminated the clauses restricting imports and also the clause authorising the State to purchase a minimum of 20 per cent. from the exporter.

Exploitation of Natural Gas.

The fuel department of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has sent a circular to all the petroleum societies requesting them to take measures for the collection and use of the natural gas which emanates from the wells. It is intended that these gases should be employed in future for heating the boilers and running the engines used in the petroleum industry. It is hoped in this way to economise about 10,000 waggons of "mazout" per annum, which would be a very useful amount to divert to the railways and other industries. A careful study of the petroleum fields of the Prahova is being made at the present time with a view to the use of these gases. It is proposed to build a conduit to carry them from the Prahova region to the town of Ploesch, where they can be used for lighting purposes.

Miscellaneous.

It is reported that a new discovery has been made of a gold deposit at Mihadia, for the exploitation of which a company has been formed with a capital of five million lei.

The Bank Marmorosch Blank made a net profit for 1920 of 5½ million lei. A dividend of 20 per cent. is to be paid.

In view of the re-organisation of the luggage transport the Roumanian State Railways now assume full respon-

sibility for all luggage transported, and the systematic thieving which has been going on for so long will be put a stop to.

With a view to improving the value of the lei, especially on the French market, the Government is doing all it can to increase exports from Roumania. It will be remembered that a loan was recently raised in France, against which the Government undertook to export 15,000 waggons of wheat at 40,000 lei per waggon. Of the total value of this 600,000,000 lei, 25 per cent. is to be credited to the Roumanian National Debt, and the rest will be used to improve the rate of the lei in France, though it is not quite clear how it is proposed to do this.

GREECE.

ATHENS, April 3.

The Question of a Loan.

The Government is still searching hard for money. Great hopes were entertained that the visit to London of the Governor of the National Bank of Greece, M. Maximos, would bear fruit, but, as far as can be seen, that gentleman's efforts to conclude a private loan have come to nothing. Moreover, there is not the slightest indication of the raising by the Allies of the financial blockade, and Greece, now plunged into a fresh war, wonders where the necessary funds to "carry on" will come from. True, the National Bank has placed 70,000,000 drachmæ at the disposal of the Government, but the expenses entailed by the new campaign are so heavy that this amount is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. The Government Press assures us with its customary optimism that there is no cause for anxiety, as very important loans are about to be concluded. On the other hand the Opposition papers say that the financial negotiations which were in progress with private banking groups in London have definitely fallen through owing to the extremely high interest and unreasonable guarantees demanded, and that the Government is now seriously thinking of floating another internal loan. In the meantime a further depreciation of the drachma is anticipated.

Customs Receipts.

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during the second ten days of March (O.S.) amounted to 2,347,309.10 drachmæ in paper and 118,390.65 drachmæ in gold. Compared with the receipts during the corresponding period last year, there is a decrease this year of 1,613.55 drachmæ in paper and of 62,379.80 drachmæ in gold.

Export of Wine from Patras.

According to information supplied by the Greek Chamber of Commerce at Patras, the quantity of wine exported from that port during the whole of 1920 amounted to 3,183,614 okas, and was distributed as follows (the figures representing okas):—France 2,939,611, Great Britain 168,885, Austria 26,685, Denmark 10,714, America 8,840, Holland 8,054, Egypt 7,714, Smyrna 6,176, Germany 5,869, Italy 575, Constantinople 430, and various other centres 61.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, April 5.

British Interests in Smyrna.

The board of the Smyrna British Chamber of Commerce waited upon Sir Harry H. Lamb, K.C.M.G., to welcome him to Smyrna as representative of the British High Commissioner for Turkey, when the chairman, Mr. Sidney La Fontaine, in expressing the board's welcome, added that in pre-war days the Smyrna export trade was principally in the hands of British merchants, whose ancestors established themselves in Smyrna about the end of the eighteenth century. Many were connected with the "Honourable Levant Company," which flourished in the eighteenth century. To-day, unfortunately, owing to the chaotic and critical conditions obtaining in the Smyrna Province, said Mr. La Fontaine, the British merchant had been ousted out of the trade by those more favoured by the present administration. The chairman felt sure that British interests in Smyrna were quite safe in the hands of Sir Harry H. Lamb, whose reputation was well known to the Smyrna British Chamber of Commerce, and in their strenuous efforts to recover the lost trade they felt sure they could count on his effective co-operation. Sir Harry thanked the board for their welcome, and assured them that at all times he would be most happy to do his utmost, to the extent of his ability and opportunity, to help British merchants in their struggle to recover the lost commerce.

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THE BUILDING EXHIBITION.

EFFICIENCY THE KEY-NOTE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Opened in the middle of a world trade "slump," and with the gravest industrial crisis with which this country has yet been faced nearing its climax—anti-climax if you like, but on Thursday and Friday it did not feel like that—the Building Exhibition at Olympia presented last week a remarkable contrast to the prevailing circumstances. One entered the hall and it was like passing into another world; outside all was depression; inside the atmosphere was suffused with cheery optimism. There was a suggestion on all sides of brisk business, and it needed a serious effort of the imagination to conjure up the words "trade depression."

The Building Exhibition is normally a biennial event, but the present show, which remains open until April 26, is the first of a short annual series, the change being effected on account of the housing shortage. This temporary alteration will, it may be hoped, prove permanent; for there is no doubt that when present difficulties are solved in this country the exhibition should be a most valuable medium for the promotion of our overseas trade. Not in some lines, of course; there are many classes of goods which come within the scope of this exhibition which one would not expect to export, at any rate, to any great extent. But for the various types of machinery—for wood working, road construction, and the mixing of concrete, etc.—there is unquestionably a vast market, especially in regions like the Near and Middle East.

I suppose there are few countries which have not found themselves with a housing shortage as a legacy of the war. Certainly, in most parts of the Near East it is the case, and in centres like Bucharest special measures have had to be devised to meet the situation. A visit to the exhibition by representatives of Near Eastern countries could, in the circumstances, scarcely have failed to have been of mutual value, and it is to be regretted that some arrangement of this kind was not made. The authorities would do well to bear this in mind for a subsequent occasion, because if British contractors are to play any considerable part in the extensive town planning schemes that will be undertaken there in due course, it is clearly most desirable that it should be brought home to the countries in question that in all that concerns building, whether it be the planning of sites, the erection of houses, or vast schemes of road construction, this country is easily first in the field.

That is emphatically the lesson the exhibition has to teach. At almost every stand throughout the vast building there is evidence of the great strides that have been made in the industry during the last few years. Improvements of every description are on view, particularly in regard to labour-saving machinery, both in connection with the various processes of house building and for the housewife in the shape of elaborate cooking appliances and hot-water apparatus—though these latter, if I may say so, form only a minor part of the exhibition. They are much in evidence. It is true, but rather as the dessert than as one of the staple items of the menu. There are so many other important things that attract the attention—the innumerable aids to industry, for instance, that are to be seen on stand after stand, pointing very forcibly to the fact that as far as materials and machinery are concerned, nothing hinders an intensive house-building scheme. The whole exhibition is an object-lesson of its kind, and over it all is the unmistakable stamp of efficiency. If that word had not already been adopted it would have been in accordance with the fitness of things for it to have been called that. Everything seems to fit in. There is none of the haphazard arrangement of stands, or, be it added, of the catalogue, that I have noticed at some recent exhibitions which I need not specify. Everything is arranged to facilitate business, and the stands are obviously ordered not for show, but for work, and they are none the less effective on that account.

Turning to the exhibits, one of the most interesting features of the show is presented by the stands dealing with various aspects of road construction. Specially notable are the exhibits of Agricultural and General Engineers, Limited, notably the "Aveling and Porter" piston valve steam-roller, and the same firm's compound steam-tractor. The Ransome Machinery Company, Limited, have two interesting stands, showing among other things the Ransome combined drying and mixing plant for making tar macadam.

The total capacity of this machine is 6 cubic feet, and its approximate output per hour is four tons. A word must be given also to the exhibits of Millars' Timber and Trading Company, Limited, including wagon loaders, concrete mixers, petrol engines, and hoists.

Messrs. Stavers and Partners have on view an autotelfer and a working model of a cable crane. The Fawcett Construction Co., Ltd., show "Mon'lith-crete" steel joists, while Medway's Safety Lift Co., Ltd., and Waygood-Otis, Ltd., exhibit lifts of various descriptions. I was particularly interested in the stand of H. J. and C. Major, Ltd., showing their well-known patent interlocking tiles, for which there should be a splendid market in the Near East, a remark which also applies to the exhibits of plaited cords of James Austin and Sons, Ltd. Other notable stands are those of Torrance and Sons, Ltd., manufacturers of machinery for the paint and colour and printing ink trades; Venesta, Ltd., who are showing their plywood for panelling and partition work; and Vickers, Ltd., who have now on view a portable concrete brick machine, a portable concrete roofing tile machine, and a portable concrete partition slab machine.

Of special interest also are the stands of Hill and Co. (Engineers), Ltd., showing various labour-saving appliances, among them the Sauerman Dragline Excavator; Sutcliffe, Speakman and Co., Ltd., showing their pottery moulding machine, etc.; and the Laffly (England) Company, exhibiting a combination water and hydraulic dust tipping wagon, etc. These exhibits I have mentioned are representative of the contents of one of the best exhibitions it has been my fortune to see, and I only regret that lack of space precludes my dealing with the stands at greater length, for there are many other exhibitors I should like to mention.

THE MODERNISATION OF BELGRADE.

Projected Railway Lines.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN YUGOSLAVIA.)

For a long time the Municipality of Belgrade has been considering a scheme for the modernisation and beautification of Belgrade, to make it a city worthy of the capital of the united kingdom, and of its commanding natural position, and one day the whole matter will be offered for international competition for the submission of plans.

The first step is the planning of the railway lines, and the scheme for this has been completed by the Ministry of Public Works. The main lines are as follows: A great central station on modern lines will be erected near the junction of King Alexander St. and the Takovska, near the cattle-market on the Trkalishte, that is on the high ground beyond the top of the Resavska. From here three lines will radiate. The first, a double line, will pass by a semi-circular tunnel a kilometre long to the Chuburski Brook by Shumatovska Ulica, Topovske Shupe to Vshetechki Mill, where there will be a Southern Station. Here the line divides, one branch forking by Weifort's Brewery to Topchider, another to the Save Bridge, and the third by a viaduct to the first floor level of the old station, which will be used only for goods in transit, the new high level serving for passengers; this branch will pass under Lomina St., by a tunnel 1,100 metres long below the Terazije, where there will be an underground station accessible by lifts. The line will leave the tunnel near Bailoni's brewery, and go straight to Dortiolska Station, between Vidin St. and the Danube. Hence a bridge will cross the Danube, available for vehicular, tram, and foot traffic as well, and effect a connection with Panchévo and the Banat. From Dortiolska Station a line will run to a new station at the Klanitza (slaughter house) thence past Ilich's mill into a semi-circular tunnel 1,100 metres long, coming out near Bulbuldere Brook (the Vale of Nightingales, a Turkish name), then to Voivoda Brana St., by another tunnel to the central station.

By this scheme Belgrade will be surrounded by a ring of railways. Yet another line from the central station will pass Mokri Lug, Mala Krsna, to Pozharevatz on the Danube, and form a section of an eventual international main line Odessa-Belgrade-Paris. Another ring, from the Dortiolska Station, will pass the town to the old station, then cross the Save by a new bridge where the Austrian pontoon bridge was, which will be available also for tram, vehicular, and foot traffic, and connect up with Zemun. The Save bank will be devoted to wharfage and warehouses. From a new station by the Save bridge a line will branch across part of Srem to Shavnik, and thence to Kotor (Cattaro), and thus connect up with the Adriatic. The underlying theory of the scheme is to separate through traffic from local, and to keep passenger and goods traffic separate. For the execution of the scheme, the estimate is a milliard. This sounds a lot, but if it means a thousand million dinars, the authors are decidedly optimists.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st January, 1921.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business during the past week has been affected by the industrial trouble, and trade has generally been restricted. Currants have been in fair request, while there has also been some demand for figs and Persian dates.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in good demand at the official prices. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 60s. to 66s., and American granulated has been done at 68s. 3d.

Coffee.—The futures market has been steady. Quotations are:—May 40s., July 40s., September 40s. 6d., December 42s.

Oilseeds.—The market has generally been weak. Indian linseed has lost 6d. at 16s., while La Plata is quoted at 14s. Rapeseed is lower, with Toria at 17s. and bold Ferozepore at 16s., a loss of 6d. in both cases, while brown Cawnpore at 14s. is unaltered. Egyptian cottonseed (black) has gained 3d. at 11s. 6d.

Seed Oils.—Prices have been unsettled. Linseed oil has advanced 1s. at 25s. 6d. Rape Oil at 44s. has dropped 2s. Cotton oil has remained quiet and steady. The refined variety is unchanged at 38s., but the Egyptian crude at 29s. has gained 1s. Turpentine is 11s. higher at 55s. 6d.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 172s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 241s. cwt.; cheese, 154s. cwt.; chillies, 107s. 6d. cwt.; eggs, 20s. 6d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 94d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 79s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 109s. cwt.; coffee (East India, bold), 113s. cwt.; coffee (Mocha, longberry), 92s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos superior), 51s. 3d. cwt.; ginger (washed, Cochin), 37s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 165s. cwt.; lard, 88s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 114d. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 34d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 8d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 122s. 6d. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 72s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 126s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 68s. 74d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 73s. cwt.; sugar (white Java), 66s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 66s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (West India crystallised), 62s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 14d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 24s. 3d. cwt.; sago flour, 12s. 9d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 17s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), 25 8s. 9d. ton; tea (Indian), 64d. lb.; tea (Ceylon), 64d. lb.; tea (Java), 24d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 85s. 3d. qr.; wheat (English white), 81s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 79s. 9d. qr.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 64d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 64d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 64d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 54d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 44d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 44d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 44d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 44d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 34d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 3d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 34d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 34d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 24d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 24d. lb.; bulls (first), 24d. lb.; bulls (second), 14d. lb.; kips (first), 34d. lb.; (second), 24d. lb.; (third), 2d. lb. Calcutta Market:—Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 5 to 11; Durbhargao, 3.8 to 5; Patnas, 3.8 to 5. Salted cows, 2.8 to 5. Skins: Calf, 6 to 8 rupees per 20 lb.; goat, 130 to 160 per 100 pieces.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 79s. cwt.; oxalic, 94d. lb.; citric, 2s. 54d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 84d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £24 11s. 3d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £47 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 3s. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 10s. ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 133s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: Bi-chromate, 1s. 04d. lb.; chlorate, 64d. lb.; caustic, £48 10s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 104d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 24d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £27 10s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 150s. ton; bi-carbonate, £10 10s. ton; bi-chromate, 74d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 15s. ton; chlorate, 44d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 5s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 ton; prussiate, 84d. lb.; nitrate, £20 12s. 6d. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £34 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 3d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 54d. oz.; red lead, £38 10s. ton; white dry lead, £41 15s. ton; white ground lead, £52 ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English regulus), £39 7s. 6d. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £68 11s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £73 10s. ton; gold bars, 106s. oz.; iron (No 3 Cleveland), 120s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 180s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £19 18s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 44d. unit; molybdenite, 55s. unit; nickel, £200 ton; platinum, 340s. oz.; plumbago, £30 ton; quicksilver, £12 12s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 33d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £24 15s. ton; tin (standard), £156 ton; wolfram, 12s. 9d. unit; zinc sheets, £36 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 26s. 6d. box.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 7.93d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £14 7s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £17 ton; soya beans, £11 15s. ton; palm kernels, £16 12s. 6d. ton. Oils: Linseed, £23 15s. ton; soya, £32 ton; cotton (crude), £30 ton; olive, £87 10s. ton; ground nut, £36 ton; palm, £30 10s. ton; rape (crude), £45 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 34d. gallon; turpentine, 45s. 3d. cwt. Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 104d. lb.; smoked sheet, 94d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. lb.

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING.

Formation of a Register of Experts,

During the interval that has elapsed since the publication of the report of the Empire Cotton Growing Committee, considerable progress has been made towards the establishment of a permanent organisation competent to carry into effect the recommendations contained in the report. The permanent body will be known as the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, and will be incorporated under Royal Charter.

Meanwhile, the present committee has been making careful inquiry from the Governments of the Dominions, Colonies, and Protectorates as to the means by which the development of cotton growing within the Empire may best be promoted. From more than one of the Governments approached the suggestion has been made that specially qualified men should be appointed to advise the local Agricultural Departments on matters connected with cotton growing within their respective areas. It appears probable, therefore, that the selection and appointment of such experts of various kinds will be one of the first tasks that will confront the new Corporation, which it is hoped may be established shortly.

To assist the proposed Corporation the Empire Cotton Growing Committee are, therefore, prepared to receive now from suitably qualified persons statements of their scientific attainments and/or experience of tropical agriculture, with a view to compiling a register of men whose services overseas may be useful in the development of cotton growing, either in consultation or by appointment as cotton experts.

The register is intended to be available for reference by the Corporation now in course of formation, but it is unlikely that appointments can be made for the next few months. The entry of a name on the register will not necessarily be taken to imply willingness to accept service under the Corporation subsequently. If such service is likely to be desired, the fact should be specially stated. All communications, which will be regarded as confidential to the members of the Council of the Corporation, should be addressed to: The Secretary, Empire Cotton Growing Committee, Board of Trade, Great George Street, London, S.W.1.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows, for the week ended April 14:—Considering the unsettled conditions which have prevailed during the past week, our market has shown a very steady front. Business on the "spot" has been slightly curtailed, as was only to be expected under the circumstances, and spinners show an increased disposition to keep their needs supplied on the hand to mouth principle. Nevertheless, they continue to keep in close touch with the market, as is witnessed by the healthy inquiry which continued day by day. Reports are almost unanimous that business in Manchester is maintaining, and it would seem as if the present industrial crisis had occurred at a particularly unfortunate time for the trade. Now, of course, a material check has been administered to would-be buyers who naturally are loath to enter into fresh contracts until the outlook becomes more settled. The improved inquiry for Tokar, to which we drew attention last week, was most disappointing in its result, only forty bales being put down. Manchester reports have continued very steady in face of adverse conditions, and c.i.f. business has, if anything, shown a slight improvement. Total sales, 1,200 bales. Quotations of Sakellaridis are advanced 50 points, with the exception of extra fine, which is reduced 50 points. Other quotations are unchanged on balance, but with the tendency easier. Fully good fair Sakel 17.50d.

COTTON MACHINERY REDUCED.

Messrs. John Worrall, Limited, of Oldham, have published their Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Directory for Lancashire for 1921. The figures given show that since a year ago fifteen firms have gone out of existence. In 1920, there were in Lancashire 60,079,394 spinning and doubling spindles, and 798,083 looms, whereas now there are 60,053,246 spinning and doubling spindles, and 790,399 looms. The largest cloth manufacturing district in Lancashire is Burnley with 109,940 looms, then comes Blackburn with 994,880 looms. In the spinning section Oldham is the chief centre with 17,586,076 spinning and doubling spindles followed by Bolton with 7,638,155 spinning and doubling spindles.

We are informed that the contract for the supply of filing cabinets to the Egyptian Government, for which tenders were invited recently, has been allotted to The Shannon, Ltd.

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

ESTABLISHED IN CALOUTTA, 29th SEPTEMBER, 1863.

Subscribed Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	£2,000,000
Reserve Fund	£2,500,000
Number of Shareholders	1,835

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., Chairman.

ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

H. CHALMERS, Esq.

SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E.

ROBERT MILLER, Esq.

SIR CHARLES C. MCLEOD.

J. D. NIMMO, 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.	CAWNPORE.	MANDALAY.	ZANZIBAR.	} Kenya Colony	} British East Africa	ENTEBBE	} Uganda.	
BOMBAY.	DELHI.	COLOMBO.	MOMBASA			KAMPALA		
MADRAS.	LAHORE.	KANDY.	NAIROBI			JINJA		
KURRACHEE.	TUTICORIN.	NEWERA ELIYA.	NAKURU			TANGA		} Tanganyika Territory.
CHITTAGONG.	COCHIN.	ADEN.	KISUMU			DAR-ES-SALAAM		
AMRITSAR.	RANGOON.	STEAMER POINT. ADEN.						

Agencies

GALLE, CEYLON	...	...	...	...	Messrs. Clark, Spence & Co.
EDINBURGH	...	...	...	...	Messrs. Moncreiff & Horsburgh, 46, Castle-street.
GLASGOW	...	...	...	...	Messrs. Mackenzie, Robertson & Co., 176, St. Vincent-street.

Dr. GENERAL BALANCE SHEET of 31st December, 1920.

The Rupee Assets and Liabilities have been converted at the rate of 2s. per Rupee.

To Capital :		£	s	d	By Cash on hand, at call and at Bankers		£	s	d	By Bullion on hand and in transit		£	s	d
Subscribed, 160,000 Shares of £25 each, £4,000,000							10,493,553	4	9					
Paid-up £12 10s. per share		2,000,000	0	0			125,465	11	11			10,619,018	16	8
Reserve Fund		2,300,000	0	0								1,517,486	14	6
Current, Fixed Deposit and other Accounts, including provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts and Contingencies		45,200,202	5	1										
Bills Payable		1,516,601	19	9										
Acceptances for Customers		3,795,673	17	9										
Profit and Loss Account, as under		539,031	17	0										
Bills receivable, re-discounted, £7,467,060 2s. 10d. of which up to 30th March, 1921, £6,476,119 6s. 8d. have run off. Forward Contracts outstanding for the Purchase and Sale of Sterling Bills and Telegraphic Transfers														
		£55,351,509	19	7								£55,351,509	19	7

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 31st December, 1920.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
To ad interim dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended 30th June, 1920 ..	150,000	0	0	By Balance at 31st December, 1919 ..	475,633	15	1
Expenses of Management at Head Office and Branches ..	694,525	10	7	Deduct—			
Balance ..	539,031	17	0	Dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended 31st December, 1919 ..	£150,000	0	0
				Amount written off House Property Account ..	20,000	0	0
				Officers' Pension Fund ..	20,000	0	0
				Amount carried to Reserve Fund for the half-year ended 31st December, 1919 ..	150,000	0	0
					<u>340,000</u>	0	0
				Balance brought forward ..	135,633	15	1
				Gross Profits for the year ended 31st December, 1920, after providing for all bad and doubtful Debts and Bonus to the Staff ..	1,247,923	12	6
					<u>£1,383,557</u>	7	1
	£1,383,557	7	7				

H. CHALMERS, General Manager.
G. B. LINTON, Sub-Manager and Accountant.

ROBERT WILLIAMSON,
J. N. STUART,
J. D. NIMMO. } Director

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, 31st March, 1921.

COOPER BROTHERS & CO.,
W. A. BROWNE & CO., } Auditors -
Chartered Accountants.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA.

The Indian Exchange Position.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the National Bank of India, Ltd., was held on April 13 at the Wesleyan Hall, Bishopsgate, E.C., Mr. Robert Williamson (the deputy-chairman) presiding.

The General Manager (Mr. H. Chalmers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I presume that, as usual, the report may be taken as read. I am sure the absence owing to ill-health of our chairman from our meeting to-day will be as deeply and sincerely regretted, particularly by his old friends and acquaintances whom I see in the room, as it is by us. This is the second occasion on which he has been absent from our annual meetings since the year 1877, when he became associated with the management of this bank. It strikes me that this may be unique in the history of attendances at such gatherings, but even if it is not, to have been absent only twice in the long period of forty-four years is a wonderful record. Those of you who know Mr. Campbell need not be told by me that he himself much regrets his absence from our midst to-day. Most gladly indeed would I, in particular, have welcomed him to preside over this meeting. I ask you to join with me in an expression of our hope that he will soon be restored to a greater measure of health and strength.

Before dealing with the business which has brought us together here I must first express our great regret at the loss we have sustained since our last meeting by the death of our esteemed colleague, Mr. Alfred Simson, who had been a director since January, 1901. Throughout the period of his directorate Mr. Simson had given keen attention to the affairs of the bank, and had always been active in furthering and promoting its interests. Prior to Mr. Simson's death, on September 6, 1920, the directors had appointed Mr. Chalmers, the general manager, to a seat on the board, to mark their appreciation of his valuable and unremitting services to the institution in times of much difficulty in the conduct of our business, and later on in our proceedings I shall bring his name before you for reappointment as a director. We have felt, however, for some time past that our best interests would be served by the appointment of a new director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Simson, and quite recently Mr. Campbell urged us to take this step. After consultation with him, and with his approval, we decided to invite Mr. John Duncan Nimmo, the senior partner of Messrs. Walter Duncan and Co., London and Glasgow, and of their corresponding firm, Messrs. Duncan Bros. and Co., Calcutta, to join the board, and I am glad to tell you he accepted our invitation. He is here with us to-day, and I will ask you by and by to confirm his appointment.

Increase of Capital.

Towards the end of last year we found it would be advantageous to increase the capital of the bank by making an issue of 40,000 shares on terms and conditions in all respects the same as when, with your sanction and approval, we made a like addition in January, 1919. The reasons for this step were very much the same as those set before you by the Chairman in his address to you on the 21st of that month.

Business generally in all parts of the world is now, and for some months past indeed has been, exceedingly depressed. Within our own British Isles something in the nature of an industrial *débâcle* is in full force, with unemployment very prevalent, which, I fear, can alone be met by a readjustment of industry to meet the economic changes that have taken place. Eastern markets are overlaid with supplies of goods of all kinds; there are also stocks of produce in this country, in America, and even in Germany, from that quarter, waiting to be moved into consumption, and the offtake is very slack. Consequently it is likely that the liquidation of these operations will require much time and patience before it is brought to a close. This bank naturally is interested, and we do not expect to escape losses from this part of our business. In that connection we have given heed to the difficulties attending trade conditions, and before closing the accounts which are now in your hands we made adequate provision for anything of this kind that might fall to our lot.

I am glad, therefore, that we are able to place before you a statement of the bank's affairs which I hope you will regard as quite satisfactory. The first points to which I should draw your attention are the increase in our paid-up capital and our reserve fund. By reason of the issue of new shares the former now stands at £2,000,000, and the latter, increased to the extent of £300,000 by the premium thereon and by a further sum of £200,000 from the profits of last year, if agreed to by you to-day, will be raised to £2,500,000. Owing to our accounts for 1919 having been made up on the old parity of 1s. 4d. per rupee, and those now in your hands on the new statutory basis of 2s., which was also the basis of our last half-yearly statement, it is not possible easily to compare the figures in the balance-sheet under each heading in the two years. The most important change, and really the only one worth mentioning, is on the debit side of the account, where we have acceptances for customers, £3,795,673, compared with £880,052 in 1919, an increase which gives you evidence of the activity in exports to the East on which I have already commented.

Generally speaking, from the other figures in the balance-sheet it will be seen that the bank's business has been well maintained. Our house property is an increasing element. The Chairman told you last year of our purchase of the Colombo

office, which we shall have to rebuild by-and-by, as it is not possible suitably to reconstruct the present building, which occupies a fine position. We have also been obliged to purchase our Karachi premises. The net profits for the year amount to £553,398, compared with £452,169 in 1919, and we propose to pay a dividend of 20 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, to place £20,000 to premises account, £20,000 to officers' pension fund, to add £200,000 to reserve fund, thereby increasing it to the handsome sum of £2,500,000, carrying forward a balance of £149,031, against £135,633 brought in. These results will, I trust, give you satisfaction. You will be pleased to hear that the bank has been enabled to continue paying to the pensioners, also to the whole staff, who have continued to give us most admirable service in a very strenuous year's working, suitable bonuses, having regard to the continued dearness in cost of living.

Rupee Exchange.

Since the Chairman spoke to you a year ago of the recommendations made by the Commission on Currency to fix the price of the rupee at 2s. or 10 rupees to the sovereign, great changes, with violent fluctuations, have taken place in every quarter, and as regards India in particular we have witnessed a very heavy fall in the value of the rupee. The endeavours of the Committee to solve the Indian problem have been quite the reverse of the success that many people anticipated, while the efforts of the Government to support and make effective the new scheme by selling on the 2s. gold basis—and from June, 1920, when the basis of the rupee was changed to 2s. sterling—"Reverse Councils" to the extent of over £50,000,000 of their sterling resources have been a conspicuous failure, and were some months ago abandoned.

Perhaps a mistake was made at the outset in fixing the price in gold, which nowadays is subject to the fluctuations in value common to commodities, where exchange comes into play, but, even so, the important modification made in June last year has not brought us up till now nearer to the attainment of the object in view. The conditions of trade with India have all been adverse to the success of the scheme, and the great outflow of capital from India to this side, due to the high rate at which remittances could be made, likewise added to those adverse conditions. Since February, 1920, the exchange price of the rupee has dropped from 2s. 10½d. to as low as 1s. 3d.—to-day it is 1s. 3½d.—while silver, from the highest point touched, 89½d. in February, 1920, was quoted yesterday at 36½d. When the 16d. rupee scheme came into operation in 1893 the rate fell back gradually to 1s. 0½d. for T.T., and it took about five years to reach 1s. 4d. Having regard to the adverse trade figures which I have just mentioned, a long time must elapse before the 2s. rate is made effective, if it is ever reached at all, and one may well have doubts on that point. The Government of India are now out of the business. The gold standard reserves accumulated out of profits made on the coinage of silver during a period of about fifteen years, from the published figures, seem to remain unchanged, but the sterling resources otherwise must have been largely depleted at a heavy loss, having regard to the free use of them in the effort to support exchange, and the value of the rupee is now left to find its own level. That level, necessarily a fluctuating one, being more or less based on the price of silver bullion, could more readily be determined if the mints in India were reopened to the coinage of silver to the public, but I sometimes wonder whether we may again return to that position.

Current Year's Prospects.

With regard to our prospects for the current year, it is not possible for me to paint them as brilliant. The volume of our business for the time being is small. The slump that has taken place in prices, the greatly diminished export trade of the country in bulk, as well as in value, and the still unsettled position in nearly all the Continental markets which in pre-war years were good customers for Indian produce, have combined to bring about the prevailing slackness. With the exercise of some little patience these troubles will be solved. But in respect to finding employment for our funds we are experiencing no difficulty, and our hope is that a year hence you will have no cause to complain of the results of our work. In any case I would like to assure you that we shall spare no effort to attain success.

There is one other matter which it is necessary for me to mention to you to-day. As you are aware, it has been our custom, probably running back to the day when this bank was first established in London, to issue to the shareholders a half-yearly report. Our bank, indeed, may be the only one in London that does this. All the big joint stock institutions here, and, I think, also the overseas banks, confine themselves to the issue of a yearly report only, and we have decided to come into line with them in this matter. Accordingly, for the current year our next report and accounts will be placed in your hands in March.

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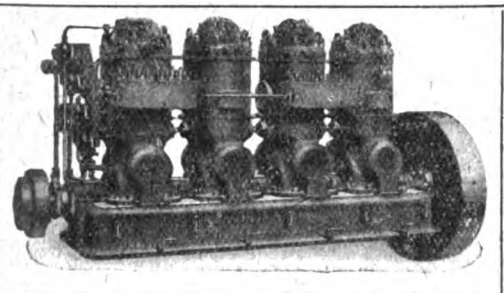
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1922, but we shall continue to pay the half-yearly dividend at about the same time as heretofore. Our Chairman has expressed his entire approval of this departure from our past custom, which in many ways will be a convenience to the management and our staff generally.

The resolution which I move is: "That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31, 1920, be received and adopted, and that a dividend for the six months to December 31, 1920, 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 14, 1921."

Mr. Robert Miller seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The appointment of Mr. Henry Chalmers and Mr. J. D. Nimmo to the board was confirmed, and the retiring directors, Messrs. Robert Williamson, J. N. Stuart, and Robert Miller were re-elected.

Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. and Messrs. W. A. Browne and Co., the retiring auditors, were reappointed.

Mr. J. Irwin-Davis proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors for the care and prudence they had exercised in conducting the affairs of the bank during the past year.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. J. G. P. Jepps, and carried unanimously.

Vote of Thanks to General Manager and Staff.

Mr. H. H. Nelson, in moving a vote of thanks to the general manager and staff, said he wished first to make a few remarks with regard to the statement so ably put before the meeting by the chairman, and which he was sure would repay a close study at some other time. Apparently it was the history of what had been brought about since they last met by what a good many of them regarded as considerable muddling both by the Government in this country and by the Government in India. He was not going into any political question or any matters on which they might have divergent views, but he wished to call the attention of the meeting to the fact that a year ago they were all filled with high hopes as to what might happen in the immediate future. Business then was brisk and excellent, manufacturers were being sought right and left, but unhappily they found that, instead of this state of things being encouraged and supported, as it should have been, it was damped down by over-taxation in this country, as a result of which an immense amount of capital was taken away from trade where it could have been much better employed, not only for the benefit of individuals, but for the benefit of taxation in this country.

Unfortunately it was one of the conditions of Coalition Government that no one took any trouble in Parliament in these days to oppose measures which they knew were intrinsically wrong. The chief object of Parliamentary people at the present time seemed to be to placate the voters, especially the proletarian voters, in order that they might remain in a position which at one time was a very dignified one, but which he ventured to say had lost a great deal of its dignity in the past few years. The result was, as the Chairman had pointed out, that the commercial position of the country was now a parlous one. Not only was that the case in this country, but in India they knew of the parlous experiments which had been tried in connection with the exchange by people who really should have mastered the subject to a certain extent before they took such steps as led to a condition of things which had been reflected all over the world to the disadvantage of this country. He pointed this out because he thought it a pity that in a meeting like this some few words should not be said to enable people who read the report of the proceedings to know that these disadvantages had not been recognised. Considering the condition of things which had prevailed, the report now presented reflected the greatest credit upon the staff. They had never had a report which was more satisfactory or a year in which the profits had been earned under more disadvantageous circumstances.

Mr. J. D. Longmire seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The General Manager, in expressing thanks for the vote, said that the staff had had a strenuous year, and conditions were still strenuous, but they hoped to continue to merit the approval of the shareholders.

The proceedings then terminated.

STANDARD SIZES FOR FILMS.

"Standard Measurements," which has recently been published by the Incorporated Association of Kinematograph Manufacturers, Ltd., of 167-169, Wardour Street, W.1, has for its object the fixing of a standard width of films and also of the distance between the perforations. The book also deals with the size of spool centres; masks of camera, printer and projector; the diameter and pitch of thread of focussing jacket, etc. It is certainly desirable that something should be done to standardise the films, etc., and this book, which should prove invaluable to all who are interested in this industry, is a step in the direction of reform. The film industry has been seriously handicapped by the varied sizes of films, causing not only innumerable breaks during an exhibition of a film, but involving risks of fire when the film slips off the sprockets, or damage in other ways.

A Palestine Government report states that much satisfaction is shown at the abolition of the tobacco monopoly, and many orders have been received by tobacco firms for seeds. It is proposed to establish tobacco growing on an extensive scale.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Bank of Athens.

The net profit of the Bank of Athens for 1920, after deducting all taxes, amortisations, and general expenses, was Drs.18,144,451. Final dividend of Drs.10 on ordinary shares proposed, placing to statutory reserve Drs.1,800,000, to directors Drs.1,051,440, donations and subscriptions Drs.131,430, super-annuation fund Drs.131,430, bonus to staff Drs.657,150, to income-tax Drs.1,115,418, to special reserve Drs.2,600,000, balance forward Drs.2,257,583. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. on ordinary shares has been paid.

Ionian Bank.

The report of the Ionian Bank for the year 1920 states that the profits, after providing for management expenses, losses, bad and doubtful debts, depreciation of securities, bonus to staff, rates, taxes, income-tax, and excess profit duty, both in Greece and England, amount to £39,433, and £11,307 was brought in, making £50,740. An interim dividend at 3s. per share, tax free, was paid in September, and the directors propose a further dividend at 3s. per share and a bonus at 1s. per share, both tax free, payable April 27; to reserve (making it £130,000), £5,000; forward, £11,750. The business of the bank shows satisfactory improvement, but, owing to the policy of the directors in writing down the investments to market value or under, the amount brought into profit shows only a slight increase over last year. A large portion of this depreciation has arisen on British Government war securities, and will be brought back into profit within the next few years. The usefulness of the branch at Syra, which was opened during the European War on account of strong representations from the British authorities in Athens, having now ceased, the branch has been closed. Meeting, Basildon House, Moorgate Street, E.C., April 26, at 11.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

Millboard.—The Controller of Printing and Stationery, Old Ismailia Palace, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 11,000 kilos of millboard, May 19.

Tarlatan, Oils.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of tarlatan, white, Scotch finish. Tenders due April 23. Tenders are also invited for oil, colza, and oil rape. Tenders due April 27. A sample of the first item mentioned can be seen and particulars of the second obtained at the office of the Inspecting Engineer to the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1.

Bicycles.—The Director-General Postal Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of a bicycle and 20 to 30 tricycles. Specification can be obtained from the Egyptian Government Agent, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1. June 1.

India.

Steelwork.—The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of steelwork for bridges (Reay Road bridge). Particulars and specification (£1) can be obtained from the Secretary, 48, Cophall Avenue, E.C. April 26.

Yugoslavia.

Cotton Cloth.—The Army Clothing Department (Ekonomsko Odelenje), Donji Grad, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply of:—1,000,000 metres of cotton cloth ("American") (unbleached) for shirts, etc.; 1,000,000 metres of cotton cloth ("American") (unbleached) for sheets; 7,000,000 metres of cotton cloth for straw mattress covers. A deposit of 10 per cent. for Yugoslav subjects and 20 per cent. for foreigners must be made before the tenders are opened. Each offer must bear a 10 dinar duty stamp. All particulars may be obtained upon application to the Department of Overseas Trade (Textile Section), 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1. April 25.

Dynamos, etc.—The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade reports that he has received an inquiry from a local contractor in regard to plant, etc., required for the electrical lighting of a town in Yugoslavia. The inquirer states that he is desirous of obtaining offers from United Kingdom firms for two dynamos of 40 kilowatts each and 50 kilometres of overhead cable, etc., for the supply of current to about 1,200 houses. The name and address of the inquiring firm may be obtained on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

Morocco.

Bridge.—The Tangier-Fez Railway invite tenders for the construction of a bridge 410 feet in length over the Sedu River at Mechra Belksiri, the cost of construction being estimated at 2,000,000 francs. Tenders must reach the Department of Public Works at Tangier by May 1.

Travellers to the Near East

Can obtain all information as to the journey from the Manager, **Continental Enquiry Office,** Victoria Station (S.E. & C.R.), S.W.1.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

MAMOURET-UL-AZIZ.

The report for February states:— Imports have been very quiet, as much because of the news that arrives regarding the fall in prices as because of political conditions. Some small transactions are to be recorded in ironmongery. As regards exports, skins are a little higher. Marten fur, which was sold at 500 piastres the piece, is looked for at 1,000. But the quality is inferior to that of the previous year.

Weather conditions during the month having been good, the anxiety of the previous month has disappeared, and we hope to have a good crop.

ALEPPO.

There has been no change worthy of note in the commercial and financial position here. Weather conditions remain unfavourable to agriculture.

ADRIANOPLE.

The following extracts are taken from the report for January and February:— Although the business of our town has suffered from the crises which prevail to some extent in all parts, the imports of our market are nevertheless of some importance. During the two months the imports have included 10 wagons of sugar from Salonika, 80 wagons of flour and cereals from Bulgaria, 10 wagons of dried fruit, and 15 wagons of various products from Salonika and the Pireus.

The drought which has prevailed here during January and February has stopped the growth of the crops throughout Thrace, and rains are indispensable for the development of the cereals. Although the villagers, are still optimistic, the winter crops must be regarded as seriously affected if there is no rain during March.

STAMBOUL, April 2.

Because of the persistent offerings and the lack of buyers, prices of manufactures here are quoted lower than in the countries of origin.

Colonial Produce.—Sugar: Prices have firmed up more and more in America, but in Holland as well as in Belgium offerings are made at reduced rates. Our market is specially quiet owing to the lack of buyers.

Coffee.—Despite the marked rise in countries of production, the market remains quiet owing to the lack of demand and the large stocks.



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CYPRUS.

Nicosia. Larnaca.
 Limassol. Famagusta.
 Paphos.

SYRIA.

Aleppo.
 Alexandretta.

Beyrout.
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ON 'CHANGE.

Buoyant Markets.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

The favourable developments of the labour situation on Friday came too late to affect the Stock Markets before the week-end, and so we had the full influence of them to-day, when, generally speaking, a most buoyant tone has prevailed, and in most markets shares are closing well above their previous level. Of course, we are not out of the wood yet with the coal strike still unsettled; but once that is settled it seems reasonable to anticipate better conditions on the Stock Exchange.

The gilt-edged market has been noticeably cheerful. On the week War Loan Fives are a point up at 88 3-16, while Consols have gained $\frac{1}{2}$ at 48 $\frac{3}{4}$. Foreign bonds have also been fairly firm.

Industrials generally are closing to-day on a very cheerful note. Shipping shares have been well supported, notably P. and O. Deferred, which are 332. Oils have been strong, while a slight improvement in the price of the raw commodity has had an effect on some of the leading Rubber descriptions.

Near Eastern securities have made a good showing during the week. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 65 $\frac{1}{2}$, Greek Guaranteed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. 1898 are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 66, while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. 1855 have gained a point at 69 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Greek shares remain the same. The 5 per Cent. 1881 and the 5 per Cent. 1884 Loans are unchanged at 44, while the 5 per cent. 1890 also remains at 44. Fundings are the same at 41, and the 1910 Loan is unchanged at 42. The 5 per Cent. 1914 Loan and the 1902 Loan are unchanged at 41 and 38 respectively.

Banks have been firm. Agricultural 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Bonds, and the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are the same at 51 and 53 respectively, the quotations in both cases being xl. Imperial Ottoman Banks remain at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, but National Bank of Egypt at 17 9-16xd. are 1-16 up. Land Bank of Egypt are unchanged at 5, at which there are buyers.

Land shares have on the whole been strong. Beheras are $\frac{1}{4}$ up at 9, while the preference shares are unchanged at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Egyptian Consolidated Lands are the same at 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Delta Lands at 8s. 9d., and Gharbieh Lands at 1 3-16 are unchanged. New Egyptians are 1s. up at 23s. 6d., while Union Foncières are the same at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Sudan Plantations remain at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	56-50-57
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	135-139
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1-3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bucharest	Lei to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	240-245
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1-3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	564-584
New York	Dollars to £	4-86 $\frac{1}{2}$	3-92 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3-93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paris	Francs to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	54-50-55-15
Prague	Kronen to £	24-02	275-285
Rome	Lire to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$ -85
Sofia	Levas to £	25-22 $\frac{1}{2}$	330
Teheran	Krans to £	50	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vienna	Kronen to £	24-02	1,300-1,400
Warsaw	Marks to £	20-43	3,050-3,200

In some cases quotations are nominal.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Better Tone Prevails.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

The tone of the market during the past week has been more satisfactory, and if it had not been for the grave industrial crisis business would have developed on broader lines than has been the actual case. There has been more inquiry about than for some time back, but transactions have been very difficult to arrange, chiefly on account of the question of inserting strike clauses. A fair amount of cloth buying has taken place for Egypt, and it is reported that the position out there is gradually improving. In any case, it is mentioned that stocks of goods in the up-country districts will soon need replenishing. Only fragmentary business has taken place for the Levant and Constantinople. Quotations in Egyptian spinnings have continued stiffer, and in some cases prices have appeared to be quite prohibitive. Buying on the whole has been patchy. For India a fair number of cloth sales have taken place, and the tendency appears to be for inquiry to broaden. Calcutta, Karachi, and Madras have provided some useful lines. Shippers to China are still slow in raising rates. In American yarns for home use the tone has been firm and rather more business has been done. Prices have been steady. In export yarns there has been an increased inquiry for India, and moderate lots have changed hands for Bombay and Madras. We are still in the throes of the coal strike, and until some definite settlement can be arranged between the miners and the owners, it will be practically impossible to report a period of increased activity.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The gross profit of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt for year to January 31, 1921, including interest on loans, investments and on bank account, was £703,057. General expenses and amount written off depreciation absorb £125,939, debenture interest, etc., £242,064, interest on preferred shares £50,000, directors' fees £2,600, National Bank of Egypt £8,360, loans and instalments in arrear current year £79,912, interest on amounts carried forward on account of ordinary and deferred shares £35,737, reserve fund £13,783, special reserve £18,619, leaving available £126,040.

TRADE OUTLOOK IN TURKEY.

The London office of the Guaranty Trust Company of New York has received from its office at Constantinople a cable which points out that the imports for March exceed £T3,916,000, and the exports for the same period are over £T735,000. This represents a decrease of £T4,600,000 in the imports and an increase of about £T74,000 in the exports, as compared with the month of February.

Some commercial activity is noticeable as the result of a more optimistic outlook, though transactions are naturally limited to essentials. There is a strong demand for cabot from Roumania. Bulgarian millers are making strenuous efforts to regain their position in the flour market at Constantinople.

Sterling fluctuated between 580 and 585, and is now 581. The tendency is steady, although there is some selling short as covering operations resulting from the improvement of lei and lire. Lei have improved from 40 to 48 piastres per 20 lei, and lire from 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ lire per Turkish pound. The Stock Market is generally dull, and notwithstanding the Nationalist successes Turkish securities remain weak. Lottery bonds, which at the beginning of April were quoted 11 to 12, are now 9.90, sales being difficult.

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FRENCH MAIL SERVICES TO THE EAST.

Reuter's Paris correspondent in a message dated April 16 states: The report on the Bill concerning the running of maritime, postal and general services to the Far East, Australia, New Caledonia, the Eastern Coast of Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean, which has just been tabled in the Chamber, specifies that the Messageries Maritimes Company shall cease to be a State-subsidised company. A new organisation, based on the régime system, will carry on the necessary services. The Messageries Maritimes Company undertakes to form a special company, with a capital of 60,000,000f., in the six months following the ratification of the contract. A number of alterations will be made in the mail steamer routes.

ROUMANIAN RIVER TONNAGE ON THE DANUBE.

The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Bucharest, Mr. A. A. Adams, deals in a recent report with the need for increased tonnage in Roumania. The figures given by Mr. Adams relate to river tonnage in Roumania only and not to the navigation of the tonnage as a whole.

The total number of lighters on the Danube at the present time, exclusive of tanks, is 469 as compared with a pre-war total of 668. Many of these lighters are probably in serious want of repair or renewal. The number of tugs on the river is given as 58 in place of a pre-war total of 80. The number of floating elevators, used to load steamers with grain direct from lighters, is 34, which is a decrease of four on the pre-war total.

With regard to barges as a whole, not distinguishing lighters, information in the possession of the Board of Trade is that in 1914 there were 2,376 privately owned, 64 owned by the Austrian State and 102 owned by the Hungarian State, making a grand total of 2,542. This, of course, relates to the whole of the Danube and not merely the Roumanian portion. It is not known how many of these are in present service. The above figures appear to show that there is a good opening for the supply of British-built vessels of the above kind to the river and transport companies in Roumania.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 11:—Bombay cotton market easy; fine M.C. Oomra, May, Rs. 218.8.0. July, Rs. 231. Cotton Contract Board's prohibition against trading below minimum of Rs. 255 for good Broach expired on April 7, and heavy fall ensued. Bombay piecegoods market shows good demands from consuming centres, with prices tending upwards. Bleached goods continue in great request. Latest meeting of Bombay Native Piecegoods Merchants' Association confirmed the two shilling exchange resolution and increased penalty on members who paid for and took delivery of their goods at any other rate of exchange. Calcutta and Karachi piecegoods markets improving; Karachi Association's resolution forbidding new trade has been withdrawn. Calcutta jute and gunny markets quiet. Prices of Hessians declining. No change in bank rates. At tea sales on April 5 offerings consisted mostly in common and low medium grades. Quantity of dust unusually large. 705,368 packages sold to date at an average price of five annas four pies per lb.

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FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. *Circassia*, for Bombay (Liverpool, April 25).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. *Macharda*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 27); s.s. *Mangalore*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 11); s.s. *Matra*, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 21); s.s. *Matheran*, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 9).

Bibby Line.—S.s. *Warwickshire*, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 11); s.s. *Leicestershire* for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 25).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. *Lord Byron*, for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 25); s.s. *Maid of Delos* for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 23).

Clan Line.—S.s. *Clan Ogilvy*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, April 28).

Cunard Line.—S.s. *Antinoë*, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, and Galatz (London, end of April); s.s. *Tyria*, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, May 21).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. *Trentino* for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, May 3); s.s. *Gerano* for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Bari, Venice, and Trieste (Liverpool, May 5).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. *City of Calcutta*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 2).

Ellerman Hall Line.—A steamer will sail for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab, on April 29.

Glen Line.—S.s. *Glenluce*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, April 28); s.s. *Glenishane*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 19).

Glynn Line.—S.s. *Riposto*, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, April 30).

Harrison Line.—S.s. *Architect*, for Calcutta (Liverpool, April 23); s.s. *Orator*, for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Birkenhead, in May); s.s. *Astronomer*, for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 7).

Henderson Line.—S.s. *Burma*, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 4).

Holt Line.—S.s. *Yantsze*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, April 22); s.s. *Pak Ling*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, April 22); s.s. *Deucalion*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, April 22); s.s. *Mentor*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, April 29); s.s. *Ixion*, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 6); s.s. *Lycaon* for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. *Cundall*, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, April 23); s.s. *Aviemore*, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 14).

Maindy Line.—S.s. *Maindy Tower*, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, middle of May).

Moss Line.—S.s. *Karnak*, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, April 22); s.s. *Limoges*, for Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, April 27).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. *Maronian*, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, May 7); s.s. *Asturian*, for Malta and Alexandria (also taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Haifa, Messina, Jaffa, Port Said, Cyprus, etc.) (Liverpool, May 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Nore*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 22); s.s. *Dongola*, for Bombay (London, May 6); s.s. *Nyanza*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 20); s.s. *Kashgar* for Bombay (London, May 20).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. *Manora*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, April 22); s.s. *Neuralia*, for Bombay and Karachi (London, April 29); s.s. *Margha*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 7).

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended April 9 amounted to £8,431.

Burma Railways Company.—The transfer books of the Three per Cent. Debenture stock will be closed from May 2 to 14 inclusive.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China announces that on and after May 1 the address of its New York agency will be 44, Beaver Street, New York City.

THE NEAR EAST.

No. 520.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Off the Map.

For the past week the Greco-Turkish conflict has been, in common parlance, "off the map," as far as the Allied Powers are concerned, owing to the incidence of matters of more pressing importance. It is a matter for regret that this should be the case, as each week's delay tends to render a final settlement of the Turkish question more difficult. The attitude of the British and French Governments would seem to be that they are prevented from offering mediation in view of the insistence of the Greek delegation to the London Conference that Greece could not brook interference in a matter of this nature, and must be allowed to deal with the Turks entirely by herself. It was hoped at one time that Italy would be able to save the situation; but M. Gounaris has now given an official denial to the report that there had been any question of mediation by the Italian Government. Greece has claimed "splendid isolation," and, in the opinion of those who were at one time ready to save her from herself, must now abide by the results. It must be admitted, however, that, apart from the inevitable outcry about enemy atrocities, without which no Balkan campaign would be complete, the Greek Government admits no doubt as to the future. Reinforcements are reaching the Greek army in Asia Minor, and it is reported that a fresh offensive has been launched.

The Real Issue.

It is difficult to withhold sympathy from the Greeks, who are now being made to suffer for the Allies' mis-handling of the Near Eastern question. The terms of the Treaty of Sévres were the outcome of an exceedingly clever piece of special pleading on the part of Greece, and having gained her point, she naturally holds that she is entitled to keep what has been given her. M. Venizelos's one mistake was the premature occupation of Smyrna. It was a departure from the realm of argument, in which he had carried all before him, to the unknown and problematical sphere of force, and it brought the whole question, and the Allies as well, up against hard and definite facts. These facts the present Greek Government is unwilling to face. It will, however, have to face them sooner or later, and, as the Allied Powers hold back, it is the duty of Greece's friends in Great Britain, where she has very many, to urge her to face them before it is too late. The Greek settlement embodied in the Treaty of Sévres would never have brought peace to the Near East. It underestimated the vitality of Turkey, and made no attempt to

look beyond Asia Minor. In regard to both points the Allies were equally at fault; but now they, in particular Great Britain, have had to realise that the Turkish problem is linked up with the future of the Middle East and of Central Asia, and with the whole world of Islam. The real issue, therefore, to-day is that, whatever victories she may gain in the field over the Turks, Greece cannot be allowed by the Allies to keep practically the whole of Asia in a ferment of unrest. If without further delay she can appreciate this point, she must realise that by placing her cause unreservedly in the Allies' hands she stands to obtain better terms than if she antagonises them by adding to their already serious embarrassments.

The Danube Conference.

Under the terms of the Treaties with the late enemy States the European Commission of the Danube reassumed the powers it possessed before the war, but with representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Roumania only constituting the Commission. This body undertook provisionally the administration of the river, and by common consent has been carrying out its task successfully. Meanwhile attention has had to be given to the constitution of a permanent International Commission of Control over the Danube, and the Conference for this purpose is now sitting in Paris. One clause common to the several treaties provided that this Commission should consist of two representatives of German riparian States, one representative of each other riparian State, and one representative of each non-riparian State represented in the future on the European Commission of the Danube. Dissension appears to have arisen in the Conference, because the three Great Powers are inclined in regard to Danube navigation to let bygones be bygones, and to give Hungary the full benefit of its geographical position by making it the centre of gravity of the river system. The same Powers are not averse from a Magyar chairman of the Commission, and have proposed the addition of a Magyar, and possibly a German as well, to the sub-Commission entrusted with administrative and fiscal duties in connection with the Iron Gates, which lie in the waterway between Roumania and Yugoslavia.

Forcing the Pace of Peace.

To these proposals of the Great Powers the Roumanian representative on the Danube Conference offers an emphatic objection, and something in the nature of a strongly worded protest from the Roumanian Government is understood to have been addressed to the three Great Powers. It is to be hoped that a speedy attempt

will be made to compose the difference of opinion. While we look forward confidently to the day when friction and "nerves" will have been eliminated from the Balkans, we realise that little good can be done by trying to force the pace in this respect. The Allied Powers rightly adopt the attitude that among the former enemy States Germany alone retains her power for serious mischief, the others having been rendered to all intents and purposes innocuous. It is, however, useless to deny that our Balkan Allies have not yet adopted this view. In regard to Hungary the recent escapade of the ex-Emperor Karl has served to confirm their worst fears. In these circumstances it is better for all concerned, Great Powers, Allied States and ex-enemy States, to progress slowly towards a better condition of things. The Balkan Peninsula will benefit. It is not altogether a question of unreasonableness. Domestic politics play their part. The Allied Governments do wrong to ignore these and other considerations which loom large in the countries concerned. That the affairs of countries cannot be peaceably settled without reference to the peoples inhabiting them is an axiom that has yet to be learned by Allied politicians.

Egyptian Delegation Rivalries.

There are signs that the struggle between Adly Yeghen Pasha and the Moderates on the one hand and Zaghloul Pasha and the Extremists on the other hand is approaching a crisis. It looks as if the Prime Minister and his supporters now feel fairly confident of their ability to bring the country safely through the difficulties which admittedly beset the path they wish it to follow; and it is to be hoped that their confidence will prove to be well founded. Zaghloul Pasha, however, appears to be equally confident that his views must prevail. He has declared that he will co-operate with the Cabinet only on his own terms, which, it is understood, are that he shall be head of the delegation to negotiate with the British Government, and that he shall nominate the majority of its members. In such circumstances it would seem to be a work of supererogation to appoint any delegation at all, or to go through the form of any negotiations; and if Adly Pasha and his colleagues stand firm against such pretentiousness they will have the approval of moderate opinion everywhere.

Seyyid Talib Expelled.

Early last month the Minister of the Interior in the Provisional Government of Mesopotamia, Seyyid Talib Pasha, made a tour of the principal cities and towns in the south of the province. In the course of that tour he very naturally visited Busreh, for which place he used to be Deputy in the Turkish Parliament; and there he took occasion to emphasise his good will towards the Government, and to deplore the recent disturbances, which had, he very truly observed, been baneful in their results. "As a father is to his son, so am I," he declared, "to the people of Irak. I entertain great hopes for the future of our country, but we cannot get along ourselves without outside help; and for this outside help we must look to Great Britain, who has shown great sincerity and a real desire to help us." And he added wise words about the people co-operating and learning how to serve their country. In view of these expressions of sentiments which we must all admire, it may have come rather as a shock to some people to learn at the end of last week that the British High Commissioner had found it necessary, in the interests of law and order, to arrange for the deportation of Seyyid Talib, who left Baghdad on April 16.

Profession and Practice.

With every wish to believe that at the time of his Busreh speech the ex-Minister of the Interior really meant what he said, we still are not inclined to question the wisdom of Sir Percy Cox's decision. The High Commissioner is not the man to take such action hastily, or without good reason; and we cannot forget that in the past—notably in the days preceding the war—Seyyid Talib had the reputation of being a born intriguer. It has been known for some time that he considered that he himself would make a very good Emir of Mesopotamia, and that he was, to put it very mildly,

unfavourably disposed towards the idea of a member of King Hussein's family being chosen for that position. His views of his own fitness were shared by few, and he had no following worth consideration; but his ambition may have pushed him into some indiscretion; and though Great Britain will certainly not put any pressure on the people of Irak in making their choice, neither could she permit any attempts on the part of ambitious politicians to forward their own interests in any underhand fashion. The ostensible reason for Seyyid Talib's removal was that he expressed publicly disapproval of the attitude of certain British officials, and talked rather wildly of using armed force if the Government failed to carry out its promises. Such un-Ministerial conduct could not, of course, be overlooked. If any Minister has good cause of complaint against any British official, he can be sure of a fair hearing, if he puts it forward properly. It looks as if Seyyid Talib had failed woefully to live up to his professions.

Lord Chelmsford in England.

If ever a man has earned a good holiday, it is Lord Chelmsford, but apparently he does not intend to take one just yet; for within three days of his arrival in England he made a striking speech on the situation in India. The occasion was the Birdwood Memorial Lecture at the Society of Arts, and the substance of the speech was in the main a confirmation of the views we have recently expressed regarding the initial success of the new legislative institutions. Lord Chelmsford insisted on the sense of balance and responsibility displayed by the provincial legislatures, and on the constructive spirit in which the central body had dealt with the difficult financial situation; but even more important was his testimony, based on personal experience, to the educative effect which has been produced on all concerned. Many of the Indian legislators have found that their pre-conceived ideas of British officials require to be entirely reconstructed, while the officials on their side have been quick to readjust their attitude to the new conditions, and the widening of outlook has necessarily resulted in a marked advance towards harmonious co-operation, which must gratify all men of goodwill, and would assuredly have rejoiced the heart of Sir George Birdwood, the great old man in whose memory the lecture was delivered.

Politics and Social Relations.

It is already apparent that this political advance is destined to produce a marked effect on the social relations between Englishmen and Indians. From various sources we hear that the session and the season at Delhi have tended to coalesce, and that many political difficulties have been eased by talk across the dinner-table, or at those out-door entertainments where even the most conservative Indians can mix freely with men of other communities. The establishment of the Chelmsford Club at the capital is an important step in this direction. English clubs are by their nature as exclusive in India as in other countries, and there is room for a parallel set of social institutions, open from the outset to all races. Delhi has now set the example, and the new club seems to be reasonably assured of success. It is not a political club like those in this country, where parties are segregated in different buildings, sometimes to the exacerbation of sectional differences, but it is political in the sense that its membership consists mainly of people actively concerned in politics, and its root idea is social intercourse between men of different views. We hope to hear of similar clubs being established at the various provincial centres of political activity, in some at least of which the opportunities for such intercourse are still far too few.

The Future of Burma.

Lord Lytton made a further statement last week regarding the new constitution for Burma, which strikes us as holding out a somewhat dubious prospect. The question is, as we knew before, to go before the Standing Joint Committee of Parliament in order that the necessary legislation may be passed this session, but the Under-Secretary of State also expressed the hope that the Committee would at the same time consider the idea

of separating Burma from India. That is a much more intricate matter, and if stress is to be laid on the words "at the same time" we should say that the prospect of early legislation is remote, and that Mr. Montagu will find himself free to act on the alternative course already announced and introduced Diarchy by executive action. We trust, however, that the Committee will realise the advantages of keeping the two subjects distinct: the provision of a new internal constitution is an urgent matter, and should be made by Parliament forthwith; the question of separation is not urgent, and in our opinion is not yet ripe for decision; all that is needed at the present juncture is that that question should not be prejudged, and the new constitution should be so framed as to leave it entirely open.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

The Coal Crisis.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

After the excitement of the week before, last week was relatively flat. There was some little recrimination between miners and railwaymen over the breakdown of the Triple Alliance, and the *Daily Herald*, which believes in direct action, has been in doleful mood. But the actual dispute has not been settled yet. For several days there was apparently nothing doing at all; on Friday the parties met, conferred for over two hours, and agreed to confer again. To-day (Monday) they are meeting again; it is hoped in many quarters that a temporary arrangement may be arrived at which will enable the miners to get back to work, when the difficult questions of reorganisation can then be threshed out more at leisure and, let us hope, in a conciliatory spirit.

But last week's apparent quiet was not altogether profitless. The protagonists, instead of meeting face to face, carried on their controversy in the columns of the newspapers, with considerable effect as regards throwing light on dark places. There has been a good deal of unreason on both sides, and this informal discussion has helped to indicate where the trouble lay.

One difficulty, as far as the public is concerned as judge, is that both sides seem united in one thing—making their proposals as difficult of comprehension as they can. The owners, for instance, issued an eight-point programme last Wednesday. The lay public read it carefully, and understood every individual word in each of the eight points; but the effect of every point, and of the eight together, was hopelessly obscure. Moreover, neither side has produced those full and final figures as to wages which are above all things necessary to clarity of discussion. Both talk of averages, but everybody with the slightest knowledge of arithmetic knows that the average wage of many different men may be hopelessly misleading. I do not quite understand this apparent reluctance to give the actual facts; I cannot think it a wise policy.

One thing, however, has emerged. From the mass of verbiage in which the proposals and counter-proposals are concealed, the owners are prepared to amend their offers—in other words, they, as well as the public, now recognise that the proposed cuts in wages were too drastic. Public opinion has almost from the first recognised this as an essential, and has blamed the owners for their ultimatum. On the other hand, the miners still cling to their policy of a national pool as essential, and on this the public is both less informed and less convinced.

The increasing shortage of coal is steadily reducing the train services, and industrial output in other trades. Business men are hopeful that once the dispute is settled trade will revive quickly, and they even suggest that in some respects the crisis may have done good. I confess that I do not see any reason to share that optimism: the effects of the coal trouble will be felt for months in all the great industries, and 1921 is not likely to leave happy memories either for master or man.

On the other hand, good has come out of evil in one respect. There is no longer any talk of an imminent General Election; it never seemed particularly likely, but it is now definitely recognised as out of the question

for some time ahead. The Government has not shone in its handling of the coal trouble, but neither Liberal nor Labour can oust it, and both parties in the Opposition recognise the fact.

The Cup Final.

The shortage of coal prevented any special trains being run for the football Cup Final, but a good many people turned up for the event notwithstanding—over 70,000, to be precise. A London team, the Tottenham Hotspurs, won the Cup—it is only the second time in twenty years it has come South. The King watched the game, and presented the trophy to the victors.

Cricket.

The Australian cricketers have arrived, and the unfortunate English team has also returned, to renew the fight over here. But the English captain has yet to be chosen by the M.C.C., and the Australians, arriving at a time when the railway service is rather worse than it was towards the end of the war, owing to the coal strike, are faced with unexpected difficulties—unless they hire a motor-pantechicon to convey them from match to match. This miserably wet and cold April is also likely to fill our visitors with forebodings; the combination of snow and a thunderstorm, which has been fairly usual during the past few days, is surprising and perplexing to the uninitiated. It reminds one of the story of the German philosopher who had demonstrated the rationality of the cosmos in a series of brilliant metaphysical lectures; he took a summer holiday in England and recanted, on the ground that a natural phenomenon so irrational as British meteorology made a fatal flaw in his hypothesis.

More Houses.

The wretched Dr. Addison was denounced steadily by his opponents for failing to build houses, but a recent tour round London and a trek through some of the suburban home counties like Surrey, Kent, and Middlesex has convinced me that he did not altogether waste his time. Near Beckenham and Acton, and in many other places entire new towns seem to be springing up and finding a new population at once. The last slate is hardly on the roof when the perambulator is in the doorway; it is the same in every village, where the half-dozen or so additional cottages under the scheme are quickly furnished.

One of the conditions made by the Ministry of Health was that the new houses should have a longer frontage than typical cottage property in the past—it is one way of avoiding slums. The idea has given great offence in some quarters—a local builder recently denounced it to me as "idiotic idealism." But the doctors approve of the increased air and sunlight which the new houses obtain, and point out that the additional cost in housing will probably be more than repaid by the diminished expenditure on sanatoria for tuberculosis.



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JOPPA

The Occult World.

I understand that there is rather a slump just now in spiritualism, and that the mediums and other exponents of the art are faced with very material anxieties as to rents, rates, and taxes. I suppose it is not much use to gaze into a crystal when the landlord calls for his cheque. The astrologists, I am told, are in rather better trim—possibly because there are fewer of them—as a good many people still believe, or pretend to believe, in the stars. It is extraordinary how these superstitions persist.

But the fashionable craze of the moment is psycho-analysis, and I believe some of the spiritualist professors are changing their names and professions on this account. You pay your guinea and tell your dreams, and the quack then reveals your innermost soul, or your "unconscious" or "subliminal self." The "wise women" of the countryside did very much the same, without the quasi-scientific jargon, in the old days; even now dream-books are sold in country towns to the servant girl who wants to know if the butcher's boy truly loves her. Apparently Bond Street is very much the same, and many an idle woman spends an hour or so in having her soul explored by a "professor of psychometrics." It is almost exclusively a feminine craze, probably for the simple reason that "women dream of broken hearts, and men of Broken Hills," and psycho-analysis is not much use as an investor's guide.

Divorce Reform.

There are signs that the divorce problem is not to be allowed to rest where it was left last session, when the two Houses of Parliament failed to agree as to the proposed reforms. Lord Buckmaster and other peers are again propounding the changes they advocate in the shape of a Bill, and the usual sporadic discussion is being carried on in the Press. The Church is still immovable, more particularly the High Church party, which is the strongest part of the Church; it has been rallied for its lack of logic, but it seems immune to that kind of argument.

Legal opinion is as strongly in favour of divorce law reform as clerical opinion is against it, and on a matter of that kind one would think that the Bar had more practical knowledge than the clergy, who hold their position with more stubbornness than real argument. The lawyers hold that the present position of the marriage laws really tends to degrade the institution, and they accuse the clergy of exalting the ceremony above the general interests of society.

But nothing will be done in the present Parliament. Members of the Commons with shaky seats do not want to antagonise the clergy unnecessarily, and their passion for reform is very easily sated when there is no great driving force of public opinion behind the change. As the number of people who want a divorce is still considerably less than those who do not, it is easy to find arguments against a change.

The Cane at School.

A congress of doctors and schoolmasters has been discussing the effects of caning, and schoolboys and the fathers of schoolboys have followed the subject with interest. I am rather surprised to see how many of the speakers objected to caning on the hands as dangerous; my own recollection was that it was not much of a punishment. It is true that my hands were hard from wicket-keeping. What I really disliked was caning on the back, which is so brutal and dangerous that it should be forbidden; besides, after the second time it was utterly ineffectual, for a thick wad of blotting-paper worn under the waistcoat renders it painless, as any boy soon discovers. Most of the masters agreed that the cane was sometimes necessary, and the doctors held that one portion of the body, and one only, should be regarded as the mandatory territory for that particular experiment.

Window Slashers.

An extraordinary series of outrages have been perpetrated during the last few days. Hundreds of plate-glass windows in London and the suburbs have been cut or slashed by a diamond or nail—in some cases so deeply that the windows have collapsed or become unsafe; in others, merely disfigured. The police have been on the

alert, but so far no arrests have been made. The original theory, which ascribed the misdeeds to a madman, has been discredited, for no one man could have been in so many places at once. It is now said to be the work of an organised gang, and the voice of rumour naturally credits either Sinn Féin or Bolshevism, according to individual taste. The whole proceeding is so senseless that it is difficult to believe that any political organisation could resort to it. The trouble has now spread to provincial towns.

The Decadent Theatre.

There seems to be something radically wrong with the English stage to-day. While the fantastic "Chu Chin Chow" is now in its sixth year, Maeterlinck's beautiful play, "The Betrothal," has been withdrawn after a relatively short run; and Miss Gladys Cooper, who had a noble part in that drama, is now appearing in a farce called "Up in Mabel's Room." Of this latter it is sufficient to say that most of the action takes place in a lady's bedroom, the leading actor spends most of his time under the bed, and the subject of the plot is mainly concerned with soiled female underwear. The stage seems to want a new Jeremy Collier when disgusting rubbish of this kind can be put on. This, like a very similar but slightly less dirty play, "Nightie Night," which is now running, comes from America. I suppose the United States exports what it has no use for.

The Week's Books.

"Social Decay and Regeneration" (Constable), by R. Austen Freeman—with an introduction by Mr. Havelock Ellis—is an important contribution to sociology. Mr. Freeman has in effect written a thesis to show that Man having invented the Machine, has now become dominated by the Machine. His argument is sustained, grave, and occasionally brilliant. But he goes a little too far when he suggests that the low intelligence of Labour is due to its domination by the Machine. In fact, his argument here destroys itself in the making, for on another page he condemns the unrestricted immigration of low-type Russians and Poles into England, and points out that they reduce the standard of intelligence and morality in this country, by sweating and other anti-social practices. But it is precisely these people who have never come under the dominance of the Machine, whereas our ordinary urban population is more or less directly connected with mechanical pursuits all its life. But I do not think this argument can be maintained at all without very considerable limitations. At various times of my life, for instance, I have had a good deal to do with two classes of workers—printers and agricultural labourers. The latter hates machinery, despises it, and generally puts a lump of clay in its more delicate parts to prove it is useless; the former is a skilled craft, which historical evidence shows has made most of the great improvements in one of the most complicated and difficult (and therefore, according to Mr. Freeman's argument, one of the most dominating) of all machines. Now, if anybody tells me that an agricultural labourer is more intelligent on the average than a printer because he is less mechanical, I am not going to argue with him.

But the real value of this book is that it compels thought. Nobody will agree with it entirely, but it is provocative and honest in its purpose. The author ends by a plea for reducing the population—but there is no room here to discuss eugenics.

Mr. Graham Wallas is always interesting, if only because he does not belong to any particular school of political thought. In "Our Social Heritage" (Allen and Unwin) he collects a number of essays on such subjects as Guild Socialism, the Church and Social Change, and other problems of the day.

"The Backbone of Africa" (Witherby), by Sir Alfred Sharpe, discusses the administrative and economic problems of East Africa, and also touches on sport. Sir Alfred, once Governor of Nyasa, is an authority on his subject; but it is rather devastating to discover his opinion that "one generally finds that the more civilised the natives become the more lax are their morals."

OCELLUS.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, April 10.

The Return of Saad Pasha Zaghloul.

The return of Saad Pasha Zaghloul on Tuesday last to his home in Cairo after an absence of two years has been the event of the week. Indeed, it is probably no exaggeration to say that the reception accorded to him is unprecedented in the annals of Egypt. For days previous the most active preparations had been made in Cairo, Alexandria, and also in the provinces, and the day before his arrival students and others paraded the streets, demonstrating in his honour and generally creating an atmosphere of excitement. He had a tremendous reception in Alexandria, where, it may be noted, he was met by, amongst others, the ex-Premier, Mohammed Pasha Said, and Prince Omar Toussoun, and where he attended a monster banquet in the evening. His journey to Cairo the next day was a veritable triumphal progress. At every station along the route the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. The scene all the way was most remarkable. It was with difficulty that the train was restarted at every station owing to the crowd on the line and on the roof, and it is not surprising that Cairo was reached an hour and three-quarters late.

In the capital the excitement was meanwhile fast reaching its climax. For days people had been pouring in from the districts for the event, and on the morning of the 5th, the day of Zaghloul Pasha's arrival in Cairo, there was already at an early hour a goodly crowd in the streets, many of whom had taken up their position overnight. As the morning advanced the crowd grew, and the delegations from the various schools, syndicates, etc., banners at their head, and in cases accompanied by boy scouts with bugle and drum, made their appearance and marched to their appointed position amid the frantic applause of the onlookers. By special arrangement with the police, and at their own request, the students and Azharites carried out the policing of the route, and, to their credit, be it said, right well did they accomplish their self-appointed task. Under the direction of energetic supervisors, and with the very rare assistance of a mounted policeman, they kept the line of route with marked success until "El Raiss el Mahbuhb" passed.

The scene in the city at that moment was indeed a wonderful one. Every element of the Egyptian population was represented in full force either in the streets or on the balconies. Wherever one looked was a moving picture of absorbing interest; and the most extraordinary part about the whole spectacle was the complete docility, good nature and orderliness of the many thousands standing in the streets, who, in spite of exacting climatic conditions, maintained their enthusiasm till the bitter end.

"El Raiss el Mahbuhb" was preceded by his wife, to whom an exceedingly warm welcome was extended, possibly due to a certain extent to the first impression that the occupant was Zaghloul Pasha himself. When, however, he actually appeared, standing in an open car, the pent-up excitement found its full outlet; the crowd frantically waved its flags and its arms, and the air was rent by an outburst which was simply deafening, but must have been none the less gratifying to the Pasha, who was standing with his back to the driver returning the salutations of the people, who broke the ranks and, as the car passed, surged after him in a manner which added the finishing touch to what was an amazing popular demonstration.

Since his arrival there has been a constant procession of deputations to his house, and, even to-day, five days after his arrival, these are continuing to traverse the streets. To most of these visitors Zaghloul Pasha has addressed a few words, most times merely his warm thanks. He has driven nightly through the native quarters, and has paid a visit to the graves of the Egyptians who lost their lives in the disturbances of the spring of 1919, and whom he acclaimed as the

"martyrs of liberty"; and he has issued a manifesto to the people thanking them for their warm reception, enjoining everyone to return to his or her work, and stating that he has returned to consult the nation and co-operate with the Cabinet, if its intentions conform to the will of the nation. But up to now he has not committed himself to an interpretation of the "will of the nation," and as far as can be gathered no definite discussions have taken place between him and the Cabinet, though he has had informal conversations with Adly Pasha. The situation is, therefore, still obscure, and every one is anxiously awaiting its development.

The Anglican Community.

The general meeting of the Anglican community took place as arranged, and considered the question of the status, etc., of the Church Committee and the ownership of the Church property as reported in my letter of March 27. It was unanimously decided to transfer the ownership and general management of the Church site and buildings, investments, etc., to the Dean and Chapter, and to leave the appointment of the Cathedral clergy to the ecclesiastic authorities. Sir F. T. Rowlatt and Mr. A. P. Bolland were appointed sub-deans and people's wardens, and it was decided to form a Church Council, corresponding to the parish councils provided for in England by the Enabling Act, to consist of the High Commissioner as Chairman, the two churchwardens ex-officio, and twelve elected members. The election of the latter is to be by ballot, and nominations are to be received up to the 13th instant.

PORT SAID, April 9.

Nationalist Demonstrations.

The past few days in Port Said have been marked by several Nationalist demonstrations. Last Sunday morning the steamer Mykali left the port, carrying Nationalists of the town who had chartered her to take them out to sea to meet the steamer which was bringing Zaghloul Pasha to Alexandria. It is estimated that at least three hundred people were on board, swarming everywhere, and shouting Nationalist sentiments. She was preceded out of the port by tugs, on which bands discoursed patriotic sounds, and the sides of the vessel were painted with "Independence" mottoes. The following afternoon there was a large native procession in the town, composed of a nucleus of Egyptian Boy Scouts, but principally a great crowd of the lower orders, carrying flags and portraits and shouting for "Independence."

Port Said Girl Guides.

With all this going on, it was a relief to think of the quiet little display which had been given in the lighthouse garden that morning, when Lady Baden Powell, who is on her way back from India and the East, inspected the 1st Port Said Girl Guides, heard them give a rendering of the Girl Guide song, and witnessed a display of first-aid and stretcher drill. Afterwards Lady Baden Powell distributed various badges that had been earned by the Guides, and gave the girls a most interesting talk on her unique experiences of the Guide movement in the East. Miss Nonie Broatch, the Captain, has since received a most appreciative letter from the Chief Guide congratulating her on the efficiency of her company. In the afternoon the Guides gave another display in the same place, and in the absence of Lady Baden Powell were inspected by Captain Seymour, of H.M.S. Calypso. The public were admitted on payment of PT10, and a most excellent tea was provided. The funds obtained amounted to over £E10, and are to be devoted to the furtherance of the Girl Guide movement in Port Said.

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General News.

The most important personal news in the place is the departure of Grant Bey, Commandant of the Suez Canal police, to Alexandria. He has been most popular with all classes, and not least so with the Egyptians, both official and unofficial. As far as has been officially announced, his transfer is only temporary; but it is believed that His Excellency Heddaya Pasha, our late Governor, who is now Governor of Alexandria, wishes to retain his services there if possible.

Two days ago there was trouble amongst the strikers at the Suez Oil refinery. Some men wished to work, but the majority did not, and assaulted the manager and others. The police and Egyptian military were called in, and after first firing over their heads as a warning, were obliged to fire at them, wounding several.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, April 17.

Yugoslavia and her Neighbours.

The adventure of the ex-Emperor Karl at Budapest has produced interesting results in Yugoslavia. It is believed that the Government presented an ultimatum to the Magyar Government, in which it declared that Yugoslavia would not permit a restoration of the Habsburgs; that the present form of government, which it regards as a republic, although it is called a monarchy, must not be changed; that the Magyar Government must fulfil all the conditions of the Peace Treaty with the least possible delay, and, above all, reduce its army, which at present numbers 100,000, to 35,000 men; that the calling of new recruits to the colours must cease at once; and, finally, that Yugoslavia, with the Little Entente, demands that Hungary cede to Austria the territory in the west of the country according to the terms of the treaties. This report is not officially confirmed, but it seems clear that Budapest was startled and frightened by this new element in European politics, and that the alliance between Czecho Slovakia and Yugoslavia is a very real thing. It is interesting to note that Karl has brought Yugoslavia and Italy nearer

together, and so done great good, for the two States have much in common.

It is probably true that Italy is negotiating with the Little Entente with a view to concerted action to prevent for ever the restoration of the Habsburgs, and very cordial telegrams of congratulation have been exchanged between M. Pashitch and Count Sforza. In this connection it is interesting to note that an Italian delegation has arrived in Belgrade to negotiate a commercial treaty with Yugoslavia, as foreseen in the Treaty of Rapallo. The president of the Yugoslav committee is Dr. Momchilo Ninchitch, former Minister of Finance in the Serbian Radical Government, and Minister of Commerce in a recent Cabinet and acting Minister of Foreign Affairs. Other member of the committee are Dr. Trumbitch, Dr. Zherjav, and MM. Kukitch and Kostrenchitch, all sound men. The inclusion of Dr. Trumbitch is most interesting, and there can be no doubt that a good deal more than mere commercial matters will be discussed. It will be recollected that it was Dr. Trumbitch, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, who negotiated the Treaty of Rapallo.

Relations with Italy.

The Yugoslav Party in Fiume, the Fiume Autonomy Democratic Party, and the Fiume International Socialist Party have sent a telegram to M. Pashitch, on the grounds that the forthcoming elections in Fiume will be under interallied supervision, and that presumably Yugoslavia will have a voice in the matter, urging him not to recognise the "illegal, usurping government of Groshitch." The telegram adds that the Italian parties have falsified the registers, and so forth. The chief interest in the telegram is the fact that there are so many parties already in Fiume, and that at least three of them turn to Belgrade for protection.

The recent disturbances and bloodshed in Istria have caused a painful impression, and have been attributed in the Italian Press to Yugoslav intrigues. The *Slovenski Narod* now offers the explanation that all is due to the machinations of an individual named Chiloga, who posed as a Nationalist, but is in reality a Com-

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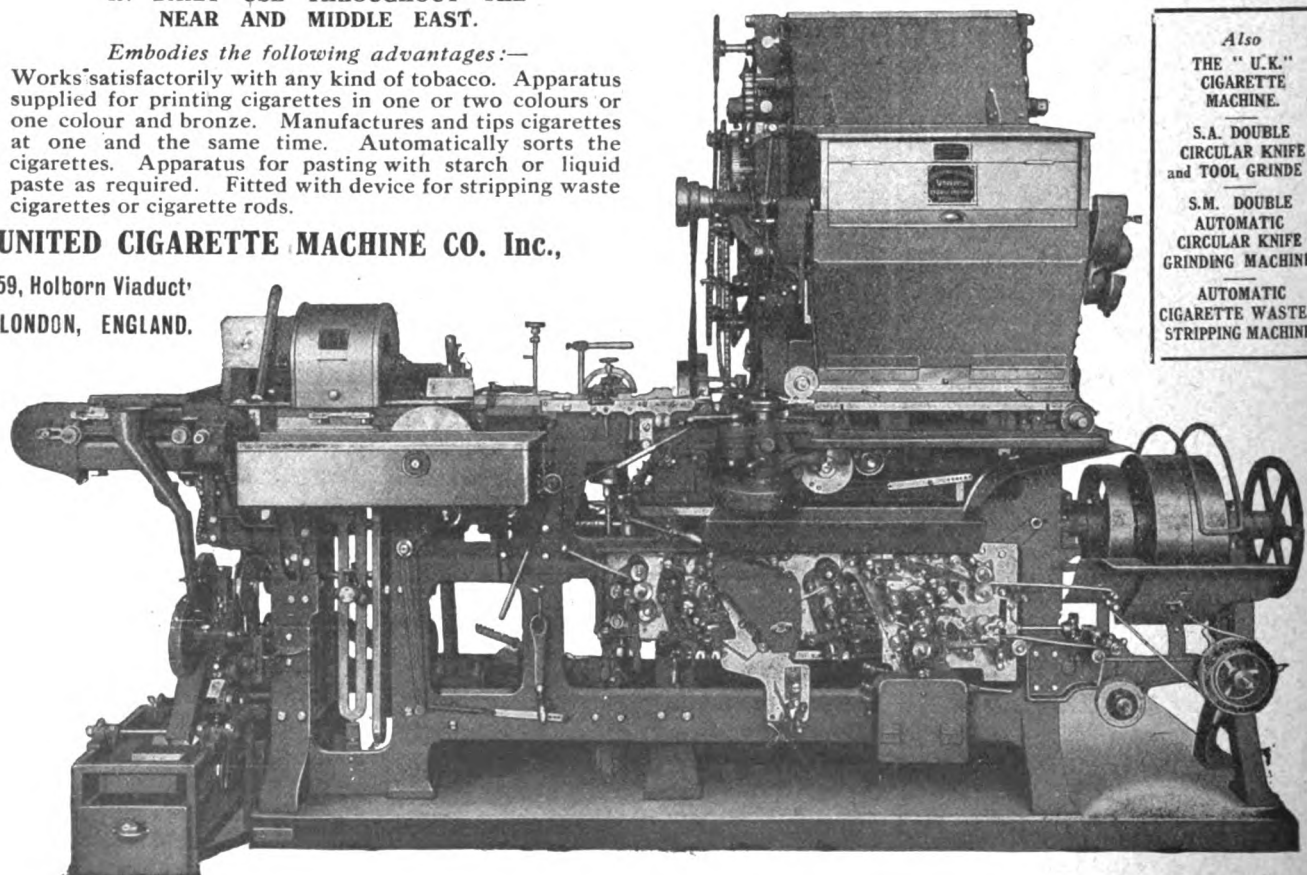
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munist. Chilega is well known in Mostar as an avowed Frankovist, that is, a Habsburgophil and open enemy of Yugoslavia, from which country he has been expelled. It suited his game to pose as a Yugoslav agitator in Istria, and to make difficulties between the Slavs and Italy, as the Italians will certainly attribute his action to the machinations of Belgrade.

It is generally known that there are about 400,000 or more Yugoslavs, chiefly Slovenes, who are to-day Italian subjects, and that as a result of the Klagenfurt plebiscite a substantial number have been handed over to Austria. But besides these there is a colony of Croats in former Magyar territory which now belongs to Austria. These, it is reported, have recently waited in a deputation on the Austrian Chancellor, Dr. Mayer, who promised to do all he could to respect the wishes of the Croatian people.

The Politicians.

In the political world there is not much to relate. The withdrawal of M. Stoyan Protitch from the Radical Party, of which he has been the leader since the liberation, is still the talk of the town. It has been thought that he would retire from the political arena, where his unbending character and arrogant manner have been stumbling blocks to many coalitions, and one of the chief causes of the perpetual crises of the last two years. Many think that his object is to split the Radical Party, and so break the Coalition, destroy the present Constituent Assembly, and form a new Government out of the Opposition, of which he will be the head. To the onlooker his forte certainly seems to be destruction rather than construction; but the Radicals are probably too devoted to M. Pashitch to be very seriously affected.

The Narodni Club is sulking about the Constitution, and the Slovene Clericals appear to be going to do the same thing. There are signs of splitting in the Agriculturalists, the Socialists are angry at the agreement with the Mohammedans of Bosnia, and the Communists have grown tired of their parliamentary leader, Dr. Sima Markovitch, and elected a new chief, M. Trisha Kaclevitch.

GREECE.

ATHENS, April 10.

Imprisonment of an Editor.

As a result of the publication in the Venizelist paper *Patris* of an article dealing with the military situation in Asia Minor, this journal's editor, M. D. Lambrakis, was arrested yesterday by order of the Government and imprisoned, after having been charged with "shaking the confidence of the people in the Government's war policy, and in the Army."

An extract from M. Lambrakis's article runs as follows:—

We have before us either enemies or mistrustful friends; we are diplomatically isolated and financially blockaded. We trumpeted forth that Asia Minor was mistress of the situation and would bring about a change in the opinion of the Allies. Our army which had hitherto known nothing but victories, has now, after the most striking proofs of heroism, been obliged by Kemal, to retire 120 kilometres without succeeding in attaining the main object of its offensive. . . . When, for political reasons, those in command of the units on the Asia Minor front were replaced, we warned the Government of the dangers and the responsibility that such an action would involve. Will the Government hesitate now to replace those responsible for this military check? General Papoulas is not a friend of ours; we must, nevertheless, admit that he enjoys unlimited confidence among military circles, and that, despite the check at Eski-Shehir, his authority still remains intact. Let the Government therefore afford this honest and sincere soldier the collaboration he is in need of.

The *Politeia*, a Royalist paper, whilst admitting the seriousness of M. Lambrakis's offence, expresses the hope that the Government will treat the matter leniently and will order his release. The *Politeia* points out that M. Lambrakis is a white journalist and a straightforward rival, who very strongly condemned the barbaric scenes of Athens in August last year, and through whose influence many anti-Venizelist journalists imprisoned at the time of the "tyranny" were set free.

M. Gounaris Returns.

M. Gounaris, accompanied by the Governor of the National Bank, M. Maximos, returned to Athens on

Tuesday. At a Council of Ministers held the same evening the Minister of War declared that the realisation of the national aspirations depended entirely upon the work of the troops in Asia Minor. If these were victorious, Greece need not have any fear of losing what she had acquired. M. Gounaris added that there could not be the slightest doubt as to the successful issue of the new campaign.

The New Cabinet.

Four different Prime Ministers, and therefore four different Cabinets, in less than five months is something of a record, and not easily to be beaten. On November 10 last M. Venizelos was the President of the Council; he was replaced by M. Ralli on November 15. On February 7 M. Kalogeropoulos was entrusted with the Premiership, and finally on April 8 M. Gounaris's turn arrived. That it had been M. Kalogeropoulos' intention to resign was no secret, but it was generally thought that he would not take such a step until he had given a full and detailed account to the National Assembly of his doings in London. No little surprise was therefore felt on Friday when the early edition afternoon papers informed us that M. Kalogeropoulos had tendered his resignation to the King, and that it had been promptly accepted. In less than half an hour after M. Kalogeropoulos' departure from the Palace, M. Gounaris was received by the King, who entrusted him with the formation of the new Cabinet, which is composed as follows:—

Prime Minister and Minister of Justice	M. DEMETRIUS GOUNARIS
Minister for Foreign Affairs	M. GEORGE BALTADJIS
Minister for Home Affairs	M. SPYRO STAIS
Minister of War	M. NIKOLAS THEOTOKIS
Minister of Marine	M. PETROS MAVROMIHALIS
Minister of Communications	M. P. TSALDARIS
Minister of National Economy ..	M. JOHN D. RALLI
Minister of Finance and Food Supplies	M. P. PROTOPAPADAKIS
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Minister of Education	M. THEODORE ZAIMIS
Minister of Agriculture	M. CONSTANTINE TERTIPIIS

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M. Gounaris is evidently no longer in the bad books of the Allies. Only two months ago the new Premier was clearly given to understand that his presence at the London Conference as Greece's delegate could not be tolerated. Since then M. Gounaris has visited London, Paris, and Rome, and has come into close contact with Mr. Lloyd George and M. Briand. What has happened? It does not require much guessing. The formation of a purely Gounarist Cabinet, from which M. Kalogeropoulos is left out, answers the question.

Greek Independence Day.

On March 25, the hundredth anniversary of the commencement of the Greek revolution against the Turks was celebrated throughout the country. In Athens the main streets were decorated and all Government offices and banks were closed for three days. In the morning a thanksgiving service was held at the Cathedral, which was attended by all the members of the Royal Family. After the service a reception took place at the University, where M. Carolidis, Professor of History, delivered a speech explaining the importance of the day. The King, followed by the Crown Prince and the other Princes, then proceeded to the small park outside the University, and placed laurel wreaths on the statues of Patriarch Gregory V., of Rigas Ferraios, and of Corais. In the afternoon of the same day wreaths were also placed on statues of many other heroes of the Revolution, and in the evening the public buildings, the Acropolis, and the Lycabettus were brilliantly illuminated. On the occasion of these national celebrations enthusiastic articles accompanied by symbolic illustrations and patriotic verses appeared in almost every newspaper here.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, April 12.

The Agrarian Reforms

The excitement caused by ex-King Charles's attempt to recover the throne of Hungary having died away, home affairs have once more claimed public attention. During the past week Parliament has been discussing the Budget*, the Agrarian Reform Bill, proposed new regulations regarding imports and exports, and the proposed concession of the railway workshops to British and French groups.*

The Agrarian Reform Law has now acquired a very different aspect from that which it bore when first brought before Parliament by the Liberal Party on December 16, 1918. The idea then was to transfer the expropriated areas of land to co-operative societies of peasants, who should work it in common and share the profits. This plan, however, found no favour in the eyes of the peasant, who does not take kindly to co-operation; and so loud and insistent were his complaints and his demands for individual ownership that the present Government was finally obliged to give way to them. The work of distribution of the expropriated land by committees of experts appointed for this purpose has now been going on for some months; but it is proving an extremely slow and complicated task, owing to the great variety of considerations involved, not the least of which are the varying quality of the land and the natural desire of each man to have his share of the best. There are still over four hundred thousand hectares to be expropriated before the total figure provided by the law is reached. The amount of land received by each peasant depends partly upon the density of the population in his district, and in some cases the land available has not been sufficient to provide for all, and peasants have removed to more thinly populated districts in order to receive their allotments. It is to be hoped that the last state of these will not be worse than the first. Rather a pathetic instance was witnessed by the writer last summer of strong healthy mountaineers recently settled in the low flat district

towards the Delta of the Danube, where they were easily distinguishable not only by their picturesque embroidered costumes, but by their fresh colour and splendid physique from the thin and sallow-faced inhabitants of that malaria-stricken country.

During the discussions of the past week it has been claimed that in certain provinces the land available under the law is still not sufficient for the requirements of the population, and that more drastic expropriation measures must be taken. This question, however, is still under discussion. As the law now stands, the largest estate allowed to any landowner in Bessarabia is 100 hectares, in Transylvania 500 hectares, and in the old Kingdom 300 hectares.

Shortage of Quinine.

Reverting to the question of the malaria prevalent in the low lying districts towards the mouths of the Danube it may be remarked that there is a great shortage of quinine in Roumania at the present time owing, no doubt, to transport and financial difficulties. The only quinine available comes from Germany, where stocks are probably depleted, and is of very poor quality, having little virtue in it, and owing to the low rate of the leu it has not been found possible to import from England or America. Until recently the American Red Cross distributed large quantities of quinine, but now they have closed down, and there is no other source of supply.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, March 29.

Rejoicings arranged to celebrate the centenary of Hellenic independence are numerous and varied, although it has not yet been decided at Athens whether the national fêtes are to be held during this, the hundredth anniversary of the Greek rising of 1821, or seven years later, when the liberation of Greece was actually won and proclaimed.

A draft law is in the hands of members of the Legislative Council relating to the timely suppression of publications containing seditious matter.

The Holy Synod of Cyprus began its session on March 23, under the presidency of the Archbishop, and has a long list of agenda. Its first care appears to be the preparation of yet another memorial regarding the "Cypriot question," which is to be despatched to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the higher clergy of the Anglican Church, and to certain politicians. It will also discuss the Pan-Christian Conference at Geneva, at which the Cyprus Greek Church is represented by the Archimandrite Chrysostom Papadopoulos; and the forthcoming Pan-Christian Congress, at which the Bishop of Kition will represent the autonomous Orthodox Church of Cyprus.

NICOSIA, April 4.

During the short session of the Legislative Council the Moslem, in co-operation with the official members, carried the few measures that were deemed of importance, and presumably the Council will not be convened again unless circumstances occur to render a meeting necessary, as sometimes happens in the summer months. There is no disposition on the part of the Greek members to change their attitude or tactics, which have already caused much unnecessary trouble and expense.

The memorial of the Greek Archbishop (which was drawn up after the first meeting of the Holy Synod held since his return) to the Archbishop of Canterbury is now published in the papers. His Beatitude expresses the Synod's feeling of gratitude for the sympathetic reception accorded to the Greek prelate while in England; he deplores what is still called the "unjust decision" of the British Government regarding Cyprus, and expresses the hope that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the clergy of England will raise their voice in support of the petition for union.

A newly-elected Abbot of Trooditissa Monastery, Jacobus, has been installed by the Bishop of Papho. This old retreat is a favourite place of resort in the summer season, and is picturesquely situated in the pine-clad heights of Troodos, a few miles from the camp.

A reply has been received from the Chief Secretary to the Greek application respecting Cypriot volunteers for the Hellenic army. It is naturally to the effect that none can be enlisted except those who can prove that they are of Hellenic nationality. This would, of course, exclude any but a very few individuals in the island.

* These subjects are dealt with on another page.

BULGARIA & HER NEIGHBOURS

We have received the following communication from the Bulgarian Legation:—

Recently fresh problems have been added to the intricate question of the Near East by persistent Press campaigns conducted at Belgrade, Athens, and Bucharest against the policy of the Bulgarian Government. The principal papers of the three Balkan States have given publicity to allegations concerning the appearance of Bulgarian bands in the Dobruja, Thrace, and Macedonia, which, it is said, have been formed on Bulgarian territory and sent across the frontiers in order to raise insurrections. These unfounded reports are obviously intended to create an unfavourable political atmosphere in public opinion abroad in regard to Bulgaria, and are apparently in connection with certain drastic measures which our neighbours seem to intend to take against Bulgaria.

As a matter of fact the Bulgarian Government are in possession of information according to which considerable Serbian military forces are being concentrated close to our frontier. Some Serbian frontier officials even announced that the Serbian Government intended to occupy a certain new extent of Bulgarian territory, including the State coal-mines of Pernik, under the pretext that Bulgaria has failed to fulfil her obligations in regard to the Peace Treaty. On the other hand, the Bulgarian Government are aware of the fact that the Bulgarian population of the recently annexed Tsaribrod district are forced to sign petitions claiming that, as they are deprived of any hinterland, their existence is impossible, and suggesting that they should be granted a territory of greater extent eastwards, as far as Trioushi (Dragoman). This news has made the worst impression at Sofia.

The Bulgarian Government are convinced that if there are any symptoms of unrest in the neighbouring States the causes must be sought outside Bulgaria. In regard to this, their opinion is supported by the statements made by the Yugoslav Minister of the Interior to the Belgrade Parliament. M. Drashkovitch, indeed, stated that the epidemic of brigandage and murder from which Macedonia has recently been suffering has been traced largely to Communist influence, supported financially by Hungarian and Russian Bolsheviks. According to M. Drashkovitch's declarations, certain notorious murderers had received supplies and weapons from persons now sitting in Parliament at Belgrade as Communist deputies, and documents found on certain rebels proved that they were members of the Serbian Communist party. It seems, therefore, that the appearance of bands in Macedonia is due to the same wave of discontent which caused the great majority of the Macedonian electors to give their voices to the Communist party, and not to any contrivance on the part of the Bulgarian Government.

On April 11 the representatives of the Serb-Croat-Slovene State, of Greece, and of Roumania called collectively upon the Bulgarian Prime Minister to draw his attention to the fact "that certain Bulgarian committees have been actively at work lately sending bands into the neighbouring States with the intention of causing unrest, and that this had been tolerated by the Bulgarian Government." M. Stambolisky made a formal statement before the three representatives, of which the following is a summary:—

The Bulgarian Government regrets that anyone should have doubted its loyal attitude. The Bulgarian Government has done and is doing its utmost to establish friendly relations with all its neighbours. Therefore, we have never tolerated and shall never allow any action to take place which would compromise that policy and bring new troubles upon us. Moreover, it would be entirely against the very principles of the peaceful policy we are following. It is possible that a few separate individuals have crossed the frontier, but they are ordinary brigands and contrabandists. We have taken and are taking the strongest possible measures against these men. No bands have been organised on Bulgarian territory with the knowledge and the consent of the Government. We deny that statement, and declare that we are ready to accept any international inquiry which may be esteemed necessary in order to prove the real attitude of the Bulgarian Government. The Bulgarian Government are giving irrefutable proof of their good faith and entire readiness to make every possible effort in order to fulfil their obligations to the extreme limit of Bulgaria's capacity.

At the end of his interview with the representatives of the neighbouring Balkan States, the Bulgarian Prime Minister expressed the hope that his statement would convince their Governments that the policy of Bulgaria is to establish friendly relations with all her neighbours, and that, therefore, the Bulgarian Government deserved their support.

It may be added that, though Bulgaria has been left by the Treaty of Neuilly with military and police forces quite inadequate for preserving order in the country and controlling the frontiers, the Bulgarian Government are doing their

utmost to maintain internal peace. The Bulgarian Government are loyally striving to fulfil the obligations assumed by the Treaty of Neuilly. Therefore the announced intention of certain neighbouring States to apply Sanctions to Bulgaria in the form of occupation of other Bulgarian territories would constitute an act of flagrant injustice, which could not in any way be accounted for in regard to a State which is doing its best, and is, moreover, already disarmed.

Should these drastic intentions be carried out, the faith of the Bulgarian people would be shattered, and the position of the Bulgarian Government, which since the Armistice has been successfully dealing with a very heavy task, would be most seriously compromised.

THE CONSTANTINOPLE "COMEDY."

The following extracts from a letter recently received from Constantinople show what a curious position has arisen in that city owing to the Allied occupation and the fighting in Asia Minor.

"The comedy of the Near East problem hardly merits discussion. An account appeared in our local press two days ago of a football match in Pera between Greeks and Turks. There was a big attendance, and the game was played most amicably. The Turks won. Prayers for the success of the Turkish armies are being said in our local mosques at which the Sultan attends. Greek sailors and soldiers patrol and police Constantinople daily, assisting the Allies in regulating traffic and keeping the peace; the Greek Consul and High Commissioner reside in Constantinople; while the Sultan and the whole Turkish nation and all the Turkish papers are openly at one with the Nationalists.

"The staging and setting of the farce comprises much inflammable material, and apart from the ultimate risk if the play is continued indefinitely, the performance is showing unmistakable signs of palling on the audience here. It is regarded as one of the poorest productions that London has ever been responsible for."

Paris and Rome, we suggest, must take their share of credit—or the reverse—for the piece.

THE BRITISH ARMENIA COMMITTEE.

The British Armenia Committee has issued a memorandum in which it urges that the new Armenian State must be created under conditions which will enable it ultimately to maintain itself. For this purpose guarantees for the evacuation by the Turks of the Armenian territory must be obtained by withholding concessions offered to Turkey in other quarters. In addition, the new Armenia "must cover an area which—potentially at least—forms a geographical and economic unit capable of military defence." This condition implies territorial access to the sea and possession of Kars and the Erzeroum plateau. The frontiers laid down by ex-President Wilson should be the basis for the proposed League Commission. The memorandum criticises Allied policy in Cilicia, asserts that the terms of the agreement between France and Kema "amount to a cynical flouting of British and Allied pledges to the Cilician Christians," and presses for the establishment of an autonomous Government or of an administration under a Christian Governor such as formerly existed in the Lebanon.

INDIAN STUDENTS IN ENGLAND.

The High Commissioner for India has appointed Mr. Thomas Quayle, D.Litt. (Lond.), Joint Secretary for Indian Students. While Mr. N. C. Sen, for some years past Adviser to Indian Students in London, brings to bear upon the work in the interests of these students the requisite Indian experience, his colleague will provide the necessary corollary of knowledge of higher educational and university life in this country. Dr. Quayle was special William Noble Fellow of the Liverpool University, Eyton Davies Research Student in the University of Wales, and an advanced student for research work at Balliol College, Oxford. He is at present Director of Education to the borough of Sutton Coldfield. It is understood that, in consultation with the Government of India, the Secretary of State is taking the opportunity of the transfer of the work from the India Office to appoint a committee of inquiry into the arrangements for Indian students, and that Lord Lytton will be the chairman.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes (April 17): A Slovene aviator (Vognar), on a Phoenix machine has established the local record for altitude, reaching a height of 6,500 metres in forty minutes.

In connection with the refusal of Germany to comply with the Allied claims with regard to reparations, the Government of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes decided on April 9 to introduce a tax of 50 per cent. to be paid on the value of goods imported from Germany, the tax to be brought into force from April 16.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Palestine.

Writing from Jerusalem, in the *Pall Mall and Globe* of April 12, on "Palestine To-day," Mrs. Henry Fawcett indicates some of the difficulties to be grappled with by the High Commissioner and his advisers:—

British rule is bitterly unpopular with considerable sections of the population, with the poorer and more numerous, because bread and other necessities were never so dear. They do not stop to ask the reason why; indeed, they attack the Government, not only for bread being dear, but because the export of corn (to prevent it becoming dearer) has been stopped. They only know that the rise in food prices synchronised with British rule, and on our shoulders falls the blame. Among the more educated classes the cause of the discontent is different, but not less real.

She then states that the disaffection is due to a complete misinterpretation of the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917, which was taken to mean in Great Britain that Jews should be enabled to take their place in Palestine on a footing of equality with other people:—

It was in this sense that the Balfour Declaration met with general acceptance in Great Britain; but here all kinds of interpretations have been put upon it, and it has become a source of most violent contention. There are those who contend that the first and second parts of the Declaration are mutually incompatible—that Palestine cannot become a national home for the Jews without cruel injustice to the native Syrians who have lived and died in the country for a thousand years or more, and form by far the largest section of the native population. There are men who say and believe, "We are to be enslaved in order that our enemies may have a national home," and they say that what is actually taking place day by day and month by month is the gradual subjection of the non-Jewish population to the ever-growing dominance of the Jewish.

One grievance constantly referred to is the continued suspension of all the machinery of representative government, whether local or central. His Excellency the High Commissioner has, it is true, an Advisory Council, but this is not an elected but a nominated body, and now, nearly three years after the end of the war, the general inhabitants of Palestine have far less electoral power than they had under Turkish rule. Between 1908 and the outbreak of the war a system of representation did exist whereby, for example, four members from Jerusalem, two from Nablus, two from Haifa, one from Acre, and so forth, sat in the Parliament set up by the Young Turks in Constantinople. All this is now stopped, and nothing satisfactory is put in its place. A nominated Advisory Council can never give the people the confidence they would repose in elected representatives. It is true this argument is met by those who affirm that the Turkish representative system might have looked well on paper, but was, practically worthless; it certainly did not make Turkish government popular. Nevertheless, the present Administration has to face a formidable body of opposition, and it is probable that a safety valve might be found for its free and open expression if some sound form of rudimentary representative government could be brought into existence. Much of the unpopularity of the Government probably arises from pure ignorance and the timidity born of ignorance.

Greeks and Turks.

The Special Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* in Smyrna, writing in the issue of April 12, sums up his impressions thus:—

The Turks of X. (a district the correspondent had just visited) are in a panicky state of mind, and not only they but the Turkish intellectuals in Smyrna are genuinely convinced that it is the policy of the Greek Administration to get rid of the Turkish element in the Sèvres zone. This, I am quite sure, is a delusion, and the cases of violence or injustice which they have cited to me do not alter my opinion. I suppose every Greek has at least a slight prejudice against every Turk, and the lower down you go in the ranks of the Administration the more prejudice and the more influence of prejudice on action you will discover. The Turkish population is most intimately affected by the behaviour of the lowest members of the official hierarchy—the minor officials and the gendarmes—and I have no doubt that the incidents related to me are not only true but are only a percentage of the total that have occurred.

Yet my impression on the whole is that the political grievance outweighs the personal grievances of the Turkish population. They are very proud, and, like most Moslems (and some other human beings), they consider it unjust that they should suffer the same misfortunes as the rest of mankind. They particularly resent that the "rayah" whom they ruled so long with scorpions should now rule them with whips. In truth, I do not think that either people can lead a satisfactory life under the rule of the other, even if only the lighter instrument of castigation is employed; and that is why I have put forward in so many telegrams and despatches the thesis that this vilayet ought to have a mixed Administration, recruited proportionately from the two elements and placed under foreign control.

Smyrna and the East.

In an article called "Great Britain and Smyrna" the *Morning Post* of April 9 advocates the withdrawal of Smyrna from Greek possession. It does not conceal its jubilation over the defeat of King Constantine's troops in Asia Minor, and, though it approves of M. Venizelos, it says that Mr. Lloyd George, in being won over so whole-

heartedly to the policy of the Greek ex-Premier, was not sufficiently solicitous of the interests of his own country. In fact:—

The result of Mr. Lloyd George's unthinking adoption of the cause of M. Venizelos is that Greece and Turkey are again at war and that the renewal of strife in Anatolia is bound to have, and, indeed, is already having, serious consequences in the Caucasus, in Persia, in Afghanistan, and throughout British dominion in the East. Both Greeks and Turks have flouted the wishes of the London Conference. What is worse, the Turks are convinced that Great Britain is espousing the cause of King Constantine, just as it committed itself to the programme of M. Venizelos. Every day we are receiving communications from members of the Turkish delegations to the recent London Conference to the effect that this country is sending munitions and other support to the Greeks. These suspicions are ill-founded, but they reveal a state of mind which does not augur well for the maintenance of cordial relations between this country and Islam, already severely tried by our surrender to the Zionists in Palestine. We have already driven the Kemalists into the arms of the Bolsheviks, and Constantinople and the Government of the Sultan into the arms of the Kemalists. It is accordingly imperative that we change our unfortunate policy in the Near and Middle East and begin to consider the fundamental interests of the British Empire. Our main interest in that part of the world is peace and the stopping of a war which can only benefit in the long run the conspirators of Moscow. Now, as long as Smyrna belongs to Greece there can be no peace in the middle East. The blessed principle of self-determination has got nothing to do with the case. The plain outstanding fact is that Smyrna is the natural outlet for the trade of Anatolia, and that if it be taken away from its rightful owners then Turkish trade is stifled and Turkish financial recuperation becomes an impossibility. To take Smyrna away from Turkey is an injustice; to hand it over to Greece is, from a Turkish point of view, an outrage. Alike from an economic and a psychological point of view Smyrna in the hands of Greece is a nest of eternal war. The Allies, therefore, ought to hand it back to Turkey or submit it to a control which would satisfy legitimate Turkish susceptibilities. In such a case we may be sure that Turkey would give to Greek interests in Smyrna the same consideration as Greece is prepared to give to Bulgarian interests in the Aegean. In doing so they would be doing a real service to Greece. In developing Thrace and the Islands the Greeks have a sufficient outlet for their energies for many years to come. Perhaps the bitter but wholesome lesson conveyed by recent events in Anatolia may convince Athens, as well as London, of the necessity for a less ambitious and more practical policy.

Armenia.

An article in the *Manchester Guardian* of April 11 says that the present condition of Armenia is a disgrace.

It is clear that the fair and well-articulated plan for settling Near Eastern questions on a racial basis which the Allies embodied in the Sèvres Treaty is lapsing into complete confusion, in which the old miseries and the old dangers will again prevail. Armenia is now, as for centuries, a test case. Her future seemed assured. At last the Christian peoples the world over, to whom her sufferings were a traditional cause for searching consciences and for devising remedies, would be spared the distraction of this recurrent sore. The cure depended on making Turkey powerless when the chance offered, and on a temporary tutelage by the victors in the war of the Armenian people. The first was not done; Turkey was vanquished, but, with amazing folly, she was left her arms. The second has been abandoned, and the tragedy of Armenia, to our disgrace, remains. . . . Kemal, in his present mood, will understand and yield to nothing but superior power. To display it means men and money, and this all the Allies except Greece have so far refused. Greece has fought a long, and for a time successful, campaign, and is now losing it. Her ambitions, after Constantine's return, were such as perhaps deserved defeat. But to a Greece that limits her objectives to a fair racial treatment of the Near Eastern question, such as was aimed at at Sèvres, need the Allies refuse help, moral and even material? The best and most characteristic of American public thought has always championed Armenia. The other Allies, whatever their present apathy, are deeply pledged to save Armenia, and in their own interest they must restrain Kemal. If they gave their help, even thus tardily, justice might still be done, and a wrong that has far too long troubled good men in all civilised countries be finally redressed.

Articles to Note.

"The Baghdad Railway," by A. D. C. Russell; "The Truth about the Balkans," by H. Charles Woods; and "The Science of Public Administration," by W. H. Moreland, C.S.I., C.I.E., in the *Quarterly Review* (April).

"Labour in India." By Col. H. A. Young, C.I.E., C.B.E., in the *Edinburgh Review* (April).

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MUSICAL NOTES.

Miss Judith Litante.

It was in the main an artist's programme that Miss Judith Litante, a soprano, had drawn up for her recital at the Æolian Hall on April 14, but it was rather unequally performed. Her old Italian songs were well done, particularly Caldara's "Alma del Core," but her English group, containing things by Purcell and Arne, was not intense enough. In a group of *lieder* by Wolf, Schubert, and Brahms her rhythm was a little shaky and her choice of *tempi* rather haphazard. But in her final group, which was chiefly Russian, though she missed the bursting joy of Ravel's Greek folk-song "Tout Gai," she made amends by a very beautiful interpretation of Arensky's "Cradle Song." Miss Litante has much to learn, both technically and musically, but certainly she has the makings of a fine singer.

Two Pianists.

I do not know that there is generally any essential connection between an artist and the race to which he belongs, and it seems to me that the insistence which some critics give to the reflection of nationality in the composition or the interpretation of music is overdone. However that may be, the chief quality in the playing of M. Reimar de Radium, the Danish pianist who gave a recital at the Wigmore Hall on April 20, was restraint, a restraint partly deliberate and partly due to a lack of poetical sense. His technique in scale work is fluent, delicate, and finished, and in *piano* passages he has a charming grace. But there is no great depth in his readings; Beethoven's "Appassionata," for instance, was driiig rigid; the caprice made by Saint-Saëns on an air of Glück is a work the dullness of which no facile prettiness can disturb; and in Chopin the gradations of tone were unskillfully managed. The main defect of this pianist lies in his rhythm, which is inelastic; his emphasis on the bar rather than on the line makes his playing more monotonous than the clean, unaffected display of his other abilities warrants.

In the playing of Mr. Leonard Rayner, whose recital was at the Wigmore Hall on April 21, there is much to please, but little that is moving. He has a neat, accurate technique that of itself could cope with the demands which such things as Cesar Franck's "Prelude, Chorale, and Fugue," and the "Escenas Romanticas" of Granados made upon it; but he had not the majestic and passionate conception of these works that is necessary to the demonstration of their greatness. A little diffident of his climaxes, a little hard in his rhythm, this pianist is more of an academician than a poet. He introduced to London a suite of four bird songs by F. Herbert Bond; they were the harmless kind of imitative lyricism that one thought had died with Grieg.

Mr. Francis Buckley.

It is not often that ambition is so far removed from ability as it was in the vocal recital by Mr. Francis Buckley at the Wigmore Hall on April 18. And it was not his deficiencies alone that made the evening lack interest: his collaborators in Handel's "St. Cecilia" cantata—Miss Gladys Van der Beeck, a string quartet composed of ladies, and Miss Hilda le Gros—were all perseveringly inefficient.

Mr. Buckley himself has a pleasant, small voice, the fragility of which can scarcely stand the buffetings of public performance. He has, however, excellent intentions, for his choice of song was admirable. Yet to sing a bird song by Armstrong Gibbs with the same unconvinced sincerity as that with which an Arensky love song is declaimed is making unnecessary demands upon the patience of an audience. But Mr. Buckley achieved something in finishing his songs at all, for the inert vagaries of his accompanist must have been almost insupportable.

Negro Spirituals.

The discovery of the folk-songs of negroes is a recent one, and no one in this country is doing so much to explain them as Mr. Roland Hayes, a negro tenor whose last recital was at the Wigmore Hall on April 21. I was disappointed not to be able to hear more than two of his spirituals, for without any doubt at all he is a most admirable exponent of them. Their tense and sustained pathos he most beautifully and without any exaggeration displays—a feat of artistry by no means easy. To hear his singing of "Go down, Moses," for example, is to hear the very fundamentals of song; and I shall certainly go to hear him again.

The Spencer Dyke String Quartet.

It was fortunate that the Spencer Dyke String Quartet were assisting Miss Annabel Macdonald in her recital at the Wigmore Hall on April 22, for without them there would not have been much cause for enjoyment. But they are a very capable quartet, in tone, in rhythm, and in finish. The two sketches of Goossens, indeed, "By the Tarn" and "Jack o' Lantern," which they have made their own, they play better than anyone else; and it was pleasing to see even the rather indiscriminating audience that applauded the recitalist's efforts recognise the merits of these fine instrumentalists. Of Miss Macdonald's voice not much can honestly be said in praise, and to expatiate on her impure diction, her false sentiment, and her uncertain quality would be a thankless task.

ANDANTE.

EARLY HINDU POLITY IN KASHMIR.

A lecture on the early history of Kashmir was given on April 25 before the East India Association by Mr. E. A. Molony, I.C.S., C.B.E., Sir Francis Younghusband being in the chair. The lecturer began by a brief historical survey from the reign of the famous Asoka, who founded the capital, Srinagar, up to the eleventh century, when the victorious advance of Mahmud of Ghazni was repulsed by the Kashmirians. In religion the country was Buddhist under Asoka; religious toleration was, however, fully recognised, for Hinduism existed side by side with the established creed. With the subsequent revival of Hinduism the worship of Siva arose, and later the cult of Vishnu grew up and flourished for centuries together with Buddhism and Saivism. As time went on the characteristic institution of caste emerged, but the references to it are nebulous before the eleventh century, and it connoted occupation rather than social rank; from the eleventh century onwards we come across the familiar names of Vaisya and Kshatriya. The Brahman was recognised from a very early date; the scavengers and others whose work was of a defiling nature became "untouchable," but the mass of the people were not divided by any rigid line. Asoka established a regular system of Government on ancient Oriental lines, but the chief posts gradually became modified either by expansion or by atrophy as the needs of the State demanded. There were regular trials, and it is interesting to learn that the dissatisfied used to go on hunger strike, with the curious result that the sin of causing death was imputed to the judge. On the other hand, the regular administration of justice was greatly hampered by constant insurrection, by treachery, and by assassination. Forced labour of the kind known to readers of Egyptian history as the *corvée* seems to have been common and to have been severely felt. The land tax was both unstable and excessive, though at times benevolent rulers made provision for famine and distress. The whole system of the country was based on terrorism and the strong hand. It was held that to allow villagers to amass wealth or to relax the control of the hill tribes was to court disaster for the King. The information regarding customs is meagre. Women were not secluded, and suttee was common, especially in the reigning family. Drinking, too, was well known, but was considered disreputable. The amusements of the people, then as now, were chiefly singing, dancing, and religious festivals.

It is clear from this picture that the golden age conjured up by the Extremists of to-day exists only in their imagination. The Royal Court may have been splendid, but the people were purposely kept in a state of extreme poverty, and in the hill country lawlessness was only kept in check with great difficulty. The British are charged with oppressive taxation and a demoralising educational system, but the taxation was evidently far more oppressive, and of education, except in Sanskrit, there was none. The single redeeming feature was that the Government was native, and the Extremist of to-day, for the sake of that single fact, is apt to forget and condone much that was unlovely in the past. If it is unfair to point to that past as a picture of what would be, in the absence of the British, it is equally unfair to represent as golden an age which was in fact frankly brazen.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

L.—"EUROPE IN ASIA MINOR: THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEAR EAST QUESTION." By "A Good European." (London: Thomas Murby and Co., 1, Fleet Lane, E.C.4. Price 1s. 6d. net.)

II.—"VERLAINE." By Harold Nicholson. (London: Constable and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

I.—THE TURKISH PROBLEM.

The outstanding feature in the Near Eastern situation to-day is that the Allies' attempt to settle the Turkish problem by the Treaty of Sèvres has broken down completely, hopelessly. An effort was made to effect a compromise at the recent London Conference; but the only result so far has been in the nature of a deadlock. It is, perhaps, the hope of the Allied Governments that when a condition of stalemate as between Turks and Greeks has been definitely established they will find the opportunity to impose terms that both peoples will have to accept. Such a solution, it is to be feared, will be at best but a temporary compromise. The terms of the Treaty of Sèvres are in themselves the clearest evidence of the failure of the responsible heads of the Governments concerned to understand the problem with which they had to deal. Subsequent action confirmed the fact of their ignorance, and there is no indication that any genuine effort has since been made to study the problem afresh. As far as Great Britain was concerned, there was ample knowledge, both inside and outside Government Departments, to obviate the cruder mistakes of the Paris Conference; but it may be doubted whether the real significance of the Near Eastern question in all its ramifications had been even dimly understood, let alone mastered. It was still regarded as being in the nature of a gamble—a question of "spotting the winner." When a "tip" was given it was followed avidly, and an explanation was elaborated to justify the proceeding. It would not be fair to the British Prime Minister to say that he was following no definite policy in his Near Eastern settlement. But he looked no farther than the Mediterranean. There he found a pro-British seafaring nation, and it seemed the obvious thing to do to bind it as closely as possible to Great Britain with a view to combating anti-British tendencies in the Near East. Mr. Lloyd George's outlook was too restricted. The Near Eastern problem stretches from the Adriatic, if not from the Atlantic, to the Indian Ocean, perhaps to the Pacific, and the British public has been somewhat forcibly reminded of the fact.

If past mistakes are to be avoided, our conception of the problem has to be revised. In this small pamphlet, "Europe in Asia Minor," the anonymous author, "A Good European," presents an interpretation which it would be difficult to challenge on grounds of scholarship, history, or statesmanship. He declares in his Preface that he addresses himself exclusively to honest and sincere folk, and "cares nothing for the opinion of those who, for one reason or another, whether deliberately or from weakness of heart or mind, have prostrated themselves before the three mighty powers that govern modern humanity: Money, Prejudice, and Impassioned Stupidity." In regard to the Turkish question, however, there is a well-meaning section of the community, so constitutionally pessimistic that they are incapable of hoping for better things, who are unable to get away from the Turks' atrocity record, and are satisfied that nothing good can ever come out of Turkey. It is to be hoped that they will at least read "Europe in Asia Minor" with an open mind, to see whether Angora appears to hold out possibilities denied to Constantinople.

The two outstanding names among those in Great Britain who have brought any degree of vision to bear upon the Turkish problem are David Urquhart and Beaconsfield. Of the latter our author writes:—

He dreamed of the moral protectorate of Great Britain over Islam, and on his journeys in the Near East he studied the spirit of the Moslem people, which he thought worthy of participating in the work of modern civilisation as it had participated in the civilisations that have preceded our own. He wished his country to preside, in brotherly collaboration, over the political education of the Moslem peoples, and over the vast reform movements which have been agitating the minds of Mussulmans for the last hundred years.

Beaconsfield's ideas were upset by Gladstone. "Instead of becoming the impartial though benevolent mediator between Christianity and Islam—a task clearly indicated by the Asiatic interests of the British Empire—the latter turned

ever more and more to the Tsarist standpoint, whose one object was to blot out from the political system of the world the very real though stationary forces which Islam still holds at her disposal."

At the time of the Turkish revolution of 1908 there was for a moment a tendency to revise our opinion of the Turks, but the help from Great Britain for which they looked was not forthcoming. "In these circumstances the Turkish revolution was bound to fail in its attempt to reconcile so many different and frequently conflicting interests. European diplomacy took advantage of the grave errors which inevitably occur in any work of reform and revolution in the Near East, in order to resume its policy of destruction with an alacrity which contrasted all too conspicuously with the long and magnanimous patience it had exercised towards the autocratic system." The Turks threw themselves blindfold into the arms of Germany, after having made fruitless attempts in London, both in 1913 and 1914, to secure British collaboration in the work of reform in Asia Minor. After the signing of the Armistice Great Britain had once more to make up her mind about a Turkish policy. "Scorning the guidance of her past diplomacy with regard to the question of Islam, [she] endeavoured to apply a policy of which the mildest indictment is that it has nothing British about it, and betrays throughout its Levantine origin."

From this point we may allow "A Good European" to speak for himself, while we would strongly urge everyone who wishes to arrive at an intelligent appreciation of the Near Eastern question to study the pamphlet. Some will possibly decide that the goal which he has in view can be reached with less insistence on expediency at the expense, if necessary, of morality. A revision of Great Britain's Turkish policy must go hand in hand with the resolve that the Turks shall be given a fair and full opportunity, which they have never had before, of making good.

"In the realm of world politics—and let all incurable moralists remember this once and for all—it is not a question of knowing who is right or wrong, it is not a question of urging the merits of Venizelos on the one hand and the iniquities of the Turk on the other or *vice versa*; but simply of valuing the forces involved, and of adapting them to the policy or interests at stake, which, in this instance, are the primary interests of the British Empire. This elementary principle of political science has been forgotten in many countries. It is not a matter of deciding whether the Koran is a pleasant book for Gladstonian readers, or whether the Turks are barbarians or not. The question is whether these so-called barbarians still stand for a political power with which the world must reckon, and whether they are capable of disgorging their venom against Europe and of poisoning the relations between England and Asia. Now this they have proved themselves to be."

"Surely it is not the duty of a world power such as victorious Britain, destined to be the arbiter, not only of one religious community, or of one race or nationality, but of the whole of thinking humanity, to be moved by passion and adopt a partial and one-sided attitude towards a question of such vast importance?"

"The power of Turkey is no longer such as to enable her to resume her old historic part, now for ever lost; but it is abundantly adequate for the purpose of poisoning the relations between Moslem Asia and Europe, and of playing the part of advance guard in the world revolution in Asia, already so much exasperated with the white race, and of making all attempts at pacification and placation quite impossible in the Near East. . . . The Turks, having beaten the Armenians, now have a *back door* opening into Central Asia and the Caucasus, whither they can withdraw their forces, intact, into a country peopled by men of the Turkish race and of Moslem faith, where they would be at home, and where, driven to desperation, they would be forced to continue an endless struggle most dangerous to the peace and welfare of the world."

"All reasonable Turks . . . who only want to live and develop in their own country and their own home, are far from being intractable. They demand but one condition, that their right to live and remain a nation among the nations should not be subject to the consent of swollen-headed Pan-Hellenism."

"The power of Turkey is one of the most active and restless forces in Asiatic politics. She will act in accordance with her own interests, and not at the dictates of Moscow; and she will react against any attempt upon her existence from whatever quarter it may hail; but if she is admitted into the family of nations, she will also 'react' in favour of those who helped her thus to obtain the object dearest to her heart."

"The practical value of the friendship of Turkey would consist in providing for the organisation of the Moslem forces of the Caucasus and Central Asia for the purposes of reconstruction—the reconstruction of the Near East based upon three distinct entities: a Caucasian Confederation, a Confederation of Central Asia, and a regenerated Turkey. This consummation would prove for the British Empire, once more the friend of Islam, something more than a flimsy theory. It might mean permanent alliances, based at first on purely economic considerations, but when mutual confidence, so shaken on either side, had been re-established by time, maturing into political unions. But in order

to reach it the Turks must be treated as a free people and not as slaves."

"By allowing the moderate party in Turkey to play the part of commissioners of Western Europe in the Moslem world, the fact would be recognised that the Turks are from the ethnical point of view members of the white race, whilst by religion they belong to Islam. This two-fold aspect is of fundamental importance for the future relations of Europe and Asia; for it is a question of determining whether the Turkish nation is to be made the advance guard of Islamic Revolution against Europe or whether she is to be allotted the rôle she aspired to play in the happiest moments of her dramatic historical career—that of rear-guard to the West on the confines of the two continents of Europe and Asia. Are the Turks to be for or against Europe?"

II.—ARTHUR RIMBAUD.

We have placed Rimbaud's name at the head of this review, partly because of the immense influence he had on Verlaine's career, but chiefly because his name and fame are intimately connected with the Near East. The subject of Verlaine has little connection with readers of this journal, but the record which this book contains of Rimbaud's travels in that region alone makes it of sufficient interest to be recommended.

Of Verlaine himself, a poet whose position is certain but unfixed, this is not the place to write; nor can we fitly appreciate Mr. Nicholson's curiously impartial estimate of his worth. It is enough to state that the author of this book is one of the younger school of critics, a school which prefers cold detachment to warm attachment, and which in its judicious cleverness puts sagacity above truth, and admiration above enthusiasm. How much this critic actually thinks of Verlaine it is not easy to say; but one gathers in a negative way (from the chill but ultimately unjustified scorn with which he looks on Verlaine's predecessors), and by the persistent care with which he has pointed out Verlaine's defects, that his opinion is higher than he here discovers it.

Arthur Rimbaud, who was born in 1854 and died in 1891, was probably the most amazing genius the world has known. It was, as Mr. Nicholson very discreetly but very clearly shows, his diabolical inspiration and self that were the determining, and perhaps the most constant, factors in Verlaine's life. Renouncing literature for ever at the age of nineteen, he thereafter lived true to his words:—

Je ne parlerai pas, je ne penserai rien :
Mais l'amour infini me montera dans l'âme,
Et j'irai loin, bien loin comme un bohémien,
Par la Nature . . .

After seeing Verlaine for the last time in 1874, Rimbaud set out on his travels, and was until the end of his life to indulge this lone wandering. During the next few years he was in many places, including Egypt, Cyprus, and the East Indies. The details of his journeyings, as set out by Mr. Nicholson, are intensely interesting to Near Eastern readers. In 1880 he was again in Cyprus, overseeing "the construction of the summer villa then being built for the British High Commissioner on the summit of Mount Troodos." Thence he went to Jeddah, Suakim, Massowah, Hodeidah, Aden, and the interior of Abyssinia. In this last place, with his headquarters at Harrar, and studying the native languages—Amharic, Galla, Somali, and Arabic—he made money, but he was still unhappy. He was in Cairo in 1887, down with dysentery, but dreaming yet of wider adventures and more distant lands. Four years later he was a dying man. Ordered by an English doctor at Aden immediately to return to Europe, he came back, but at Marseilles the final gloom came on him. Yet even a night before his death he wanted to leave for Egypt.

Such in brief is the tale of a marvellous, monstrous being whose dramatic abnormalities are well insisted upon by Mr. Nicholson. There can scarcely ever be again a man like Rimbaud.

We would willingly expatiate upon the discrimination, the fascination, and the intellectuality of this book, were it apt; particularly should we like to praise the author's style of writing (except that we do very strongly but resignedly object to have post-war Englishmen referred to as "We Anglo-Saxons"), and to comment upon his habit of reticent but unpuzzled wondering. And his technical capabilities to set out to do what he intended in this monograph are undeniable, only we are not quite sure what that was.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Sun, Sand, and Somals: Leaves from the Note-Book of a District Commissioner in British Somaliland." By Major H. Rayne, M.B.E., M.C. Illustrated. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby. 12s. 6d. net.)

"The Backbone of Africa: A Record of Travel During the Great War, with Some Suggestions for Administrative Reform." By Sir Alfred Sharpe, K.C.M.G., C.B. Illustrated. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby. 16s. net.)

"The Wreck." By Rabindranath Tagore. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 8s. 6d. net.)

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

April 28 (New Style).

April 15 (Old Style).

Shaaban 20, 1339 of the Moslem Calendar.

Nisan 20, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaja of Patiala has left the Ritz Hotel for Paris.

The Aga Khan will shortly return to London from his tour in Italy.

Viscount and Viscountess Maidstone have returned home from the Sudan.

Prince Amarjit Singh of Kapurthala has left the Savoy Hotel for Paris.

M. Jordania, President of the Republic of Georgia, has arrived in Paris.

M. Vesnitch, who has been reappointed Yugoslav Minister in Paris, has taken up his duties.

Hossein Khan Alai, Persian Minister in Madrid, has arrived in London.

Sir Valentine Chirol, who has been in India for the last five months, has returned to England.

Captain and Mrs. Gerard Leigh have returned to Lees Court, Faversham, from Egypt and the Sudan.

Lord and Lady Inchcape, who have been yachting in the Mediterranean, returned to Seamore Place this week.

Captain J. W. Collins, the new correspondent of *The Times* in the Balkans, has arrived, says *L'Echo de Bulgarie*, in Sofia.

M. Vladimir Milanovitch, Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has left London for Paris.

Colonel Kenneth Wigram, C.B., till recently Director of Staff Duties in India, will represent the Indian Army at the forthcoming meeting of the Imperial Cabinet.

Earl Curzon of Kedleston is a little better. Countess Curzon of Kedleston, who is in Paris with Lady Irene Curzon, will return to London early next week.

News has reached England that the Oriental Lodge, No. 687, Constantinople, which works under charter from the Grand Lodge of England, has resumed its meetings.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes (April 17): Professor Jovan Cvijiv (Tsviyitch), the eminent geographer, has been elected President of the Academy of Sciences in Belgrade.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Captain W. T. Bird, 30th Lancers, I.A., and Mary, only daughter of the late Surgeon-Major W. Parsons, Feltham.

Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, chairman of the London Committee of the National Bank of Turkey and manager of the British Trade Corporation, has returned to London from a prolonged tour in the Near East.

The Earl of Cromer had the honour of being received by His Majesty on April 22, when the King conferred upon him the honour of knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire.

Under the auspices of the Czech Society of Great Britain, a short conference on Czecho-Slovak music will be given at the Czecho-Slovak Legation, 9, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1, on May 5 at 4 p.m. Mrs. Newmarch will deliver the lecture, and musical illustrations will be provided by Miss Fanny Davies and Mlle. Cécile Brenner.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (April 4):—Dr. Thompson, Chief Medical Officer, is going to England on leave. Mr. Alex. Mavrogordato, who retired on pension, has returned to Cyprus to take up work which has been offered by the Government. Mr. G. Jeffery, who had also left the island, has returned, and resumes the office of Curator of Antiquities.

The King has granted the following Egyptian Government officials permission to wear decorations of the Order of the

Nile conferred on them by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services: Second Class—E. M. Dowson. Third Class: A. Lucas, R. H. Greaves, G. F. Schreiber.

At King's College, London, Dr. A. S. Yahuda, Professor of Semitic Languages and Hebrew Literature at the University of Madrid, is to give a course of three public lectures on "New Light on Pentateuchal Problems and the Earliest Development of the Hebrew Language." The lectures, to which admission is free without ticket, are to take place in the Great Hall, on May 2, 4, and 9, at 5.30 p.m.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes (April 17): There will soon be celebrated the 250th anniversary of the death of the Croat patriot and poet, Zrinsky, and the Croats hope on this occasion to recover the historical library of the patriot. This consists of 523 books and 30 very valuable manuscripts. The Croat local government bought it in 1890 from an antiquarian in Vienna, but it is at present in Budapest. In 1917 the Hungarian Academy borrowed it from the Zagreb University for an exhibition, and it still lies in Budapest, in spite of repeated applications for its return. It is probable that in view of the coming anniversary, diplomatic pressure will be brought to bear to effect the restoration of this valuable historical antiquity to its proper home.

OBITUARY.

As we go to Press we much regret to learn of the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Robert Dunlop Smith, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., C.I.E., Political A.D.C. to the Secretary of State for India. We hope next week to give a notice of his career.

His Highness Maharana Shri Mohanddevji Narandevji, Raja of Dharampur, Gujerit, has died at the age of 59. He succeeded his father in 1891, and his 30 years of rule were marked by a progressive policy. Among other changes, he started travelling dispensaries in his State, and prohibited the slaughter of animals on religious festivals. He is succeeded by his eldest son, Shri Vijaydevji.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Female suffrage has been adopted by the Grand Commission for revision of the Greek Constitution.

While in Cairo last week the Crown Prince of Japan exchanged visits with the Sultan of Egypt.

It is reported that trade in Smyrna is now completely at a standstill owing to the political uncertainty in Ionia.

The "Recognition by H.M. Government of the Treaty of Rapallo" has been published as a White Paper (Cmd. 1238).

Lord Allenby has dedicated a monument at Alexandria to the French citizens connected with the district who fell in the war.

Mgr. Cassulo, Apostolic Delegate to Egypt and Arabia, received special instructions in a private audience with the Pope last week.

Gregory V., the Greek Patriarch, who was murdered by Turks in 1821, has been solemnly beatified in the Cathedral of Athens.

A loan of £83,000 is to be floated by the Greek Government to further Greek interests in Asia Minor, where several orphanages are to be founded.

It is reported that M. Stambolisky, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, is seriously ill with influenza. M. Torlakoff, the Finance Minister, is acting for him.

The Roumanian Chamber has voted a tax not exceeding 50 per cent. on goods imported from Germany and on goods imported from other countries but of German origin.

Mr. Chotani, the head of the Indian Moslem delegation, and his colleague, Sheikh Kidwai, discussed the Near East question with Mr. Philip Kerr at 10, Downing Street, last week.

An Athens telegram reports that Greece celebrated on April 24 the anniversary of the sortie from Missolonghi. Prince Nicolas took a prominent part in the anniversary celebrations.

Plague has broken out in Egypt, a daily average of 35 cases being reported, says Reuter's Alexandria correspondent on April 21. Vessels are being detained in quarantine at Alexandria.

Dr. Alexander Goldstein, Chief Rabbi in Bulgaria, announces that every Jew in Bulgaria will give a tenth of his capital and income towards the fund for rebuilding the National Home in Palestine.

An election to fill the vacancy caused by the abdication and subsequent death of the Œcumenical Patriarch Germanos V. will be held in Constantinople after the Orthodox Easter (May 1, N.S.).

Mr. Hughes, the United States Secretary of State, has recommended the enforcement of rigid restrictions on immigration, particularly of Armenians, Russians, Georgians, and emigrants from the Balkan States.

At a large meeting of the unofficial British community in Cairo a resolution was passed confirming the decision to form a British Union to watch British interests in Egypt. Mr. Kingsford was elected chairman.

The death is announced from Paris of M. Albert Adès, part author of "Goha le Simple," a novel of Egyptian life which attracted wide attention a year or two ago, and which has been translated into many languages.

On April 2 the Bishop in Jerusalem celebrated at a Corporate Communion in St. George's Cathedral, at which representatives of 20 Anglican and Protestant missionary bodies attended at the conclusion of the Missionary Conference.

Shah Ismail, a Circassian follower of the lately-murdered Ahmed Anzavur Pasha, on April 21 shot Yusuf Bey, a notable of Panderma, in a café next door to the Sirkeji police station. The Circassian appears to have believed that Yusuf had been concerned in the murder of his master.

Although the population of Bucharest has increased threefold, practically no new houses have been built since 1914. Present rents have risen to such high figures that only those with incomes in dollars, pounds sterling, and francs can afford to pay them, excepting tenants with old contracts prolonged by law.

A list showing the order in which orders, decorations and medals should be worn was gazetted last week. It does not alter the existing order except that the Indian Distinguished Service medal is now placed immediately after the Edward medal, instead of immediately after the Air Force medal.

The Postmaster-General announces that a portion of the mail from Egypt, India, and the Far East which arrived in London on April 20 was seriously damaged by sea water during a heavy gale in the Mediterranean. The damaged portion of the mail will be delivered as soon as possible; but it is feared that in some cases addresses will be indecipherable.

A lecture on "Paper Pulp Supplies from India," by Mr. W. Raitt, F.C.S., Cellulose Expert to the Government of India, will be given before the Royal Society of Arts on Tuesday, May 3. Mr. R. W. Sindall, F.C.S., who at the instance of the Indian authorities carried out in Burma an extensive investigation of bamboo for paper-making, will take part in the proceedings. The chair will be taken at 4.30 p.m. by Sir Robert W. Carlyle, late Member of Council for Revenue and Agriculture in India.

SIR GEORGE BIRDWOOD MEMORIAL LECTURE.

On April 22, under the auspices of the Royal Society of Arts, Lieut. Col. Sir Edward W. M. Grigg delivered the Sir George Birdwood Memorial Lecture. The lecture, entitled "The Common Services of the British and Indian Peoples to the World," was presided over by the Earl of Lytton, Under-Secretary of State for India. Sir Edward Grigg began by paying a tribute to the life and work of Sir George Birdwood, whose greatest quality was the gift of imaginative insight into the Indian point of view, and his understanding sympathy with Indian life and ideals. Proceeding, he said that upon the vexed question of whether or not the British tendency to force Western methods upon an Eastern social organisation to which they were utterly strange was justifiable he took a middle view. Certainly it was for Englishmen to admit that in India, as elsewhere, they had sometimes let their passion for order and efficiency outrun the need for studying the standpoint and character of those on whom those Western benefits were applied. On the other hand, the philosophic historian would not accept Mr. Ghandi's account of British influence on India without many reserves. Common sense led one to suspect that, whatever the results of the close association of Englishmen and Indians during three centuries, the result could not be attributed wholly to either one people or the other, but jointly to both.

The lecturer went on to state that European methods and ideals could not have been averted, whether they were desirable or not. But the Indian nationalism of our time was not only the product but the justification of British rule.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921.

THE CALL OF BABYLONIA.

It is now generally agreed that civilisation had its beginning in the Near East, and certainly the three religions which have most deeply affected the Western world come to us from the same region. Whether the culture of Egypt or of Chaldea was the earlier or the superior are points that may be left for argument to the Egyptologist and the Assyriologist, whose energies it seems probable they will employ for many years to come; but the early history of those "Bible lands," as they are often called, makes a strong appeal to a wide public; any discovery that sheds new light on the subject is eagerly canvassed; and the Babylonian, Egyptian, and Palestinian galleries of any museum attract a perennial stream of students and sightseers. Thanks to the enterprise and patience of numerous explorers, travellers, and excavators, many relics of those past civilisations have been secured, and European and American scholars have had much material to work upon, recovered from the *tels* and tumuli, the cemeteries, the rubbish mounds, and the ruined cities of the old Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Palestinians. The climate of the Nile valley, the natural dryness of its soil, and the extraordinary care which its early inhabitants bestowed upon the burial of their dead have made Egypt the happy hunting ground of the excavator, and have provided the archaeologist and the palæographer with a mass of material of the utmost value, much of which was in a wonderful state of preservation when recovered. We may instance the great "finds" of papyri made by Doctors Grenfell and Hunt at Oxyrhynchus, where, at a depth of only a few inches below the surface, in the rubbish mounds of the old city, the fortunate diggers discovered some thousands of fragments of this delicate substance, among them many items of extreme importance. As a depository for evidence of early culture, the Nile valley is probably unrivalled. Moreover, the travellers and tourists who flock to the country each winter often prove generous supporters of excavating work undertaken by this society or by that, and the result is that we know to-day more of the history of Ancient Egypt than of many countries nearer in point of time to our own civilisation.

Palestine, like Egypt, has exercised a strong fascination over travellers and tourists, and though excavations were not regarded with favour by the Turks, much has been accomplished in the way of examining its ruins. But of Assyria and Babylonia there is a different tale to tell. They have yielded up treasures certainly not less valuable artistically or historically than those of their old rival; but conditions of climate, soil, and weather are less favourable than those of the Nile valley to the preservation of antiquities; and in the days of Turkish rule travel by the Tigris or Euphrates, while it appealed to a few, lovers of the unhackneyed, had no attractions for the tourist or the dilettante with a liking for comfort. Thus, while several British excavators cast longing eyes at the Mesopotamian mounds, public support for archaeological work in that region was not forthcoming as it was in the case of Egypt. The early pages of the history of Babylonian and Assyrian exploration and excavation are almost entirely occupied by records of British achievements, but latterly we had left the work to others—French, Germans, and Americans. The Turk had actually shaken off his apathy sufficiently

to excavate one site at which we had done some preliminary work; but even that fact had failed to spur us into taking up pick and shovel once more and clearing one of the many sites that cry aloud for investigation ere their precious contents perish beneath the alternate soakings and scorplings of the Mesopotamian winter and summer. The region which had exercised so powerful a spell over Englishmen for some half a century after Rich's investigations in 1821, in which Rawlinson, Layard, Loftus, Taylor, and others had accomplished so much; which had been first surveyed by Lieutenants Collingwood and Bewsher, Felix Jones and Selby, seemed to have lost all attraction for us. The British Museum, it is true, did work from time to time, and secured some valuable antiquities, thanks to Sir Wallis Budge and others, but the public enthusiasm of the earlier days was lacking, and in Babylonia no excavations had been undertaken for many years before the war. Even the Germans' great discoveries at Babylon, Assur and elsewhere failed to stir in us the spirit of emulation. And the Germans, who had discovered that excavation and exploitation could be made to go well in double harness, were naturally well pleased.

Our neglect of the Mesopotamian mounds was to be regretted for many reasons, and we are glad to believe that the new conditions brought about by the war will lead to a radical change. The mandate for Mesopotamia—like that for Palestine, where, however, the need for action is less urgent—provides for the enactment of a Law of Antiquities, to replace the former Ottoman law on the subject. We hope that the new Law will be so drafted as to encourage the excavation of as many sites as possible with the greatest speed compatible with scientific procedure. For, it cannot be said too often or too emphatically, every salty flood, every wet season, works untold mischief among the clay tablets and other perishable relics that lie jumbled together in the ruins. Egyptian sites can wait for further exploration; those of Babylonia cannot; and every excavator who knows his craft and places his duty to science above his own predilections, or personal interests, must recognise the fact. Digging by untrained men, irresponsible amateurs and mere *antika*-hunters must, of course, be vigorously repressed. The excavator whose sole aim is to secure objects for exhibition should be sternly kept in check; and wherever there is any chance of architectural remains being uncovered there should be trained observers to survey and record them before they are removed, if it is essential that they should be removed at all. These things, and many others to which we are unable here to refer, mean control and organisation; and we would suggest to Mr. Winston Churchill that he has now an absolutely unique opportunity to create a Department of Near Eastern Antiquities, which should take the necessary steps in this direction. It might be very advisable that it should not actually undertake excavations itself; but it would encourage such work by any responsible societies and institutions, and would co-ordinate all efforts aimed at the increase of our knowledge of the past by such means. For the present, it is certain, no purely Arab Government could undertake the scientific direction of such a work; though it might very well do good service among the remains of former Arabian culture. Obviously, therefore, the direction must be undertaken by Great Britain, who, by the mandate, stands pledged to "ensure equality of treatment in the matter of archaeological research to the nationals of all States, members of the League of Nations." The scientific world looks to her to do all that is possible at this eleventh hour for the recovery and preservation of such clues to the past as may still survive. The task is too large for private endeavour to tackle: our Government must lend its active support. The best course to follow perhaps would be to establish a British School of Archaeology in Baghdad, on similar lines to that in Jerusalem, but more directly helped in the first place by Government. A Babylonian Exploration Fund might also be created at home, to enlist public interest and support for the work. Once launched under favourable auspices, that work would, we believe, go forward successfully, to the increase of our prestige and the great gain of our knowledge of the ancient Near East.

A MACEDONIAN SUMMER.

By C. E. Vulliamy, F.R.G.S.

I remember telling the General that I meant to write an account of our life in the summer line, and asking him to suggest a title. "War Made Easy," said he; or, "A Picnic in the Hills." That was before the Doiran offensive of 1918. And it must be admitted that the campaign in Macedonia, until its final phase, could not be compared for glory and danger with that in any



A STURDY MACEDONIAN.

other theatre of war. There was the heat of summer, it is true; and the bitter winds and hard frosts of winter. There was the boredom that comes of unvaried routine. There was a sad bungling of the leave-system, and a sad indifference, in too many cases, to the tedium and weariness of men's lives. But with all this, there were not a few who were ready to agree with the General's description.

Our summer line lay along the Krusha Hills. Battalion headquarters would be placed in some ruined and deserted village: the companies were stationed on the wooded spurs that sloped down to the broad valley of the Butkova. In front of us rose the great blue wall of the Belashitza Range; and on the rocky face of that range the Bulgar had taken up his summer quarters, looking towards us over something like six miles of no-man's land.

There was little incident to disturb us. Sometimes a gentle photographer would fly across from the other side, followed over our lines by the little white blobs of bursting shrapnel. Or the observation balloon that kept watch in the Doiran sector might be attacked by a droning swarm of aircraft, and the sky would be speckled and mottled as the barrage drove them off.

When the staff came to visit us there would be a lavish expenditure of ammunition. The howitzers would send their shells whooping down to the valley; rifles and Lewis guns filled the ravines with a sound like that of waves on an iron beach.

The only other diversions, apart from nocturnal walks which were known as patrols, were caused by imaginative sentries who saw lights moving towards them, or by some stray fox crossing a trip-wire, and thereby loosing off a Véry light, or a bomb, or some other pretty arrangement.

The officers lived in charming little wooden huts, placed in shade and security. The Italians, who had held that part of the line before we took it over, had known how to make the best of things. During the heat of the day we lay in cool comfort on our beds, sleeping, reading, or smoking; and however much the adventurous might long for warlike episodes, it is certain that those hours of blessed calm and that nobly serene environment were appreciated at their true worth by the majority.

One could hardly imagine a more beautiful landscape than that in which we found ourselves. There were men who said that the silence and immobility of the mountains got on their nerves. Perhaps that great barrier, from which no attack could be made, and against which no attack could be launched, suggested the idea that the war had become a thing of infinite duration, and that the obstacles against which we had set our faces would prove as hard and as lasting as the rocky sides of the Belashitza. But there came a night when the sky over the Vardar, away on our left, glowed and rippled with the flashes of big guns, and we remembered that the barrier came to an end somewhere.

On our immediate front, the enemy seldom gave an indication of his presence. Occasionally, on a fine night, he would fulminate from his mountains, or would send up an attractive display of coloured lights. Sometimes, as I have recorded, he would fly across. His patrols, when he sent them out took special care to avoid contact with our own—a piece of good sense that met with our unqualified approval. The Bulgar had no personal quarrel with us. He made that clear in the most engaging manner and in a number of amusing and instructive devices.

Those were great days for the studious. People who took delight in collecting plants and insects found vast scope for their activities. The insects of Macedonia



MACEDONIAN PEASANTS WITH BULLOCK CART.

present an exasperating and terrifying variety. They have overtaxed the knowledge of compendious writers, and have puzzled the learned and the unlearned alike. It was strange to notice how men who had paid little



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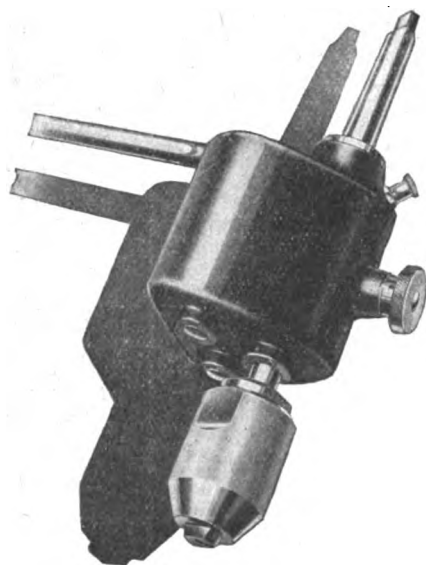
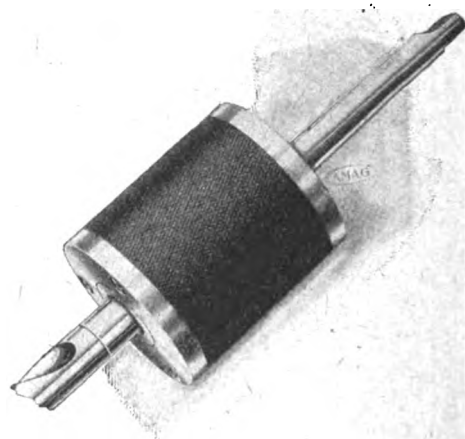
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heed to shells and bullets in France grew pale at the approach of a single mosquito. To the newcomer in particular, the twanging note of the *anopheles* was a signal for panic. Indeed, these fears began as near home as Italy, when the first little buzzers flew into the troop-train.

Men with a fondness for reading found full content. They set up shelves, on which they placed the favourite authors who had accompanied them from England. I knew a man who had read the whole of Gibbon's "Decline and Fall," as well as the greater part of Macaulay's "History," during the campaign; and, not satisfied with that, he had got half-way through Motley's "Dutch Republic," when, to his extreme annoyance, the offensive of 1918 interrupted these ponderous studies.

There were others who took up popular systems of mental training—a harmless, if fruitless, method of passing the time.

Officers would occasionally take short leave in Salonika, where, on the road to Kalamaria, they had an excellent hostel. Here they could amuse themselves in various ways, joyfully if not wisely; yet there were many who returned to the austerity and calm of the great hills with a sense of relief. Salonika is not a place that commends itself to the Western European.

The summer line in Macedonia is a happy memory for many of us; a period of rest and good-fellowship that is surely one of the brighter chapters in the history of the war.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

April 20.—In the House of Lords, Lord Lamington again raised the question of the mandate for Palestine, and asked for the Report of the American Commission of Inquiry.

Lord Londonderry replied on behalf of the Government that it was not for His Majesty's Government to publish or to draw the attention of the Council of the League of Nations to a document which was the property of a foreign Government, and which that Government has not thought fit to publish or communicate to any other Government. Lord Lamington accordingly withdrew his motion.

The House debated the Treaty of Peace, Hungary, Bill, and after considerable debate the Bill was read a second time without a division.

The second meeting of the Joint Select Committee of both Houses on Indian affairs was held, and on the same afternoon Lord Lytton informed the House of Lords that the Government had decided to refer the question of the future constitution of Burma to the Joint Select Committee forthwith, and that the debate on the second reading on the Government of Burma Bill would be adjourned until such time as the reports of the Joint Select Committee on the whole question of Burma had been published. The Government felt, however, that the constitution of Burma must be dealt with in the course of the present session, and if, therefore, the Government were unable to obtain a report from the Joint Select Committee in time, they might think it necessary to proceed with the present Bill without such a Report. They did not anticipate, however, that the Committee would have any difficulty in reporting in the course of the session. The course now proposed would enable the Joint Select Committee to consider the question of detaching Burma from India, as well as the problem of the reform of the Burmese constitution.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

April 18.—In reply to Col. Aubrey Herbert the Prime Minister stated that the British Government had agreed with their Allies to maintain the attitude of strict neutrality during the present hostilities in Asia Minor; the neutrality will cover Constantinople, which is in Allied occupation. As regards the use of the Dardanelles by the Greeks, the Prime Minister stated that the international arrangements concerning all straits had been in abeyance since the Turkish Government violated them by admitting the Goeben in 1914, and that the fresh arrangements contemplated by the Treaty of Peace with Turkey do not become binding until the entry into force of the new treaty.

April 19.—Sir L. Worthington Evans informed Mr. Wise that the cost to the British taxpayer provided for in the Estimates of 1921-2 for the maintenance of the Egyptian Military Police and Egyptian Labour Corps is £95,000 and £325,000 respectively.

In reply to Mr. Hills, who asked if the House would have an opportunity of discussing the Egyptian question, Mr.

Chamberlain replied that he did not think it would be desirable to have a debate in Parliament in advance of the discussion that it is hoped will take place between the British Government and the Egyptian delegation which the Sultan has been invited to send to this country.

Mr. Ormsby Gore asked whether any members of the Persian Government who originally entered into the Anglo-Persian agreement had been arrested and are to be tried for peculation; whether the British Government undertook to protect the persons and property of such individuals, and if so whether any representations had been made to the new Persian Government. Mr. Harmsworth replied that two members of the Cabinet of Vossukh-ed-Dowleh had been arrested on the charge mentioned, as well as a number of other persons. These two ex-Ministers had in the past received assurances of the good offices and support in case of need of His Majesty's Government, whose duty it, therefore, was to see that their trial was conducted impartially; and representations to this effect had been made through the British Legation. He added that there was no desire on our part to interfere with any just claims which may be established by the new Persian Government.

April 20.—In reply to a question by Mr. Kenyon as to whether he was in possession of the terms of the treaties between the Turkish Nationalist Government and France and Italy respectively, and as to whether these treaties would be published, Mr. Harmsworth stated that the British Government were aware of the terms of these treaties, and were in communication with the French and Italian Governments on the subject, but that the question of their publication was one for the French and Italian Governments to decide. In response to supplementaries he added that he would prefer not to make any further statement on the subject at this stage.

April 21.—The Prime Minister informed Mr. Lunn that there are at present 2,300 British troops in Persia and one Air Force flight, detached from Baghdad, and that they are being withdrawn to Mesopotamia.

In reply to Major Glyn, the Prime Minister stated that there is no present intention of reducing the number of officials concerned in the administration or command of the gendarmerie at Constantinople, and that there is no present intention of reducing the British forces in Constantinople.

Mr. Montagu informed Mr. Kenyon that the Government of India had reported that the protective pickets near Ladha, on the North-West Frontier, were heavily attacked by tribesmen on March 24. Our casualties amounted to sixteen killed and twenty-four wounded. In retaliation, the village of Makin was subjected to heavy air-bombing. Since then organised attacks had been made on our protective troops and convoys, involving hand-to-hand fighting. Our casualties from April 5 to 10 inclusive amounted to thirty-four killed and seventy-six wounded.

Major Glyn asked whether at the present time there exists through railway communication between Egypt and Palestine, and whether it is intended to make arrangements, either by tunnel or train ferry across the Suez Canal, to replace the Kantara Bridge. Mr. Edward Wood replied that Egypt and Palestine are connected by the railway known as the Sinai Military Railway, which runs across Egyptian territory from Kantara, on the Suez Canal, to Rafa, on the Palestine frontier. The future arrangements for linking up this line on the east of the canal with the Egyptian State railway system on the west of the canal are still under consideration.

In introducing the Air Estimates in Committee of Supply Captain Guest (Secretary of State for Air) stated that there was a considerable sum of money in the Estimates to be spent in Egypt, and that this was a subject which must be approached with caution because of the political situation there, and the attendant policy of the Government is as yet undecided. It was, however, possible to say that Egypt, geographically and automatically, will find itself the central flying depot of our Eastern activities.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

—OMAR KHAYYAM.

"A traveller from Macedonia, reports an interesting souvenir of the Salonika campaign," writes a correspondent. "The Germans had made a military road which passes through the gorge at Demirkapija by a tunnel. Over the entrance is written in large letters: 'Mackensen Tunnel,' and above this the following inscription:—

WILHELM II.

Deutscher Kaiser, König von Preussen
befahl seinen Soldaten
diese Strasse zu bauen,
1916.

"But French wit beat German pride, for beneath the above there is now the following addendum:—

Le Général Franchet d'Espérey
Commandant en Chef
des Armées alliées en Orient
ordonna à ses troupes
de chasser les Boches,
1918."

A circular issued in Teheran last autumn by the General Telephone Company of Persia has lately come into my hands. I have read it with unfeigned interest, and can only say that I wish company prospectuses and reports issued at home were half as interesting as this truly sporting effort in English, which is headed: "The General Telephone Association of Persia: A Just Opportunity for Money-Savers Everywhere." After this commendable call to the thrifty, I was not surprised to find the text permeated by a spirit of altruism which moved me very strongly. It opens with a statement of the advantages of the telephone as a means of gathering "news and information from all places," and points out that: "in no other way it is possible for two friends or commercial correspondents, who are separated, whether near or far, to inform each other of their family matters or trade secrets." Then, with a fine prophetic vision of our own P.O.'s late scoop (!) it points out that "countries which have realised the all-beneficial uses of telephone service have made every effort to take advantage of this unsurpassable source of fortune."

Skipping (alas!) over some paragraphs, I come to the announcement that: "Now that the heralds of a prosperous future for Persia are daily appearing in this country, the owners of the Persian Telephone Concession have consented to a great personal sacrifice and have decided to allow others an opportunity to participate in this immeasurable fortune." Then come particulars of the number of shares to be issued—only four hundred—of the period of the concession still to run, and of the address at which "the fundamental shares or bonds can be bought;" with a warning that "as the number of these shares is limited and it will not take long to dispose of them, the would-be purchasers are advised to make haste." And finally there is the exhortation: "Do not miss this chance to benefit yourself and the public. Take part in this great fortune, which is indeed the key to the prosperity of the individual as well as of the public, and the country." If only I had a thousand toman for a share! But even if I had, I suppose I should be too late now; for the circular was issued in Mizan 1299 (October last). I note that the company has issued a booklet giving further particulars of itself and its activities; and I hope to secure a copy, for even my un-financial brain can find food for thought in this kind of "company announcement." As it is, being in a land where "telephonical communication" is now a costly affair, I am not even able to gather information or news, or to impart my trade secrets to my friends on the instrument that is here so often cursed. Ring off!

It is reported that "10,000 Russian refugees repatriated to Odessa from Constantinople by the French were greeted with brass bands, banners, and speeches by the local Soviet." I wonder how this news will strike the Turks who are left in Constantinople. They are likely, I fancy, to conclude that at last they know what European, or Western, music means: that it is an expression of sorrow too deep for words. For, according to reports from many sources, the Turks in Constantinople are just about as tired of the poor Russian refugees (and the rich ones, too) as they can be. And when you come to think of it the situation is peculiar. We may, and do, admire Wrangel and his brave men; but to the Turks Russians are just Russians, and therefore their secular enemies.

CORSAIR.

JERUSALEM UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—At the Third Annual Conference of the Inter-University Jewish Federation, held at Oriel College, Oxford, on August 3, 1920, it was unanimously resolved, in response to a request of the Zionist organisation, to render every possible assistance to all efforts on behalf of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem. The most urgent need at the present juncture is an immediate and abundant supply of books for the Jerusalem University Library. We can conceive no cause more precious and commendable than the full development and firm consolidation of the intellectual and spiritual resources of the Jewish National Home. To this end books are the first requisite. In a scarcity of books the mind of a people is denied free expansion and healthy growth. To Jews with their love of learning, the want of books is most distressing. In Palestine, unfortunately, there is a real book famine, and even with help from all over the world, it will need a great effort to build up the present University Library of about 40,000 volumes into an up-to-date library worthy of the Jewish University.

Serious works dealing with all branches of knowledge, standard works of fiction in any language, and more especially books which will be of use to university students are needed. Books on Hebraica, Judaica and Semitica, mathematics, physics, chemistry, microbiology, and medical research are, however, the most urgently called for, as the first departments of the University that are to be opened will deal in research in these subjects. Books on law, economics, history, and philosophy will also be much appreciated. Sets of scientific journals, transactions of learned societies, official reports and other publications, and works and pamphlets of permanent value are especially required; good text-books of established repute will also be useful.

Considering that this is an important step towards a spiritual revival of Palestine, and that our credit as an enlightened people is at stake, we appeal to your readers to send all the books they can spare as a freewill offering to those who will treasure them in Palestine. A single book will be welcome; but it is hoped that donors will send as many as they can. Gifts of books may be sent either direct to "The University Library, Jerusalem," or to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. D. B. Stanhill, B.Sc., F.I.C., 75, Gt. Russell Street, London, W.C.1, who will, if necessary, arrange for the collection of the books. An artistically designed book-plate, the generous work of Mrs. L. Pilichowski (Lena Pillico), will permanently record the names of the donors.—Yours, etc.,

S. ALEXANDER, Chairman.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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Mr. Chamberlain's Last Budget.

It was generally anticipated that Mr. Chamberlain's last Budget would be a very humdrum affair, and for once expectations were not disappointed. Hopes had been entertained that it would be found possible to afford some relief to the income-tax payer, but those who were so optimistic as to cherish such ideas put them aside as a result of the coal strike. As for the rest, everything had been discounted in advance. On the whole Mr. Chamberlain's review of the position was not unsatisfactory, but it remains to be seen whether it will be borne out. As things are at present, it seems very open to question whether there will be a surplus at all at the end of the year, even if no supplementary estimates are forthcoming. The effects of the coal strike unhappily are not limited to the period of its operation; for many months it cannot fail to affect the trade of the country, and I am afraid that when the receipts come to be reckoned up it may be found that the estimates have been framed on rather too hopeful lines. Of course, once trade is resumed there may be an extraordinarily rapid recovery, in which case all will be well. But on the face of it that is not very likely.

Soundness of his Policy.

In these days it is no enviable thing to be Chancellor of the Exchequer, and I do not suppose that Mr. Chamberlain's justifiable pleasure at his appointment as Leader of the House of Commons will be in any way tinged with regret at his last association with the Treasury. He has had a peculiarly thankless task in endeavouring to make ends meet, and his efforts have not been exactly aided by the unthinking criticism with which he has been deluged by a section of the Press. Of the soundness of the policy he has pursued there can be, I think, little question. The times demand the avoidance of hazardous financial expedients, and Mr. Chamberlain has emphatically played for safety, and the steps he has taken with a view to the reorganisation of the country's finances have earned for him no inconsiderable reputation in business circles. In less arduous days he would, I think, have been regarded as a great Chancellor, but to merit that term now one would have to be a superman.

Indian Loan Success.

The event of last week in finance was the issue of a large Indian loan. The last Indian loan raised in London was in 1912, and the terms of issue on that occasion read very strangely in comparison with those of the new loan. But then we have lived centuries since 1912. The amount of the present issue is £7,500,000, bearing interest at what can only be described as the remarkable rate of 7 per cent. It is a short-term loan, redeemable in 1931 at the latest, and subscribers to it have the benefit of an easy instalment system, while the most interesting and, it may be added, not the least attractive feature of the loan is the conversion right attached to it. A holder of a £100 bond has the right to convert it into £202 of India Three per Cent. stock up to October 5, 1922, into £200 of that stock on the same date in the following year, and into £198 of the stock on October 5, 1924. Could any better terms be desired by would-be holders of gilt-edged securities?

Remarkable Interest.

I cannot pretend to know why it was considered necessary to offer 7 per cent. interest, unless it is the failure of the recent Sudan Loan or the fear that Government issues in general are at present under somewhat of a cloud as the result of a growing belief that only lack of support on the part of investors will bring home to the authorities the urgent need for economy. Any way, be the reason what it may, the rate offered made the loan a success the moment it appeared, and no one in the City was in the least surprised to learn that it had been found necessary to close the lists at 3 p.m. on the day of issue. The result affords clear proof that there is plenty of money in the country for sound issues, and in addition is a plain indication that the investor has full confidence in the future of India. Now that it is over there will, I expect, be much speculation as to

what would have been the lowest rate of interest at which the loan would have been a success, and I think we may take it for granted that the consequence of the rapid subscription of the loan will be that the next issue of a similar nature will be offered at anything up to a point under the present rate.

Handicap to British Trade.

There is no getting away from the fact that with conditions as they are at present, British traders are faced with a most serious proposition in attempting to develop trade with the Near East, or with any other region. The difficulties of the position are clearly brought out in a letter from a Serbian official, quoted by a correspondent of a contemporary. The needs of Yugoslavia are very considerable in every direction, he points out, "but the prices quoted by Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, and Germany are always less than the London market, in some cases as much as ten times less." Buyers there are not governed in their dealings by sentiment, and the lower priced goods, therefore, receive the preference; but, apart from the question of price there is, according to the official, a feeling that it is useless to attempt to establish trade with Great Britain as long as the industrial position here is unsettled.

The Outlook.

It is scarcely necessary to comment on this statement, which simply bears out what I have said in these columns time and again regarding the damage Labour is inflicting on the country's interests abroad by maintaining a false level of values here and by creating general uncertainty regarding the time at which goods can be delivered. Labour must realise the facts of the case, and provide clear evidence of a determination to act on them if there is to be any real hope for British trade enterprise in foreign markets. If one industrial struggle is to succeed another in a vain attempt to defeat the economic laws; if, after the coal strike is settled, there is to be a railway strike, and after a railway strike a strike of labourers, or cotton operatives, or what you will, and so on, then, indeed, the outlook will be hopeless. The truth is that Labour here, as the results of developments during the war, is living in a kind of dreamland. That is the penalty we pay for a system of education that is no education at all.

Misplaced Enterprise.

That it would be incorrect to label all British firms as lacking in enterprise is evident from a little episode related in the current issue of the *Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey and the Balkan States*. It appears that a British firm north of the Tweed were desirous of doing business with Turkey, so they addressed a typewritten letter to a British firm at Constantinople bearing a good old English name, but the letter was not in English, but in German. "Is this a joke, a brain wave, or a language competition?" says our contemporary, which goes on to mention that it has suggested to the head of the firm addressed that he should reply to the firm in Greek.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, April 12.

The Budget.

The Budget was the most important item discussed in Parliament during the past week. M. Titulescu has had an uphill fight against the enormous increases in expenditure shown in the budgets of the different Ministries. They have been reduced to some extent for inclusion in the general Budget, which shows a marked improvement on that of last year, in which the expenditure was estimated at over 6 milliards and the revenue at under 4½ milliards. This year expenditure is reduced to 4,866,000,000 lei, while revenue is increased to 5,009,237,000 lei, giving a surplus of revenue of 143,237,000 lei.

The Floating Debt.

The floating debt of Roumania in Treasury bonds amounts to 15,025,284,981 lei, of which, however, only about 2,875,285,000 represent foreign debt, the rest being held within the country and bearing scarcely any interest.

The financial position at the moment does not admit of the payment of any of this debt, and it has been necessary to raise fresh loans to cover the interest due on the Treasury Bonds. In view of her natural resources, however, there is every reason to hope that after a few good harvests Roumania will quickly re-establish herself.

In considering the financial situation and the means of improving it, one is constantly led back to the questions of transport and of exports. Transport conditions have improved slightly during the last few months, though the congestion at the ports still continues, and it is only with the greatest difficulty that cargoes can be unloaded at Galatz, Braila, or Constantza, owing to the lack of warehouse space. The proposed concession of the railway workshops to British and French groups for a period of seven years is still meeting with opposition from some quarters, but apparently no serious alternative proposals have been made.

A committee of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce is now considering the readjustment of import and export regulations with a view to doing away with the necessity for permits. It is proposed to divide all imports and exports under two headings respectively, i.e., those which may, and those which may not, be imported or exported. The prohibition is to be unconditional, and no special permits are to be granted. Nothing has yet been published as to what articles are likely to be prohibited, and the export prohibition will doubtless depend to some extent on the harvest prospects. A revision of the Customs duties is also under consideration in view of various representations made by bodies of business men showing that some reductions are necessary in order to enable Roumanian produce to compete with that of other countries on European markets.

Petroleum Production.

The production of crude petroleum in Roumania during the months of January and February this year amounted to 82,343 metric tons made up as follows: Prahovo—62,502 tons; Dambovitza, 11,971 tons; Buzau, 5,752 tons; Bacau, 2,752 tons. On the whole the production is falling off owing largely to the continued shortage of electric current. All the companies are making efforts to supply this want by the use of some other motor power, and some have suc-

ceeded in turning to account the natural gas escaping from the well mouths, but it will be a long time before this substitute can be generally and profitably used. The export of petroleum products has been paralysed by the heavy taxes imposed which make it impossible for the Roumanian exporter to compete with the products of other markets. The low rate of the Polish mark gives the Poles the advantage in Central Europe, and in the West he has to contend with the low prices of the American products.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, April 17.

End of the Drought.

After a prolonged and distressing drought, welcome rain has come. The position had been getting serious, and fears were entertained for the harvest; the export of cattle had been forbidden, and that of corn restricted; while an order had been issued permitting cattle and sheep to graze in forests regardless of ownership.

Miscellaneous.

The export of lignite is now permitted subject to an export duty of five dinars per 1,000 kilos.

The importation of mineral oil is now permitted without special license, subject only to the ordinary duty.

The Ministry of Agrarian Reform has resolved to allow some large estates in the Voivodina to remain in order to encourage the cultivation of sugar beet.

It is stated that summer time will not be adopted in Yugoslavia in future.

ZAGREB, April 18.

Heavy Rains.

Heavy rains have been falling for three days, to the intense relief of the community. The weather has turned much colder, and snow is reported from the mountainous districts of Slovenia.

Gold Reserves of Austro-Hungarian Bank.

It is reported that it has been decided at Paris to divide the gold reserves of the Austro-Hungarian Bank among the Succession States. The amount available is said to be 65 million krone in gold, of which Yugoslavia's proportion would be about ten millions.

German Tenders Preferred.

For some time a project has been mooted for building large modern railway works for the construction of locomotives and trucks. The Ministry of Communications is said to have received tenders from England, France, and Germany, of which those from the last named are preferred on the grounds of price and conditions of delivery. It is stated, however, that pressure has been brought to bear on the Government to prevent the order being placed in Germany. As Yugoslavia possesses, in varying degrees of development, the main raw materials, such as coal, iron, and timber, it is thought probable that the Government will expand its chief railway workshops into factories.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, March 29.

The Economic Crisis.

The Press is wisely pointing out that the island, if it does not revert to more frugal and thrifty habits, will be carried along the road that leads to ruin and bankruptcy. During the last Calendar year imports (valued at £2,073,584) exceeded exports (£1,200,659) by £872,925. This is no doubt largely attributable to the increased prosperity and consequent luxury that has resulted from the war. Cypriot townfolk are no longer satisfied with pre-war conditions. The present generation looks for electric lighting, must travel in up-to-date motors, and live up to the new standard in dress, and in all other respects. Strong protests are being made by the more prudent, and it is urged that energetic steps should be taken by the Government and local authorities to stimulate backward industries in an island, which can not only be self-supporting, but can by judicious employment of capital recover its lost prosperity, if helped along the right path. Meantime the fall in the price of carobs, and the low prices now obtained for wines has been a severe blow to the island. In the wine-producing areas the villagers are much depressed over the outlook, and are talking of various co-operative movements to alleviate the trouble. Agricultural co-operation has not yet made any appreciable progress in the island, and no great success can yet be anticipated in this direction. Again the

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check to emigration is disappointing to many. Pitiful accounts continue to be received from Cypriot emigrants to the United States, who describe the acute distress prevailing due to unemployment, and the difficulty in finding work. America is still the dream of many townfolk and villagers.

Embargo on Exports.

A new proclamation of the High Commissioner gives a list of goods, the exportation of which is absolutely prohibited. These include cattle, horses, mules, asses, camels, sheep, firearms, ammunition, gold and silver (in coin or bullion), oil, poultry, and various provisions; also a list of a few articles, including coal (not yet discovered in Cyprus), which may be exported, but only to the United Kingdom or British possessions. There are other island products, the export of which is prohibited by the Statute laws of Cyprus, which include all forest produce, game, antiquities, and manure.

NICOSIA, April 4.

Rain Greatly Needed.

The drought which has prevailed throughout March—a very critical month for island cereals—has completely altered the prospect, which had been very favourable during the preceding months. Unless rain comes very speedily the effect on the crops will be most disastrous. Already barley has suffered seriously, and the state of wheat crops is not much better. The greatest anxiety prevails. There is no improvement in the price of carobs, of which considerable stocks are held in hope of a rise. Some merchants have sold, at a loss, at 20s. the kantar (about £4 9s. the ton) out of store; and the prospect is discouraging. In Nicosia the prices for cereals are: Wheat, 12s. to 13s. the bushel; barley, 4s. 6d. to 4s. 10d.; vetches, 5s. 6d. The Agricultural Department does not lose hope, and is clearly prepared to foster agricultural industry all round. There are undoubted possibilities in various branches still undeveloped if only native enterprise can be stimulated. There has been a small fall in the price of a few articles. There is no information so far regarding locusts.

PALESTINE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

It may be of interest to our readers to know that there are quite a number of Chambers of Commerce and Traders' Associations in Palestine. The following is believed to be the complete list, the secretaries' names being given in parentheses:—Chambers of Commerce: Jerusalem (Mr. E. Shelly), Jaffa (Mr. L. Shipp), Haifa (Mr. T. Zeibak), Nablous (Haj Shafie Abdel Hadi), Gaza (Mr. Gellat), and Ramallah (Mr. F. Shatara). Traders' Associations: Nazareth (Mr. N. Audah), Acre (Mr. S. Kattan), and Hebron (Mr. Ahmed Abdel Hafiz el Havlawi).

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cable received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 18:—Cotton.—1,681,000 bales arrived in Bombay from September 1, 1920, to April 8, 1921, as compared with 2,117,000 bales in the corresponding period of the previous year. Bombay cotton market firm; fine M.G. Oomra, May, Rs.227; July, Rs.244. Piecegoods market shows fair demands from consuming centres, with improvements in ruling rates for bleached staples, and slight improvements in light fancies. Calcutta jute and gunny markets quiet but steady. Heavy goods very firm with good inquiry for Liverpool and Number 2 Twills. Rangoon Paddy arrivals continue on fair scale at prices Rs.175 to Rs.178 per 100 baskets of 46 lbs. each. 5,000 tons of white rice—special, put on market daily during past week. Prices steady; last price at which business was done was Rs.415 per 100 baskets of 75 lbs. each. No change in Bank rates. At Tea sale on April 12 prices were weaker for commonest grades and dusts, all other grades being firm. 730,928 packages sold to date at an average price of 5 annas 3 pies per lb.

A later cable states:—Cotton. 1,754,000 bales arrived in Bombay from September 1, 1920, to April 14, 1921, as compared with 2,227,000 bales in the corresponding period of the preceding year. Bombay imported piecegoods market shows a fair demand, with prices in some styles slightly advanced; fair clearances also in Calcutta, Karachi, and Delhi, and altogether a healthier tone now prevails. Valuations for export duties on hides reduced all round from April 16.

The importation into Greece of extra fine ("luxury") flour is prohibited.

The river and transport companies in Roumania require lighters, tugs, and floating elevators.

The value of Yugoslavia's exports in 1920 was 1,320.5 million dinars.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended March 31 amounted to £111,082; total for year, £483,676. For the corresponding periods of last year receipts amounted to £12,883 and £396,374 respectively.

TENDERS INVITED.

[Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.]

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

Egypt.

Khaki Puggaree; Soap.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for (1) Khaki Puggaree (48,000 yards); (2) Palm oil soap and soft soap. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1, May 2.

Drugs, etc.—Tenders are invited for the supply of drugs, etc., required for the period July 1, 1921, to March 31, 1922, by the Department of Public Health, Cairo. The articles required include various drugs and chemicals, surgical dressings, and various sundries, such as bottles, ointment pots, filter paper, etc., etc. Tenders will be received by the Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, up till noon on May 10. (D.O.T.)

Coal Tar.—Tenders are invited for the supply of a thousand tons of coal tar to the Roads Office Tanzim Department, Cairo, to be delivered between July 1 and October 15. Alternative prices can be quoted for British Standard Specification No. 2, of any coal gas tar suitable for road spraying. May 15. (D.O.T.)

Millboard.—The Controller of Printing and Stationery, Old Ismailia Palace, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 11,000 kilos of millboard. May 19.

Bicycles.—The Director-General Postal Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of a bicycle and 20 to 30 tricycles. Specification can be obtained from the Egyptian Government Agent, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1. June 1.

Yugoslavia.

Benzine, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Director of State Monopolies of Yugoslavia in Belgrade for (1) 300,000 kilos benzine of 725-730/15 deg. cent.; (2) 4,000 kilos stiff grease, 20,000 kilos lubricating oil for automobiles, of which 10,000 kilos is for summer use (thick oil) and 10,000 kilos is for winter use (thin oil). Particulars can be obtained from the Banque Franco-Serbe, 30, Coleman Street, E.C. Tenders close May 4.

Oils, Greases, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Technical Section of the Yugoslav Ministry of War and Marine for the supply of the following oils, greases, etc.:—250,000 litres benzine, spec. grav. 720/735; 80,000 litres "light benzine," spec. grav. 650/700; 120,000 kilos naphtha, 30,000 kilos machine oil, 20,000 litres petroleum (paraffin), 10,000 kilos "Olax" auto oil, 10,000 kilos mineral oil, 6,000 kilos oil for aeroplane motors, 5,000 kilos oil for cylinders, 3,500 kilos oil for dynamos, 5,000 kilos castor oil, 600 kilos Vulcan oil, 150 kilos "Compressor" oil, 100 kilos pure light oil, 20 kilos bone oil, 2,000 litres ordinary "Spiritus" (alcohol), 500 kilos varnish, 600 kilos sulphuric acid, 100 litres alcohol (97 per cent.), 2,000 kilos consistent grease, 2,000 kilos grease for greasing tools, 3,000 kilos ordinary grease, 300 kilos machine grease, 500 kilos "Stanfer" grease, 150 kilos vaseline, 50 kilos "Torot" grease, 20 kilos grease for cleaning metal (metal polish), 4,500 kilos soda, 4,500 kilos soap powder, 100 kilos glue, 100 kilos potash, 50 kilos dryers for paint, 50 kilos yellow, blue, and red paint, 10 kilos whitening for putty, 10 kilos plaster of Paris, 500,000 kilos coal. Tenders, which should be addressed to "Ministru Vojnom i Mornarice Ponuda za nabavku benzina i maziwa," should be submitted by May 5. The usual conditions as to the deposit of 10 per cent. for Yugoslav nationals and 20 per cent. for foreigners apply, as also the registration of letters of guarantee with the Ministry of Finance; and tenders must bear a 10 dinar duty stamp. (D.O.T.)

Morocco.

Bridge.—The Tangier-Fez Railway invite tenders for the construction of a bridge 410 feet in length over the Sedu River at Mechra Belksiri, the cost of construction being estimated at 2,000,000 francs. Tenders must reach the Department of Public Works at Tangier by May 1.

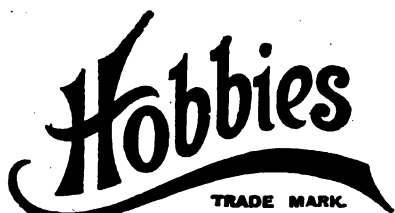
Construction of Buildings in Morocco.—Tenders are invited by the Secretariat of the Delegacion de Fomento in Tetuan for the building of a church, episcopal palace, mission and schools. May 25. (D.O.T.)

THE UNITED CIGARETTE MACHINE COMPANY (Inc.) announce that they have secured larger and more serviceable offices, where they will have show rooms for demonstrating their machines, and on and after Friday, April 29, the London office address of the firm will be 59, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C.1, to which address all communications should be sent.

The Canada Overseas Trading Company, Ltd., of 23-24, Eldon Street, E.C., and of Vancouver, has obtained an important contract for the supply of sleepers to the Egyptian State Railways.

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OIL-SHALE IN BULGARIA.

By Dr. V. Kantcheff.

Under the name of naphtha-schists (bituminous schists) are understood such clay schists as contain more or less organic substances. Their colour ranges from coffee to black; they burn with a yellow smoky flame, giving out a peculiar recognisable smell.

Subjected to a dry distillation, bituminous shale yields an oil which resembles crude petroleum. The nature and the quantity of crude oil varies according to the manner in which the distillation is performed.

Besides crude oil the distillation also yields:—(1) Ammonia, which is converted into sulphate of ammonia (artificial manure); (2) lighting or illuminating gas, which serves on the spot for heating the retorts, or is used for gas engines; and (3) mineral waste from the shale schists which may in some cases be used for the production of alum or the manufacture of bricks or the making of roads, etc.

Before the great war bituminous shale was worked principally in Great Britain (Scotland), Australia, and France. During the war, however, Germany also tried to work her shale deposits although they were greatly inferior. Saxon shale yields from 4 per cent. to 12 per cent. of crude oil, and those of Messel, near Darmstadt, from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent. The Scotch shale industry is the oldest and the most perfected. It was started towards the second half of the last century, and in 1871 it had already worked 81,300 tons of shale. In 1913 the quantity of shale worked amounted to a total of 3,280,143 tons. In France, in Buxière and Autun, shale is worked, and for the working of this shale pits of from 60 to 200 metres deep have been sunk.

Bulgaria is, beyond any doubt, rich in this bituminous shale. According to experts, the shale in Bulgaria is the greatest in area so far discovered. The most important deposits at present known in Bulgaria are the following:—

1. Near the town of Breznik. Shale deposits exist within 10 kilometres of the town. The shale is found in ground which contains jurassic deposits (sandstone, clay schists, and limestone). Concordantly between the sandstone is found a complex of some 50 metres thickness of bituminous shale.

As regards the percentage yields of shale oil, the complex may be divided into three qualities of shale, one of the beds of which may have very important practical value, as it yields from 12 per cent. to 13 per cent. of crude oil. The thickness of this bed of shale is up to 6 or 7 metres. The estimated tonnage of this shale is enormous. The surface shale alone is calculated at 30,000,000 tons, and on taking into account also the shale beneath the surface, the total quantity is incalculably great and may serve as an object of exploitation for a very long period of years. The deposits are situated 25 kilometres distant from the Government railway line.

2. Near the towns of Radomir and Kustendil. The soil here consists of chalk deposits and is known as "productive" to the extent of some tens of kilometres. The thickness of the shale deposit is not yet determined, but it is apparently greater than that of Breznik.

3. Near the station of Popovtzi. The outcrop is on the railway line running from Stara-Zagora to Tirnovo, two kilometres south of the station Popovtzi. The strata consists of tertiary deposits (conglomerate, sandstone, clay, schists, etc.) in which is included a complex of bituminous shale. The out-croppings of the schists show a thickness of from 3 to 30 metres. The outcrop has been traced for 8 kilometres.

4. Near the town of Kazanlik. The outcrop lies near the village of Saltikovo, to the west of the town of Kazanlik. Geologically they are the same as those near to the station of Popovtzi. The thickness of the complex so far proved is up to 10 metres. Shale has also been found lately in the district of Haskovo near the village Mandra.

5. At Serbinovo (Gorna Djoumaya). The actual outcrop is near the village of Serbinovo, about 15 kilometres to the south of the town of Gorna-Djoumaya. The ground consists of tertiary deposits, in which are included a complex of bituminous schists, together with beds of lignite coal. Preliminary inspection of the outcroppings has proved bituminous beds of 25 metres thickness. The shale is from 4 to 5 kilometres distant from the narrow gauge railway line Radomir-Doubniza-Roupel.

All these claims belong to private persons. The Government owns only an unimportant part of them, near the town of Kazanlik. Together with the mine-geological inspection of the above-mentioned bituminous shale in Bulgaria, technical-industrial studies have been made, and these also have given very favourable results. The most serious studies made so far have been those with samples of the Breznik shale. The analyses made in England showed about 13 per cent. of crude oil, and the analyses

made in Germany showed that there was about 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. crude oil obtainable. On comparing the Breznik shale with that of Scotland, it has been observed that Scotch shale contains more illuminating oil, gas-oil, and sulphate of ammonia, while the shale from Breznik contains more lubricating oil and paraffin wax.

The shale near Radomir has been analysed in the Berlin Geological Institute. Notwithstanding that the samples were taken from the surface, the percentage of crude oil yielded by them was over 8 per cent. The percentage obtained from the various samples procured from the shale from Popovtzi was 10 per cent. and above, while that from the second quality was from 7 per cent. to 10 per cent. It is apparent from these analyses that these places of origin deserve serious attention and treatment. From the experiments made twenty years ago in London with the distillation of bituminous shale from Kazanlik, it has been demonstrated that all the beds are not equally impregnated with bitumens, therefore the product obtained from these first distillations was not equal in quality, and varied from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent. Shale near the village Serbinovo was very light, and its colour is dark coffee to black; it burns very well, with a strong smoky flame. The analyses made in Sofia have shown a percentage of from 22 per cent. to 23 per cent. crude oil, and this shale may be regarded as the richest in bituminous substances.

It may be judged from the analyses given above that the bituminous shale found in Bulgaria does not rank below that found in Scotland, the best samples of which on being distilled yield 12 per cent. of crude oil. During the war it was found possible in Germany to work shale profitably which only yielded 5 per cent. of crude oil. Up to date three industrial concessions have been granted in Bulgaria for the production and refinement of mineral oil from naphtha-schists. The first to British subjects with reserved regions—namely, Sofia, Kustendil, and Vratza districts. The second and third are granted to Bulgarian subjects with reserved regions—namely, Stara Zagora for the second and for the third Philippopolis and Gorna-Djoumaya.

The prices of oil and other products obtained from the distillation of shale during recent years, before the war, during the war, and to-day, are considerably higher than formerly. In competent circles it is held that for many years to come the world's demand for oil will exceed the supply and production. From the facts and information at hand it may be positively asserted that the working of bituminous shale, an entirely new industry for Bulgaria, has great promise for the future, and deserves the greatest consideration on the part of our own and foreign capitalists, who can find both profit and productive activity in this industry.

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Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

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ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

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114.—Importer in Karachi (India), travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

ENGINEERING.

(BY OUR ENGINEERING REPRESENTATIVE.)

Power Gas from Wood.

Considerable developments have taken place of late in connection with the obtaining of power from low-grade fuels and industrial waste, by the medium of first converting the fuel into gas, which is made use of in internal combustion engines. In most, if not all, of the processes in operation, a proportion of valuable by-products, as sulphate of ammonia, can be recovered, and in some instances the yield of these substances has been sufficient to show a profit on the distillation work and so render the power available at no cost. My attention has been re-directed to the subject by an interesting letter from a correspondent in Yugoslavia, who asks for particulars as to methods of obtaining power gas from wood waste. He asks if equally good results can be obtained from soft as from hard woods, and as a large amount of sawdust and other wood waste exists in his vicinity he is naturally anxious to turn it to advantage.

There is not the slightest doubt but that power gas can be obtained from wood waste, seaweed, straw and dried grasses, peat refuse, or any other carbon-containing substance of a like nature. The only point is as to whether it can be obtained at a reasonable price and whether it will show an adequate return on the capital expenditure. Where the prospective fuel exists in vast quantities in close proximity to the factory or mill it is proposed to drive with the power gas, there is, or should be, every prospect of successful working; in the case of my correspondent, for example, there are exceptionally large quantities of iron ore in the vicinity, and it would seem that his proposal to generate power gas from the wood waste and to use it for producing electric power for smelting the ore is likely on the face of it to prove successful. It is, of course, difficult to express a definite opinion before seeing the situation, or, at all events, having clear and detailed information as to the labour costs involved in getting the wood waste to the retorts, the iron ore to the smelting plant, the power to the furnaces, and the machinery to the situation. There are a host of factors to be considered, but, as I said, at first glance there appears no reason why such an undertaking should not be quite successful.

He asks further whether the iron ore he obtains in that part of Yugoslavia is likely to yield good results. As he adds that hitherto it has been chiefly imported it is hardly likely that anyone would go to the trouble of buying and exporting it were it not of fair quality, and I think my correspondent may take it that if it is good enough for someone else it would be good enough for him. The readiest method to adopt in order to decide the question would be to send a sample of the ore to be analysed by some well-known analyst. For this purpose a considerable quantity of the ore, consisting of specimens picked from all parts of the deposit, should be sent, and the analyst will then be able to select representative pieces and crush, powder and mix the particles so as to arrive at a reliable result. The ore should not contain a great deal of moisture, and although silica, alumina, manganese, magnesia, and one or other of oxides of arsenic, copper, nickel, vanadium, sodium, or other metals are almost certain to be present, the less sulphur the ore contains the better. However, there is no need here to go into the question of the iron ore;

the subject of producing gas from wood waste is of the greater interest.

In dealing with the distillation of organic substances considerations of bulk enter appreciably into the question. For instance, to obtain a given quantity of power gas, a plant for dealing with high-grade coal will be small in comparison with one designed for dealing with the waste from, for example, a cork-cutting factory. In Sweden a large amount of power gas is obtained by the distillation of seaweed, and here the chief difficulty is in getting sufficient quantities of the weed into the retorts. In parts of Australia portable retorts are being used for dealing with the waste wood from timber clearings, and here again the size of the retorts and the consequent difficulty in moving them from place to place militates against their use. In Germany immense quantities of peat dust are subjected to distillation in retorts, but here the difficulty in the way chiefly arises from the fact that the peat dust contains large quantities of moisture which it is almost impossible to remove. In the wood waste and sawdust mentioned by my correspondent there would also be a large proportion of moisture, a factor which would have to be taken into consideration in calculating the size of the plant. Another important factor would be the cost of carrying the sawdust and other fuel to the producer plant; it is all very well to say that it is on the spot, but in practice it would practically be found that the waste fuel, etc., in the immediate vicinity of the plant would be used up comparatively quickly, and that it would not be long before quantities were having to be brought to the retort from much further afield.

As regards the character of the plant to be employed, it is obvious that the selection of this would have to be made after a careful and expert examination of the situation and all the conditions pertaining to it. Possibly a surface-heated retort, either vertical or horizontal and of ample size would be used, and in connection with this the Prioleau process in peat distillation would offer some sort of parallel. The low temperature distillation process would if carefully studied give some indication as to the adoption of a successful system, and the Zechmeister, the Larsen, and the Turner processes of distilling low-grade fuels of the kind, and obtaining gas for power and other purposes have many points of interest. My correspondent may take it that it is possible to obtain power gas from wood waste; to use that power gas in producing electrical energy and to use that electrical energy in smelting iron ore; but there are a number of points to be considered, and it is impossible for anyone to give expert advice on the subject before seeing the situation and being in possession of the fullest details.

A New Light Car.

The British concessionaires for D.F.P. cars, which, it may be mentioned, are of French manufacture, inform me that they have received so many inquiries for the 10-12 h.p. model—which, I believe, was last made in 1916 or thereabouts—that they have decided to reintroduce this popular little car. I remember trying one of these in 1914, just before the war, and I can testify as to reserve of power, the comfortable springing, and the easy control and steering which were prominent features of the production. If the new model comes up to the same degree of excellence which the 1914 car had reached I can confidently prophesy that it will prove an immediate success. The concessionaires say that the 10-12 h.p. chassis fills a gap which exists between the cycle-car and the chassis of medium power, such as the D.F.P. 12-40 h.p. model, and so enables motorists who feel that the larger car is beyond their means to purchase a really sound, well-designed chassis at a strictly moderate price.

With this end in view, the makers have kept the equipment as simple as possible, providing detachable wheels and electric lighting, but dispensing with the self-starting device.

The chassis, I understand, will be of the most sturdy construction, so that it can be driven over even the worst of roads with perfect confidence. The engine, which is of the four-cylinder type, with a bore and stroke of 65 by 120 millimetres, has a Treasury rating of 10.4 h.p., and consequently will be subject to an annual tax of £11. The over-all length of the chassis will be 11 ft. 10 in., with a wheel-base of 9 ft. and a wheel track of 4 ft. Detachable wheels are fitted, and the tyres, which will be 750 by 85 millimetres, are evidently to be of ample size in regard to the power of the car. I may be able to say something further about this interesting proposition, which, by the way, will be offered in both the two and the four-seater models.

Stand-by Plant.

A good deal of interest has been taken recently in the subject of installing stand-by or auxiliary plants in factories or public service undertakings. Some few years ago the chief argument against their use was that the need for their employment seldom arose, and that consequently they

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would only be likely to be in use for a brief period each year. In such event they would be unable to earn anything like a fair return on the capital expenditure. It might have been argued even then that the annual cost of upkeep might have been regarded as an insurance, but even so it might have been cheaper to insure against breakdowns or stoppages of plant in other ways.

But now the provision of a stand-by plant which will run on crude oil is merely an act of sound precaution, as in the event of a coal shortage it would be possible to keep the works running or to continue to render the service, as the case may be. I am prompted to these remarks by the receipt of a catalogue from Messrs. Vickers-Petters, Ltd., of Ipswich, who are makers of stationary and marine types of oil-engines for working on crude and residual oils or refined petroleum. The firm inform me that they are now manufacturing semi-Diesel oil-engines, for running on crude oil, in sizes up to 450 brake-horse-power, and that they are in a position to give immediate delivery of practically all sizes subject to prior sale.

In case any of my readers are unaware of the fact, I may say that the firm is a combination of Vickers, Ltd., the well-known shipbuilding and armament firm, with Petters, Ltd., the pioneers of the semi-Diesel engine in England. It was Vickers who designed the "solid injection" Diesel engine which was so largely used in British submarine service, and the connection of Petters, Ltd., with oil-engines of all types and kinds goes back, to my knowledge, to upwards of twenty-five years.

Although I have not yet had the pleasure of going over the works of the company at Ipswich—a pleasure which I hope is in store—I am informed that they are the largest in this country exclusively devoted to the manufacture of heavy oil-engines. I understand that they are the works which were built in 1913 and equipped for the production of engines of this type by the Consolidated Diesel Engine Manufacturers, Ltd.

Of course, the Vickers-Petter semi-Diesel engine is not a new and untried production, as I had an opportunity of inspecting one exhibited at the Turin International Exposition. Since that date it has earned golden opinions from all users, and engines of this type and make are working in every part of the world, under varying conditions of climate and altitude, and upon almost every known kind of crude, refined, and residual oil.

Some technical points which may be mentioned are that the Vickers-Petter engine can be started from cold in one minute by means of a rapid starting lamp, or instantaneously by means of the electric starter. The engine can be run, once it has been started, at any load from dead light to full for any length of time without lamp or electric ignition, and the combustion is so perfect that even after prolonged running at full load there is practically no deposit in either the cylinder or the vaporiser. The running costs are extremely low, taking the present cost of oil as a basis, and the engine is substantially designed and capable of dealing with heavy overloads for a long and continuous period.

PROPOSED POWER STATION ON THE DANUBE.

According to the *Yugoslavenski Lloyd*, the Yugoslav Government is preparing a scheme for the erection of a central power-station at Kostolast, on the Danube, to supply Belgrade, Smederevo, Pogorévat, Gotzka, Kovine, Panuchovo, and Zenun with motor power and lighting.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Week ended April 15: Gensah, nil (previous week, nil tons); Hurgada, 3,490 tons (against 2,792 tons).

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THE PHOTOGRAPHIC FAIR.

SOME NOTABLE EXHIBITS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Like a sound vintage the annual Photographic Fair improves with age, and it is only rendering bare justice to say that good as last year's exhibition was it was far surpassed by the show at the Horticultural Hall which came to an end on Saturday.

The Fair has now come to be a thoroughly representative event, and it is perfectly obvious that its continued growth will render larger premises eminently desirable on the next occasion. As a spectacle, it has a peculiar attraction for the public. There are, I suppose, few people who have not dabbled in their youth at making pictures, and the desire to see results that the vast majority have never been able to approach even remotely is clearly irresistible. At any rate, almost from the opening day the Fair was literally crowded with enthusiasts, and when I paid a visit in the second week the difficulty was to see the exhibits for the spectators, a thing that does not often happen at these exhibitions.

It would be impossible to mention anything in connection with photography that was not on view. There were, of course, cameras in hundreds, ranging from the tiny pocket affair to the latest production for Press work; papers suitable for every class of work and all climates; and the most recent developments in connection with the dark room. In this connection a feature of special interest was the number of novelties that confronted one on every hand.

And now for the exhibits. Messrs. Kodak, Ltd., who had a large stand by the entrance, were showing an extensive display of work in the various grades of paper they manufacture, also examples of work done on the Eastman portrait film. Large and small windows to the left of their stand were changed each day to show the art of window decoration in the most effective way. Adjoining this stand was the Wratten division of Messrs. Kodak, where many views were shown taken on the Wratten Panchromatic plates. A large number of dark-room "safety lamps" were also on view.

Another stand of special interest was that of Messrs. Marion and Co., Ltd., who were exhibiting among other things results of photos taken on their "Iso-record" plate. This plate is exceedingly sensitive and can be used for taking photos indoors by gas or electric light with an exposure of two seconds. Great care has to be taken in the dark-room when developing the plate, because it is very sensitive to yellow and green lights, and it should be developed under a deep red light. Excellent results of outdoor scenes can be obtained on this plate, which is also suitable for Press work. A very interesting exhibit was an electric print drier, which is a time-saving instrument for those who require dry prints in the space of a few minutes. At the excellently-arranged stand of the Leto Plate Materials Co., Ltd., a large number of photographs printed on the famous "Seltona" paper were on view, and also some examples of the boardoid variety.

Messrs. Kosmos Photographics, Ltd., who are running a £1,000 competition for amateur photographers, exhibited a series of enlargements on "Vitegas" paper, many of which were from the prints which won prizes in their last competition. They also showed many prints on "Novex" paper, a gaslight paper which has the advantage of presenting no difficulties to the manipulator. The stand of Messrs. Houghton's, Ltd., was so full of cameras and accessories that it would be impossible to mention all here. The Klito and Ensign cameras appealed to me most; they are wonderfully compact, and give excellent results. The firm also showed many enlargements of photos taken on the "Ensign" film, and also a large selection of Futurist albums and See-thru masks. In their Professional section, portraiture, mounts of various descriptions, studio furniture and apparatus, etc., were shown.

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The Thornton-Pickard Manufacturing Co., Ltd., were showing a large assortment of their roller-blind shutters, and numerous all-weather Press cameras, field cameras, and Imperial pocket cameras. The stand of Messrs. W. Butcher and Sons, Ltd., was one of great interest. Their cameras included the Cameo, Maxim, Carbine, Klimax, and the Pressman Reflex, all of which are well known, and which are extensively used in Turkey and Egypt. They were also showing their Carbine daylight developing tank, made of nickel and very simple to operate, by means of which films of any size may be developed with perfect safety in broad daylight, which has filled a long-felt want. Another interesting stand was that of Messrs. John J. Griffin and Sons, Ltd., who exhibited some exquisite examples of work on their famous Noctona, Goldona, and bromide p.o.p. They also showed some of their "Gramme" dry plates and "Gaslyt" lantern plates, and a large selection of plate, film and reflex cameras.

Messrs. Elliott and Sons, Ltd., manufacturers of the well-known Barnet plates and papers, were exhibiting some beautiful photographs on their Barton, bromide, gaslight, and Verona paper, the last-named being, by the way, a new developing paper. Messrs. Johnson and Sons exhibited photographic chemicals, including toners, intensifiers, reducers, photographic varnishes, hypo, flash powders, etc. One has only to mention the word Ross for it to be known that the reference is to the famous Clapham lens makers. The exhibits of this firm included a complete range of lenses and cameras, notably their "Xpres" lens, which is invaluable for portraiture, press and reflex work, reducing exposures to a minimum, and enabling a perfect photo to be obtained. This firm has introduced to the photographic world a new cinematograph projector incorporating the latest developments. Finally, a word must be said regarding the exhibits of Messrs. Gevaert, Ltd., whose photographs in black and white were particularly good. Their "Normal" gaslight paper is noteworthy for giving strong prints from weak negatives, and is very suitable for Press work. Messrs. Gevaert, who do an extensive business in Eastern countries and on the Continent, were also showing examples of work done on their "Special" gaslight paper, which has special claims on the attention of photographers in the Near and Middle East, where photographs are more or less of a vigorous kind.

NEAR EAST MARKETS:

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has been rather restricted during the week, but rates have remained firm. Currants have been in short supply, but a further consignment has arrived, and stocks are now sufficient for immediate needs. The demand for this commodity has been fair. There are very small stocks of sultanas, and prices are rather higher. Persian dates have been in good request.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in active request at the official rates. West Indian crystallised has been done at 62s. to 62s. 6d., while American granulated has come to business at 67s., a decline of 1s. 3d.

Coffee.—A firm tone has prevailed in futures. Quotations are:—May, 38s. 6d.; July, 40s.; September, 40s. 6d.; December, 42s.; March, 43s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—The market has been strong, and rates are generally firmer. Indian linseed at 18s. is 2s. up; while 1a Plata is 3d. harder at 14s. 3d. Rapeseed is firm, with Toria at 17s. 6d., bold Ferozepore at 16s. 6d., and brown Cawnpore at 14s. 6d., a gain of 6d. in each case. Egyptian cottonseed (black) is 9d. up at 12s. 3d.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 172s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 251s. cwt.; cheese, 154s. cwt.; chillies, 107s. 6d. cwt.; eggs, 20s. 6d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 79s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 104s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (East India bold), 113s. cwt.; coffee (Mocha, longberry), 92s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos superior), 52s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 37s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 165s. cwt.; lard, 88s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 115s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 77s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 126s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 68s. 7½d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 73s. cwt.; sugar (white Java), 66s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 65s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (West Indian crystallised), 62s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 1¼d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 24s. 9d. cwt.; sago flour, 13s. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 17s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), £5 8s. 9d. ton; tea (Indian), 7d. lb.; tea (Ceylon), 7d. lb.; tea (Java), 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 85s. 3d. qr.; wheat (English white), 81s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 79s. 9d. qr.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 7d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 4½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 4½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 3½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 3d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Cows (second), 60 lbs. and up, 3d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 3d. lb. Bulls (first), 2½d. lb.; bulls (second), 1½d. lb. Casualty hides, 2½d. lb. Kips (first), 3½d. lb.; kips (second), 2½d. lb.; kips (third), 2d. lb. Calcutta market prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic cows: Agrad, 6 to 11; Durbhanga, 4 to 5; Patnas, 3 to 4; salted cows, 2.8 to 5.8; arsenic hides (buffalo), 2.8 to 7. Skins: Calf, 6 to 8; goat, 130 to 160 per 100 pieces.

Chemicals.—Acids. Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 9½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 4½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 8½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £20 5s. 7½d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £47 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 11½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 10s. ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 133s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 9½d. lb.; chlorate, 6½d. lb.; caustic, £47 10s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 10½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £27 10s. ton; Sodium Crystals, 150s. ton; bicarbonate, £11 ton; bichromate, 7½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.) chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 5s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £20 12s. 6d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £34 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 2d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 5½d. oz.; red lead, £38 10s. ton; white dry lead, £41 15s. ton; white ground lead, £52 ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English regulus), £39 12s. 6d. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £69 ton; copper (electro), £72 10s. ton; gold bars, 105s. 1d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 120s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 180s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £20 12s. 6d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 4½d. unit; molybdenite, 55s. unit; nickel, £200 ton; platinum, 340s. oz.; plumbago, £30 ton; quicksilver, £12 12s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 35d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £25 10s. ton; tin (standard), £168 1s. 6d. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 27s. box; wolfram, 12s. unit; zinc sheets, £36 10s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 8.24d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £14 2s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £17 2s. 6d. ton; soya beans, £11 12s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £17 12s. 6d. ton; Oils: Linseed, £24 15s. ton; soya, £30 ton; cotton (crude), £29 ton; olive, £87 10s. ton; ground nut, £35 ton; palm, £30 10s. ton; rape (crude), £45 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3½d. gallon; turpentine, 45s. 3d. cwt.; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1. crepe), 11½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 10d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. lb.

There were 370 exhibitors at the agricultural exhibition and fair at Algiers, which was opened by the French Minister of Marine on April 20.

Capt. P. F. Knightley, D.S.O., Associate of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, has been appointed registrar of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

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SUDAN PRODUCE.

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

Gum.

The exports of gum during February were 908,688 kilos of hashab, of the value of £E31,280, and 36,470 kilos of talh, of the value of £E664, via Port Sudan; and 9,800 kilos of hashab, of the value of £E318, via Halfa.

Kordofan Province.—12,883 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during February, as against 17,560 kantars during the same month last year, at an average price of 675 m/ms. per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos). Arrivals from Nahud were 2,836 kantars, as against 5,754 during February, 1920. The amount sold at Um Ruaba was 1,935 kantars, as against 2,540 last year, the average price being 650 m/ms. per kantar. At Rahad 3,693 kantars were sold at prices ranging from PT.70 to PT.45 the kantar, as against 3,895 kantars last year.

Wheat.

Darfur Province.—The average price in El Fasher market during January was £E2 per ardeb.

Berber Province.—The price of wheat fell from PT.600 in January to PT.475 in February per ardeb of 400 rottles.

Dura.

Blue Nile Province.—The highest price is 589 m/ms. per ardeb, and the lowest price 535 m/ms. per ardeb. The highest price dropped as compared with December, which was 750 m/ms., but the lowest price remained practically the same. Some of the dura is still uncut, but in parts a great deal has been harvested since the last report.

Darfur Province.—The average price of dura in El Fasher market during January was PT.90 per ardeb of 300 rottles (45 kilos). Ushur lists have not yet been received from all districts, but the amount is everywhere considerably in excess of last year's, although the latter was above the normal. In Eastern Darfur the ushur exceeds last year's by 50 per cent., and the price of the 300 rottle ardeb in Um Shanga and Zernakh has fallen to PT.43.

White Nile Province.—The price of dura declined steadily during the month, and finally stood at PT.40 per ardeb of 348 rottles, a price which is very disappointing to the cultivators, as in view of the high wages paid by them for "hishing," every ardeb they have produced must have cost them at least PT.50.

Berber Province.—The price of sakia and red dura from the atmurs fell from PT.188 in January to PT.180 in February per ardeb of 380 rottles. Feterita remained at PT.150.

Miscellaneous.

Berber Province.—The price of maize fell from PT.138 in January to PT.120 in February per ardeb of 380 rottles.

Kordofan Province.—During February 47 ardebs of sesame were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of PT.135 per ardeb of 330 rottles. 239 ardebs of 210 rottles of ful sudani (ground nuts) were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of £E1.225 m/ms. per ardeb.

Dongola Province.—The price of Barakawi dates has risen from PT.16 to PT.22 the keila in Kareima market.

Livestock, Hides and Skins.

Halfa Province.—The following reports have been received:—The exports during the month have been:—Cattle, 1,979; goats, 5; sheep, 11,418; hides, 366; skins, 3,567. Exports in January, 1920, were:—Camels, 404; cattle, 4,153; goats, 13; sheep, 20,199; hides, 851; skins, 6,974.

Darfur Province.—333 head of cattle passed through El Fasher quarantine stations during the month.

White Nile Province.—The cattle trade is still very dull, and prices have declined.

Berber Province.—The market at Damer has been comparatively poor, only 214 cattle and 3,126 sheep and goats being sold in January, and 283 cattle with 2,587 sheep and goats in February, a great falling off from previous years. This is due to the slackening in demand from Egypt, and also the fall in price, which does not tempt the nomad to bring his animals in. Cattle average, PT.676 in January and PT.687 in February, while sheep were PT.165 and PT.180.

The Duke of Portland, as president of the Agricultural Relief of Allies Committee, has received a letter from the Serbian Minister of Agriculture at Belgrade expressing to all English farmers in the name of all Serbian farmers the deepest gratitude for the "splendid gift" sent for distribution among the peasants of Serbia. The gift consisted of large quantities of seeds and implements up to a total value of £15,000, which was subscribed for by farmers at the suggestion of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. It formed part of a total gift to Serbia of relief of the value of £50,000, the remainder having been distributed in the form of English breeding cattle.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in March:—

Wheat.—The weather was unfavourable, having been unusually cold for this time of the year, with high winds and occasional showers. Its effect, however, has not been marked and has been felt more in Lower Egypt. The water supply was ample. Slight attacks of smut and rust have been noticed in most provinces, but have not caused much damage. They are seen more in Baladi than in Hindi wheat. The bulk of the crop is in ear. Its prospects in Lower Egypt are not as good as last month; elsewhere they have slightly advanced.

Barley.—The weather has generally been unfavourable and the water supply ample. The crop is, however, promising well and is approaching maturity. In Garga and Qena Provinces some early-sown fields were being harvested. This operation will be general during April. The crop is expected to be slightly above average.

Beans.—The crop has somewhat suffered from rust and broomrape, as well as from unfavourable weather, which caused a certain amount of flower shedding. Slight attacks of aphid and blight have also been noticed in some localities. Harvesting has begun in Upper Egypt, and will be general in the course of April. The condition of the crop is below average.

Helba.—The condition of the crop is satisfactory. Harvesting of early-sown fields has begun in Minya and Upper Egypt. The late-sown crop is approaching maturity.

Lentils.—The crop is in a good condition. Harvesting of early-sown fields has begun.

Onions.—Unfavourable weather in some localities has slightly affected the crop. The crop is healthy, but is expected to be a little below the average. Harvesting has begun in Upper Egypt.

Bersim.—The cold weather has slightly affected the growth of the crop. Areas under temporary bersim were being ploughed up for sefi crops. The third cutting is now general, and dreemaking is progressing. The crop is practically free from pests and in a satisfactory state of growth. Areas under this crop seem to be larger than last year owing to the restriction of the area under cotton.

Cotton.—The weather has been unfavourable nearly all over the country, but the water supply was ample. Sowing has been considerably retarded by the cold weather, as well as by the conditions arising out of the cotton crisis referred to last month. There was a large amount of re-sowing in early-sown fields which were affected by the changeable weather.

Sugar Cane.—Cutting the old crop for sugar factories is practically finished. This crop has been seriously affected by the sugar cane mealy bug, which has prevented a considerable portion of the sugar from crystallising in the course of manufacture. The new crop is progressing normally but for the attack of the mealy bug. The area under this crop seems to be larger than last year.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on April 8 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 17-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 11-16; Anglo-America Nile Steam, £3; Associated Cotton Ginners, £13-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 63 ex; Behera Ord., £E8 9-16; Behera Priv., £E3 3-16; Bonded Stores, £10 9-32 ex; Brasseries d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 115; Building Lands of Egypt, £21-32; Cassi di Sconto, Priv., Fr. 102 ex; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com d'Egypte, £1 V.; Consolidated Land, P.T. 5; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 591; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 7,700 ex; Credit Foncier 1886 Oblig., Fr. 335; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 239; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 229; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130 V.; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 73 ex; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 100 ex; Egypt and Levant s.s. Ord., 26s. 3d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10; Gabbari Lands, £13-32; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des., £5 3-32 ex; Khedivial Mail s.s. Co., Pref., £2; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Ord., 110s.; Kom. Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £4; Kom. Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £35; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond., £35; Lots Turc, Fr. 45; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 280 ex; Nungovich Hotels, £7; Ramleh Railway, £1; Salt and Soda, 27s. 6d.; Tram d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 40; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 60 V.; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2; Egypt Hotels, £2 1-16; Urbaines and Rurales, £3.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended April 16 amounted to £9,405.

Oriental Gas.—Interim dividend at usual rate of 3½ per cent., less tax, on account of year ending June 30.

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, April 16.

There is no improvement in the position in the Constantinople market. The fall in prices of manufactures continues. The consignments of merchandise made to Roumania have given excellent results owing to the improvement in the rate of the lei. Orders for flour, sugar, and rice continue. In view of the low prices at which transactions have been carried out the risk of loss would appear to be small.

As regards manufactures, there have been a few arrivals of seasonable articles. Stocks are very considerable. Despite the precarious position of the market there is no failure to be recorded.

Produce.—A marked improvement is to be noted as regards produce.

Sugar.—Following the lower prices announced from Java, the other producing centres are disposed to make concessions in price, especially as regards futures. The latest quotation from Java is £32-£33 per ton. This market shows a firm tone, principally because of the demand for Roumania. Quotations are:—Sugar from Java and from Holland, £44-£45 per ton; in Customs £T35-35½ per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—As a result of the fluctuations in the price merchants are showing a reluctance to do business.

Rice.—The rise continues in Saigon rice, which is now quoted at 105 francs per 100 kilos. The market for American is weak. American Blue Rose is quoted at 9 dollars per 100 kilos. Prices have risen here to Ps.18 for Saigon, and Ps.28-29 for Blue Rose. Stocks are reduced.

Oil.—Arrivals continue regularly, and prices show a falling tendency. The bidon is quoted at Ps.370. Roumanian oil sells at Ps.26 per oke.

PANDERMA.

The report for March states:—Conditions continue to favour cultivation in this region. The only commercial movement to be noted is the importation from Roumania of 200-250,000 kilos of barley and 400,000 kilos of maize, which will meet the needs of local consumption, and that of Balikesser and the neighbourhood.

EXPORT CREDITS.

The Board of Trade publish the following return showing the advances made, applications sanctioned, and advances repaid under the Overseas Trade (Credits and Insurance) Act, 1920:—

Advances Actually Made.—January 1 to March 31, 1921, for Finland, Baltic Provinces, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Roumania, Bulgaria, and Austria, £321,058 5s. 8d. Total from September, 1919, to March 31, 1921, for Finland, Baltic Provinces, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Roumania, Bulgaria, and Austria, £458,843 1s. 8d.

Applications Sanctioned.—January 1 to March 31, 1921, £686,711 12s. 10d. Total from September, 1919, to March 31, 1921, £2,086,745 17s. 10d.

Advances Repaid.—September, 1919, to March 31, 1921, £16,173 2s. 10d.

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CYPRUS.

Nicosia. Larnaca.
Limassol. Famagusta.
Paphos.

SYRIA.

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ON 'CHANGE.

Greek Shares Depressed.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROMORTON STREET, Monday Night.

A firm tone has prevailed during the week. To-day markets have been scarcely affected by the Budget, which followed the expected lines. There were those among the members who some weeks ago had hoped that the Chancellor would soften his heart on the income-tax question, but the onset of another spell of industrial unrest discounted any such optimistic ideas.

Gilt-edged securities continue in particular favour, and investors for the time being are evidently content to play for safety. We can anticipate activity in the other group when the strike ends. War Loan Fives have had a good week, and closed $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 88 13-16. Consols, on the other hand, have eased $\frac{1}{4}$ to 48 $\frac{1}{2}$. The 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. War Loan is 93 $\frac{3}{4}$. A variable tendency has been in evidence in the Foreign Bonds section.

Industrials have generally been firm, the Iron and Steel section showing special strength. Vickers have been a strong spot, closing at 13s. 9d. In Shipping, P. and O. Deferred have again advanced, and are now 350, a gain on the week of 18. There has not been much doing in Oils, while Rubbers have been more or less featureless.

Near Eastern securities are again very firm. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. are 1 up at 66 $\frac{1}{2}$. Greek Guaranteed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. 1898 are unchanged at 66, while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent. 1855 are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 70.

Greek shares have been weak. The 5 per cent. 1881 is unchanged at 44, but the 5 per cent. 1884 is 1 down at 43. The 5 per cent. 1890 at 43 has lost a point, while Fundings have lost 2 at 39. The 1910 Loan is 4 lower at 38, but the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan and the 1902 Loan are unchanged at 41 and 38 respectively.

Banks have been steady. Agricultural 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Bonds and the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds remain at 51 and 53 respectively. Imperial Ottoman Banks are $\frac{3}{4}$ up at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, but National Bank of Egypt at 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ are 7-16 down. Land Bank of Egypt remain at 5.

Land shares have been variable. Beheras are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, but the preference shares are unchanged at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are unchanged at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Delta Lands are 1s. 3d. down at 8s. 9d., while Egyptian Consolidated Lands have shed 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ at 1s. Gharbieh Lands are 3-16 up at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, but New Egyptians are 9d. down at 22s. 9d. Union Foncières have shed $\frac{1}{2}$ at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Sudan Plantations have lost a similar amount at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

In Oils Anglo-Egyptians are 2 1-16, Phoenix are 13s., Roumanian Consols 15s., and Steaua Romana 14s.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are 2s., Alexandria Waters 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, Morums 11s., Salt and Sodas 27s. 6d. and Egyptian Markets 18s. 6d.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Bros., Smyrna, report as follows for the fortnight ended April 19:—Since our last report of the 28th ult. the sales on our market amount to 45 cases at 8s. 10d., 9s. 6d., and 10s. per lb. c.i.f., as to quality and morphia strength. The exchange has been oscillating by $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and to-day it is 578 piastres per pound sterling, for cheque, and 0.66 dollars for one Turkish pound or piastres 100. In Constantinople the price is about 1s. per lb. higher than what is paid at the present moment on this market, and the reason is the monetary crisis, which is more acute here than in the capital. The arrivals are 1,301 cases against 1,520 at same date last year, and our stock in first and second hands is now 1,219 cases. The average net weight of each case is calculated at 160 lb.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Brighter Market Outlook.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

During the past week the tone of the market has been healthier than for some time back, and with the present industrial difficulties out of the way it is generally anticipated that the market will make a jump forward to a period of increased activity. There is no probability of lower values in manufactured articles, and if the coal strike can be settled during the next few days there is no doubt that increased buying will take place. There has been evidence of a larger demand for the raw material, and spot sales in Liverpool tend to increase. The general inquiry in cloth for abroad continues healthier, but compared with last week rather more difficulties have been experienced in arranging fresh business, chiefly on account of producers insisting on the insertion of a strike clause in contracts. A feature of the market has been the increased interest shown by buyers for Egypt, and fairly large sales of a miscellaneous variety have taken place for that outlet. Isolated transactions have taken place for the Levant and Constantinople, but reports from the other side are distinctly better. With regard to Egyptian yarns, prices have ruled steady, and although sales have not been important the general inquiry continues rather more encouraging. India has been asking for cloth prices and making offers, and although the bulk of the demand has come from Calcutta, some dealers in Karachi, Madras, and Bombay are showing more interest in Lancashire goods. Dhooties and jaconets have been sold in fair quantities at hardening rates. Comparatively little has been done for China, but buying in bleaching descriptions has not been quite at a standstill. The South American market appears to be quiet.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date April 21:—

Egyptian Spot.—An improved business has been done during the past week, a good line of Sakel cotton put through for a large concern forming the chief contribution to total sales. The inquiry continues to promise a permanent improvement in the off-take when outside conditions permit. Generally, the demand has centred on the medium to better grades of Sakel, whilst uppers have received rather more attention than hitherto. A moderate business has been done on Tokar and Sudan cotton, but prices realised have been on the easy side. Quotations for Sakellaridis are advanced 25 points; upper and brown being unchanged. Sales 1,900, including 60 bales of Sudan.

BARSİ LIGHT RAILWAY.

An interim report of the Barsi Light Railway Company for the year to March 31 states that gross earnings were Rs.14,27,000, and working expenses Rs.6,65,000, compared with Rs.15,95,000 and Rs.6,07,000 respectively in the previous year. Owing to the favourable rates of exchange at which it has been possible to get remittances home during the past year, it is estimated that the net revenue for the year (after providing for probable taxation thereon in India) will amount to some £58,000, as against £88,300 last year and £37,700 in 1918-19. An interim dividend is proposed of 3 per cent., together with bonus of 2 per cent., or 10s. per share in all.

Czechoslovakia exported in 1920 1,134,124 tons of coal, 273,649 tons of coke, 3,430,169 tons of lignite, and 55,158 tons of lignite briquettes.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED OILFIELDS.

Issue of Debentures.

Property Reinstated and Pre-War Output in Sight.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., was held on Monday, the 25th inst., at the company's offices, 48, Cannon Street, E.C., to authorise an increase of the nominal share capital necessitated by the issue of 10 per cent. convertible debentures now on offer to the shareholders at the price of £95 per £100 debenture. Sir W. Watson Rutherford, M.P., chairman of the company, presided.

The Secretary (Mr. J. W. Creasser) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in moving the resolution, explained that as each of these debentures was exchangeable at any time during its currency for 100 shares, it was necessary that the company should be in a position to issue such shares if and when the exchange was called for. There was, however, at present no intention to issue them; they were simply being authorised to provide for conversion rights. With regard to the debenture issue itself no money was being thrown away in underwriting, and the net proceeds would be applied primarily in meeting the current liabilities, while the residue would be represented by cash and by valuable additional assets.

Rapid Development.

As the issue was being made by way of rights to all shareholders in proportion to their holdings, no shareholder could reasonably object to generous terms in which all had *pro rata* rights to participate. Every shareholder, however small, was entitled to his proportion on paying the small amount of £15 per debenture, the further instalments being only due in six and twelve months. Those who paid the £95 in full would receive forthwith interest at the rate of 10 per cent. on the whole amount of the debenture, namely £100. These, however, were small advantages compared with the conversion rights. The company's extensive territories in the richest oil country in Europe and the experience gained prior to the destruction, coupled with the successful and rapid development now taking place, justified the directors in agreeing with their manager in Roumania in his optimistic forecast as regards future production, and that the pre-war record output of 100,000 tons in one year would be again attained, and in all probability exceeded.

Remarkable Production of Oil.

Notwithstanding the destruction at the instance of the Allies in 1916, and in spite of all the adverse conditions, no less than 40,000 tons had already been produced since the Armistice down to the end of February this year.

Other good work that had been accomplished was that the leases of the more valuable lands had been renewed and important territories added. The company had already 17 producing wells and 12 drilling wells, of which three were close to oil—the destroyed buildings were almost all rebuilt—20,000 tons of tankage had been newly constructed, 130 kilometres (80 miles) of pipelines relaid and joined up, machine shop rebuilt, refitted, and in full working order, new refinery in course of erection with double the former refining capacity, and, in short, a valuation recently completed of the assets in Roumania (taking the lands only at the figures in the books) came out at over £2,000,000 sterling, even calculated at the excessively low rate of exchange of 285 lei to the £1 sterling (against 25½ normal).

After the destruction to which the company had so patriotically submitted in November, 1916, these results constituted a record of which he, as Chairman, was justly proud, and he was entitled to congratulate the shareholders, and also the board of directors, the management, and the engineering staff in Roumania. An item not taken into account in estimating the value of the assets at two million pounds sterling was the "claim." If and when the company received the anticipated compensation of £300,000 or upwards in respect of the 1916 destruction, as explained in the company's circular of the 14th inst., the value of the undertaking, and therefore the intrinsic value of the shares and the security for the debentures now offered, would be enhanced in proportion. The right of converting the debentures into shares would enable the holders at any time during the currency of the debentures to participate in these enhanced values and in the realisable profits. Pending conversion, the debentures were an excellent investment, yielding £10 10s. 6d. per cent. (less income tax) on the amount the holders had actually paid.

Reparations.

Further, the shareholders would not forget that, apart from the 1916 destruction, there were other items under the head of "reparations" which went to make up the £1,040,000 recently fixed by the Roumanian Judicial Tribunal as the amount for complete reinstatement. Roumania was occupied by the enemy for over two years, and for the purpose of reparations should be treated on the same footing as Belgium and the occupied parts of France, Italy, and Serbia. Opinions might differ as to whether the Allies would ever recover from the enemy any part of the cost of the war, but it was understood reparations would

come before the cost of the war, and the directors had every reason to expect that sooner or later the company would receive something substantial under this heading.

Given the success of the present issue, of which he felt assured, the future of the company in no way depended upon anything whatever being recovered under the claim for destruction, and still less upon receiving any contribution in respect of reparations. The receipts from these sources when they materialised might almost be regarded as windfalls simply adding to the resources of the company and correspondingly increasing the value of its undertaking. Their company was purely British, and its industry was petroleum, which was the principal valuable alternative to coal. Fuel was the first essential for manufacture, and thousands of inhabitants of these islands would starve if our manufactures ceased to provide the means to enable the necessary food to be purchased abroad.

Value of Oil as Fuel.

The importance, therefore, of a successful petroleum undertaking owned by a purely British company could scarcely be exaggerated. He desired to make no reference to the present calamitous coal strike, except to say that it could not fail to call the earnest attention of the public to the paramount urgency of supporting and developing all possible sources of fuel supply.

The Chairman concluded by moving "That the authorised capital of the company be increased from £1,750,000 to £2,500,000 by the creation of 750,000 additional shares of £1 each."

Major R. W. Barnett, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the proceedings then terminated.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mangalore, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 11); s.s. Masirah, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 28); s.s. Matheran, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 31).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Antinoe, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Constantinople, Varna, and Galatz (London, end of April); s.s. Tyria, for Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, June 1).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Trentino, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, May 3). A steamer will sail for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople on June 11.

Holt Line.—S.s. Ixion, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 6); s.s. Lycaon, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 6); s.s. Mentor, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 6); s.s. Polyphemus, for Port Said, Suez, etc. (Birkenhead, May 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 14).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Dongola, for Bombay (London, May 6); s.s. Nyanza, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 20); s.s. Kashgar, for Bombay (London, May 20).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Margha, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 13); s.s. Gambada, for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 14); s.s. Hatimura, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 4).

[We regret that owing to pressure of space the remainder of the Shipping Intelligence is unavoidably held over this week.]

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 521.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Turkish Deadlock.

According to an apocryphal story of respectable antiquity, a Turkish boatman, ferrying across the Bosphorus a Greek and a Jew, glared at the former and said: "If I had my wish, we Turks would cut as many Greek throats as we cut throats of sheep and lambs at Bairam." The Greek retorted that if he had his wish, his countrymen would break as many Turkish heads as they broke eggs at Easter. Then, remembering the third party in the boat, they both turned to him and asked his view of the matter. Holding up his hands in pious supplication, the Jew replied: "My friends, may God grant both your wishes." The Allied Governments, it would seem, are minded to take a leaf out of the Jew's book. Having failed to bring the Greeks and Turks into line at the London Conference, they are waiting to see whether they will prove more amenable when both have exhausted themselves in the Anatolian campaign. The process, however, is likely to be a lengthy one, and in the meantime there is a strong probability that economic and financial disaster will not only overtake Turkey and Greece, but will also involve many other countries as well, and British interests in particular. It is time, therefore, that the Allied Powers should again take stock of the Near Eastern situation in the light of the developments that have taken place since the London Conference.

A New Factor.

Allied policy since the Armistice has completed the work begun by the Balkan Wars. Before 1912 a national spirit in Turkey was a thing unknown. A Turk would describe himself as a Mussulman, or of this or that town or vilayet, never *tout court* as a Turk. The sense of nationality in Turkey, quickened by the disastrous results of the Balkan Wars, has become a force to be reckoned with as a result of the Kemalist movement. Unconscious of its existence a few months ago, the Greeks have now been compelled to recognise that it introduces an unexpected factor into the Asia Minor question. In the first place it reduces to an absurdity the proposed occupation of Angora and the subjection of ten million Turks to eight million Greeks, which were trump cards at the London Conference. Peace has its disillusionings no less than war, and Greece will not be the first of the Allied countries that has had to revise since the defeat of the Central Powers its estimate of its own capacity in one direction or another. Great Britain has learnt much in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and India, and compared with her experience the Smyrna lesson is a

very small one for Greece. Certain it is that the longer it is drawn out the worse it will become. For any possible disappointment on the Asia Minor coast the Greeks would secure ample compensation in a reformed Turkey, which, no longer a prey to international intrigue, held out the prospect of trade commensurate with the resources and potentialities of Anatolia.

Room for Compromise.

Discreet inquiries, we believe, would reveal that both Greeks and Turks are more capable to-day of being brought into line than they were a few months ago. But if the necessity for revision of the Treaty of Sèvres is admitted, it must be carried through completely, and in no makeshift manner. Losses in the territorial sphere can be made good in another. There can be no question of a Turkey *in statu quo ante bellum*. Both the Angora authorities and the Constantinople Government know themselves to be capable of better things, and the Allies must insist upon practical assurances on this point. They owe it to themselves as well as to the Greeks. In spite of all the moral doctrines mouthed during the war, the Allied Powers have not taken a single step towards making the Near East better than they found it at the beginning of the war. They have introduced no improvements, they have laid down no new principles; they have perpetuated bitternesses and widened the opportunities for strife. If for once they could hold out higher aims before people who would gladly leave the old ruts, they would at least strengthen the hands of the better elements in each country. But the new settlement must be impartial, thorough, and final.

Italy and Yugoslavia.

The conditions of the Treaty of Rapallo are in course of execution. The island of Veglia has been evacuated by Italy and occupied by Yugoslav troops, and by the time these lines are in print the Yugoslav and Italian delegates, who have met at Abbassia, will probably have begun the settlement of the frontier line in accordance with the Treaty. Some small hitch seems to have occurred in regard to the evacuation of part of the Dalmatian coast, owing to the Dalmatians showing an unwillingness to provide food for the citizens of Zara; but in all probability the little difficulty has already been adjusted. And it is very pleasing to note in Italy a disposition to take a friendly view of Yugoslavia's attitude, in place of the former readiness to see cause of offence in everything she did. Thus, the correct attitude of Belgrade in regard to the Fiuman situation is handsomely acknowledged by the *Tribuna*, which describes it as level-headed and even cordial, and

as going farther than the Treaty of Rapallo stipulated in the way of neutrality. Such praise from the ministerial organ should go far towards obliterating memories of past bitterness over this vexed question.

Bulgaria and her Neighbours.

A reference was made in an official communication from the Bulgarian Legation published in last week's issue to "the announced intention of certain neighbouring States to apply sanctions to Bulgaria in the form of occupation of other Bulgarian territories." The possibility of such a course being adopted seemed so remote that it was difficult to imagine that the statement could have any other ground than a certain nervousness which has always characterised international relations in the Balkans in the past. But there can be no doubt that the reported concentration of Serbian forces near the frontier is causing the liveliest apprehension in Bulgaria. In view of the recrudescence of brigandage in Serbia to which our correspondent in Yugoslavia calls attention this week there might well be a more satisfactory explanation of the military concentration. In any case it is to be hoped that the Allied Powers will firmly forbid any attempt at provocation in the Balkans, from whatever quarter it may come. The Treaty of Neuilly was imposed by the Allies as a whole, and there can be no question of responsibility for the enforcement of its terms being taken out of the hands of the Supreme Council by isolated action on the part of one or other of the Allies. There are two Allied Missions in Bulgaria charged with the duty of seeing that the terms of the Treaty are carried out.

Agitators in Cyprus.

Greek Cypriotes have been celebrating the centenary of the Greek rising against Turkish domination, and the celebration has been marked by more enthusiasm than wisdom. The facts of the case as set out by our Cyprus Correspondent, whose account will be found on another page, show that the High Commissioner and the officials under his orders acted with foresight and discretion; and some of the leading members of the Greek community set a good example in the way of obeying and supporting authority. But, unfortunately, the occasion did not pass without serious trouble; and the demonstrators saw fit to pass, not only resolutions of the stereotyped variety in favour of union, but also another condemning the Government for taking precautions—which were proved to be so necessary. This kind of thing may give some pleasure to a few Cypriotes, but it can do no good to them, or to anybody else save a few interested agitators, and it would be an unmitigated blessing to the islanders as a whole if it were suppressed. The agitators and mischief-makers have been given far too much rope, and allowed to assume far too much importance in their own opinion and in that of the islanders. There is no reason to believe that Great Britain has any intention of handing over the Cypriote Turks to the tender mercies of the Cypriote "Greeks"—quite the contrary; and Mr. Churchill will be doing a real service to the island if he makes that quite clear. The deportation of a few more agitators—one, it is reported, has gone already—would also serve a useful purpose.

The Intransigence of Zaghloul.

The situation brought about in Egypt by the difference of opinion between Adly Yeghen Pasha, the Government, and the Egyptian Moderates, on the one hand, and Zaghloul Pasha on the other hand, is discussed in our leading article. What the final outcome of the split will be is not yet certain, but at the time of writing it is clear that intelligent Egyptian opinion is with Adly Pasha and his colleagues. It is reported, in fact, that Zaghloul has lost the support of all the other original members of the Delegation, who decline to allow the future of Egypt to be imperilled by his megalomania; and the Cabinet's position has been strengthened by support from many quarters where the facts of the case are viewed in truer perspective than they appear to be by "El Raiss el Mahboub." It is to be hoped that the students and others who compose the noisy element will not be able this time to stir up the country to mischief as they did two years ago; but there are indications

that they have been and are preparing to follow the same tactics again. Already a fracas has taken place at Tanta, where, in the Ahmadiyah Mosque, speeches made by students, who took different views of Zaghloul's conduct, led to fighting which eventually necessitated calling upon the military for aid. The casualty list was made up of three killed and some seventy wounded. The fact that the Moderates felt strong enough to put up a fight at all is a notable feature of the incident.

The Persian Government.

Sirdar Riza Khan, who commands the Persian Cossacks and who was their leader in the coup of February 21, has now joined the Cabinet of Seyyid Zia ed-Din as Minister for War, in place of Mahsud Khan. It is probable that the change will mean a considerable strengthening of the Cabinet. In any case Riza Khan's experience in the matter of *coups*—before that which placed the present Government in power, he with his Hamadan regiment had effected one which established Starroselsky as chief of the Cossack Brigade—should fit him to guard against such perils; and his energy and military knowledge appear to be valuable assets to his party. Those qualities are bound to be tested by present conditions in Persia. The Cossacks have lately taken over the front north of Kasvin, from which our troops have been entirely withdrawn; and hardly had they done so when trouble arose between the Cossacks and the Bolsheviks, and the latter bombarded the former. The newly arrived Bolshevik Minister promptly apologised for the incident, and the Persian Government, while accepting the apology, intimated that should any further incidents of the kind occur it would decline to have any relations with him. Seyyid Zia ed-Din has congratulated his countryman on having now stirred in their own defence, and has thanked our troops not only "for going," but also "for having come"—thus indicating that he at least recognises the service that they have undoubtedly rendered to Persia. All friends of Persia will hope that the Cossacks, if put to the test, will give as good an account of themselves as they did at first last year, and that there will be no repetition of the collapse that was brought about either by incompetent leading or by treachery on the part of the Russian officers.

The Plight of Georgia.

A pathetic memorandum sent by the Georgian Government to the Allied Powers tells the story of the overrunning of the country by Bolshevik forces. After vain efforts to upset the Socialist régime by ordinary methods of intrigue and insurrection, the Soviets of Moscow, we are told, decided upon more forcible measures. An understanding was reached with Angora, and the Georgians found themselves attacked on all sides. The Government with the Army was forced back on Batoum, and on March 18 was compelled to leave the country and take refuge in ships. The Bolsheviks entered Batoum the same day, and Georgia is now duly sovietised, while the properly constituted Georgian Government has removed itself to Constantinople. Georgia, it would seem, will have to wait for the general liquidation of Bolshevism unless she is fortunate enough to be able to turn out the intruders. Peace between the Allied Powers and Turkey would be a first step towards clearing Transcaucasia of Bolshevik activities. Any working agreement that exists between Angora and Moscow was taken up as a make-weight against the Allies. Reassured on the subject of their foreign relations, especially in regard to Greece, the Turks will have no further need to coquet with Bolshevism, and will probably be pleased to see the doctrine recede as far as possible from their frontiers.

Lord Reading's Debut.

The full reports of Lord Reading's first speeches at Bombay bear out the impression given by the cables that he refused to commit himself to any declaration of policy; but they also indicate a tendency, which the cables did not mention, to lay stress on the Governor-General and ignore the Governor-General's Council, which, according to the constitution, is entitled to at least a voice in the measures to be adopted. As a competent critic has remarked, Lord Reading's reply to the municipal address of welcome is the reply of a despot.

and could have been appropriately made by Asoka or Aurangzeb, neither of whom was afflicted with an Executive Council or anything of the kind. We are entitled to look for precision in the language used by one who has been Attorney-General, but all the same we trust that Lord Reading does not really mean to ignore his Council, a practice which has not yielded satisfactory results in the past, and which is bound to be disastrous now that the Council is composed so largely of Indian members; probably by this time he is actively engaged in performing the constitutional duties of a Governor-General in Council.

Women's Suffrage in India.

Madras is the first province to exercise the privilege accorded under the new constitution of deciding whether the franchise shall be given to women, and an overwhelming majority of the Council has answered in the affirmative. The outstanding feature of what was a really instructive debate was the solid opposition of the Moslem members, who took the ground that no respectable woman of their community would vote, and therefore they should not be insulted by being asked to do so; while we notice that Mr. Naidu, one of the Ministers, suggested that in deference to their hostile attitude Moslems should be excluded from the operation of the resolution. The question is of comparatively small importance in Madras, where the Moslem population is not numerous, but it is likely to excite much interest in provinces like Bengal and the Punjab, where it has not yet come before the Councils; and quite possibly its discussion may result in emphasising the social cleavage based on religious differences, which progressive Indians prefer to ignore, but which is still unfortunately one of the hard facts of the political situation.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday evening.

Stagnation.

The coal stoppage continues and seems likely to continue. Negotiations were resumed last week, and each party in the triangular discussion gave way, or seemed to give way, a little—the miners agreed to discuss wages, the owners made an amended offer of wages, and the Government hinted at a larger subsidy. It all came to nothing; the conference broke up, and at the moment no negotiations are going on or seem in sight.

Speaking as one of the public, I should have said that the miners made a mistake in refusing to discuss wages for so long, and another mistake last week in their summary rejection of the owners' new terms. It may have been good tactics not to have accepted these, on the assumption that still better terms would eventually be proposed. But if the miners had replied with a counter-proposal, the negotiations would not have broken down, and we should have been nearer to bridging the gulf. As it is, we seem back again where we started a month ago; and it is clear that both owners and miners are once more looking to the Government to help them out of their difficulties by offering an increased subsidy.

This idea of looking to the taxpayer to make up the deficiencies of the industry seems thoroughly to have debauched the coal trade; but it is quite hopeless as a permanent solution. It is neither private enterprise nor nationalisation, but mere parasitism.

The consequences of the strike are becoming serious. After a month's stoppage, unemployment in other trades is steadily increasing, and train services are cut down to a minimum. (The railway losses, by the way, will fall on the taxpayer, the railways still being under Government control; and now that travelling, except for urgency, is almost impossible, this will make a pretty bill to pay on next year's Budget.) The railwaymen in many cases are using their enforced idleness in cultivating allotments, and at country stations, where there are only two trains a day, these are golden hours for porters who are amateur gardeners; but otherwise the only people who are profiting are the wood and peat merchants.

With a railway service more restricted than at the worst period of the war, England is reverting to a collec-

tion of isolated towns and villages. So far the theatres have not closed down, but touring provincial companies are in a bad way, and it is likely to be a gloomy Whitsun. Even if the miners are back at work by Whitsun, it will be impossible to restore the train services this month, and holidays will be out of the question for those without motors. In these circumstances those seaside places which have been trying to get the public to take their holidays earlier, to spread the season out over a longer period, are very pessimistic; a feeling which is shared by the London shops, who usually expect a golden harvest during the "season." But with dances, balls, and dinners postponed on all hands, trade is at a standstill. At the big shops they say frankly that things are not likely to recover this summer, and staffs are being reduced. With the curtailment of trams and local trains, even the suburban shopper is now beginning to get cut off from Oxford Street.

Politics.

Politics for the time being are as dead as business. The House of Lords again discussed divorce last week, but the session is likely to be a lean one in the Commons, and nobody will be surprised if the Government drops both Protection and Licensing Reform for the sake of peace. The Anti-Dumping Bill, which has not yet seen the light, is anathema to the Coalition Liberals; the Licensing Bill is hated by the Tories. The Cabinet, with industrial troubles on its hands and national finance, to say the least, not assisted by the current controversies, may choose to take the path of least resistance and postpone both its chief legislative dishes to next session. Whether the appetite will be whetted by the absence of fare remains to be seen. The Government is in the happy position of knowing that, even if it does nothing, nobody can turn it out; the coal dispute may be costing millions, but the demand for a subsidy is not helping the Labour Party in the constituencies, and privately many of the Labour leaders are cursing the miners with vigour. Nothing is being said publicly at the moment, but when the coal question is out of the way a good deal of the dirty linen of the Triple Alliance may be washed in the open, to the information if not the edification of the community.

The Budget.

This year's Budget, which was introduced last week, was more of a lecture on high finance than a speech to interest the general taxpayer. Indeed, taxation remains as it was, except that the increased duty on cigars and champagne is off—and one can again get a Havana at a reasonable price. That particular tax defeated its own end, as it reduced the consumption of imported cigars to almost nothing, and by so doing not only diminished the revenue but killed our export trade to Cuba. Even now it will take the trade some time to revive, as men have got out of the habit of smoking cigars. The income-tax remains as before.

On the other side of the shield we have paid off a good deal of our foreign debt—mainly by sales of surplus war goods, and this has certainly raised our credit and helped towards restoring the exchanges. We shall continue to reduce the external debt at a less rapid rate in the current year. Another satisfactory feature is that the subsidies on home industries, which became necessary in war time, are being gradually abolished.

But there is a general feeling that expenditure is still far too high, particularly in the Civil Service. It is hoped that Sir Robert Horne, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, will be more successful in reducing this than Mr. Chamberlain. The Ministry of Health, in

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particular, is getting its wings clipped; if the useless Labour Exchanges were abolished as well a good many millions would be saved.

The financial position of the State is still serious. But at least it is better than it was a year ago, and with stern economy it will be better still in another twelve-month. It is natural that the ordinary voter and taxpayer should make agonised appeals for a reduction of taxation, which is extremely heavy, but the way towards restoration of economic health does not lie along that primrose path, but in the reduction of war debt. If we stick steadily to that for another ten years the national finances will again be in a sound position.

The New Speaker.

Somebody has pointed out that Mr. Whitley, the new Speaker, who was elected last week, is the first Nonconformist and the first "tradesman" to hold that great office. His predecessors in the Chair have all been either country squires, like Mr. Lowther, or lawyers, like Mr. Gully; but Mr. Whitley is a cotton-spinner from Halifax. He is a pleasant, unassuming man, but quite capable of putting his foot down on an over-rhetorical or presumptuous member. He is a Liberal (of the Independent variety), by conviction.

The Wakeford Case.

Few trials have evoked more general interest than the appeal of Archdeacon Wakeford, which was concluded last week. A Consistory Court at Lincoln, the Archdeacon's diocese, convicted him of immorality committed in 1920; and the Archdeacon appealed to the Privy Council. A fund was raised to defend him by his many friends, who held it incredible that a man of 60, and in a high position in the Church, could have acted in the manner alleged. After hearing all the evidence exhaustively, the Privy Council held that the charges had been proved; that the Archdeacon (who suggested that he was the victim of a conspiracy by certain clerical and other enemies) was guilty, and that the hypothesis of a conspiracy was unfounded.

The trial will do the Church some harm. For a great preacher and official dignitary to be unable to rebut a charge of immorality is not satisfactory; hardly less unpleasant an impression was made by the sidelights which the hearing cast upon the jealousy and bickering and gossip within the Church itself. These features of the case, as well as a pretty general feeling that, even if guilty, the Archdeacon would have to pay a very heavy price, assured him of much public sympathy. A fund of £3,000 was raised for his defence. But the costs of the trial amount altogether to £8,000—a long bill for a man who is deprived of his preferment to face.

The Week's Books.

Mr. Neville Lytton, the author of "The Press and the General Staff" (Collins) was Press Censor on the Western Front, but he is now unmuzzled, and he has written a very lively book, full of epigrams. "For a soldier," he says, "it is not a bad thing to look cleverer than you are, like Kitchener, or to be cleverer than you look, like Plumer." But I like best his discussion with Mr. Churchill. "As we were motoring towards the front he asked me if I did not think it was very courageous of Lloyd George to bring him back to power after the Gallipoli affair. I answered that I thought he was the courageous one in daring to show his face in public after all the mistakes he had made." Mr. Churchill's retort is not recorded.

It is hardly necessary to do more than mention "A Few Short Runs" (John Murray), by Lord Harris. It will become one of the classics of cricket. I like the saying of that great bat, Arthur Shrewsbury, as to umpires' decisions: "I don't worry. I am given out when I am in: I am given in when I am out. I don't grumble. I take the fat and the lean as they come." Surely an admirable philosophy?

A word should be given to "The Economic Development of France and Germany, 1815-1914" (Cambridge University Press), by Dr. J. H. Clapham. It is a good deal more than a mere bald recital of facts; it gives a real insight into the history of a century's development.

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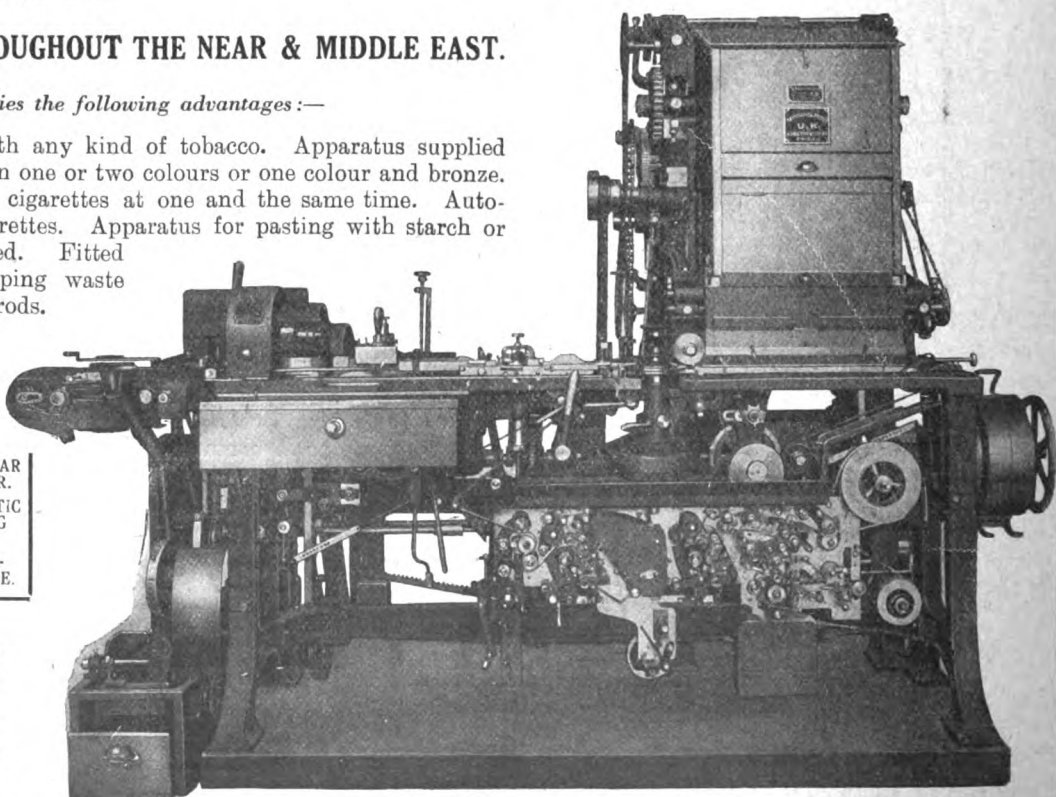
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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, April 18.

Notable Arrivals.

The Crown Prince of Japan arrived in Egypt to-day on his way to Europe. His Imperial Highness is staying as the guest of the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby at the Residency, where two large dinner parties are being given in his honour.

The Emir Faisal arrived in Cairo on Thursday last, and is at present staying at Sheppard's Hotel, where he has been joined by his brother Zeid. The Emir is on his way back to the Hejaz to report to his father, who will meet him at Jeddah, the results of his mission to London. His Highness appears very satisfied with what he has been able to obtain so far from the British Government, who, he admits, have agreed to the maximum which present circumstances render possible. In several interviews he has freely testified to his feelings of friendship towards Great Britain, and the gratitude of his nation for what England has done for them, even so far.

Zaghloul Pasha and the Cabinet.

There is no definite change to report in connection with the political situation. Zaghloul Pasha, who has been the guest of the Native and Mixed Bars, the Ulema and the representative bodies, and who continues to receive deputations almost daily, has made numerous speeches, but none of them has thrown any more light on the progress of the conversations and the attitude he is taking up. As a matter of fact, conversations between him and Adly Pasha have, I understand, made considerable progress, and at the time of writing the prospect of an agreement is far more promising than has been the case hitherto. The only point which seems likely to give rise to difficulty is the question of the presidency of the official Delegation. Zaghloul Pasha claims that position and the right to nominate the majority of the Delegation. On the other hand, the Cabinet claims, and very rightly too, that this is a political question, and as the Cabinet is responsible, the negotiations must be carried out under the direction of its head. If a hitch takes place in this connection it will be solely due to Zaghloul Pasha's having once again allowed personal considerations to influence him.

Admirable Police Display.

One of the most interesting spectacles of its kind given of recent years was held on Thursday last on the Manshia Parade Ground at the Citadel. It was the occasion of the display of the Cairo City Police and Fire Brigade, an annual feature of the pre-war winter season which had been suspended since 1914. The City Police were represented by the Mounted Troop, whose musical ride was excellently carried out and who gave a most wonderful exhibition of tent-pegging and skill at arms. The Fire Brigade gave a very graphic demonstration of the work they are called upon to do and the manner in which it is done, and all that one can say is that, having seen this display, it is now easy to understand why fires in Cairo are so quickly got in hand, and how the Cairo Fire Brigade has obtained an almost world-wide reputation for efficiency. The display was attended by the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby, the Ministers, and many European residents and Egyptians. Russell Bey, the Commandant of the City Police, and Bimbashi Blake, the head of the Cairo Fire Brigade, are certainly to be congratulated on the excellent manner in which everything was carried out.

The Willcocks Libel Case.

What one hopes will prove to be the last stage in the irrigation controversy took place on Saturday at the British Consular Court, when Sir William Willcocks's case came up for sentence. Judge Grain, who had originally postponed judgment in the hope that the case against Col. Kennedy might be dealt with in the meantime, and in order to have time to consider his decision, announced that although Col. Kennedy's case could not

yet be taken, he must deal with the present one, as he was himself shortly leaving the country. In delivering sentence he emphasised the seriousness of the charges on which Sir William Willcocks had been found guilty, the very serious trouble he had caused the officials of the Ministry of Public Works and the fact that his criticisms and activities had cost Egypt the very substantial sum of £E400,000. In the circumstances he felt he would have been fully justified in passing a very severe sentence on Sir William Willcocks, but, taking into consideration the fact that he is no longer a young man, and that he is obviously obsessed with the correctness of his statements, which nothing will convince him are wrong, Judge Grain said he had to come to the conclusion that the proper course for him to take would be for him to bind over Sir William Willcocks to be of good behaviour for one year. He explained to Sir William that if he in any way repeated the libellous statements during this period he would forthwith be called up for sentence, which would be passed upon him according to the note that Judge Grain would leave for his successor before he left Egypt to take up his new appointment; moreover, if Sir William, even after the expiration of that year, was guilty of behaviour which the authorities regarded as unsatisfactory, he could be at once deported. By arrangement with the Crown, the judge made no order for costs.

CAIRO, April 24.

The Crown Prince of Japan only remained in Egypt three days, but during that time he put in a tremendous lot of sight-seeing. During his stay in Cairo he was the guest of the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby at the Residency, where on Tuesday afternoon there was a garden party, to which the Diplomatic Corps and the Ministers were invited, and in the evening a banquet in his honour. His Imperial Highness also called on the Sultan, who shortly afterwards returned the compliment at the Residency. He visited the Pyramids and the Sporting Club in the company of the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby, and was shown over the Museum and the Sultania Library by the Ministers of Public Works and Education.

The Political Situation.

It is exceedingly difficult at the present juncture to express any opinion on the political situation; for we appear once again to have come to a critical point. After publicly stating his conditions in the course of a series of banquets at the beginning of the week—conditions in regard to which, since to a great extent they constituted part of the Cabinet's own programme, there was no difficulty in coming to an agreement—Zaghloul Pasha yesterday made the definite announcement that the presidency of the official delegation and the nomination of the majority of its members must be in the hands of his delegation, and that unless this were accepted he would not co-operate with the Cabinet. The Cabinet's point of view is that it is responsible for the direction of the political affairs of the country, and that as the negotiations come under this heading the presidency of the official delegation cannot be in any other hands than those of the head of the Government. Constitutionally the Cabinet is quite right. It would, however, be a thousand pities if on what is a personal question disagreement should take place when agreement has been come to on relatively far more important questions, and thus the much-desired union of the people be threatened.

It is in the interest of the country that some compromise should be made, so that the Egyptian Delegation and the Cabinet can co-operate. The unfortunate thing is that Zaghloul Pasha has once again forced the issue, and that he has made it exceedingly difficult to make a compromise on this point without loss of dignity to the Cabinet. How the country will go if the Cabinet declares that in the circumstances it will carry out the negotiations alone it is impossible to say, but one thing can be clearly foreseen, and that is that if it is forced

into the position where it has to carry on these negotiations alone we must in the very nature of things expect difficulties to arise when the time comes to obtain a ratification of the treaty negotiated in London without the co-operation of the Egyptian Delegation.

The British Union in Egypt.

The proposal for the formation of a British Union in Egypt, the objects of which were explained about a fortnight ago, was brought before the British community on Wednesday last at a meeting held at the Continental Hotel. There was a very large and representative gathering of members of the community, to whom the idea appeared to have appealed very strongly. The meeting unanimously approved of the objects of the Union, of its affiliation to the British Empire Union, and of the subscription being fixed at £1. Subsequently by a ballot twelve members were elected to the Executive Committee, with Mr. W. E. Kingsford as Chairman and Mr. A. H. Hooker as Vice-Chairman. It transpired during the meeting that Government officials, although British subjects, cannot join the Union, which, however, would be prepared, according to the Chairman, to take up their cases if it was considered to be in the public interest.

The British Union, which is a most praiseworthy departure deserving of the fullest support from the British community, has, therefore, now been launched on its career, which every Briton hopes will be a successful one. Unfortunately, one or two criticisms have already been voiced, criticisms which are all the more regrettable since a little more forethought and certainly a little more explanation in the Chairman's speech could have prevented them. The first criticism relates to the ineligibility of British subjects who are in the service of the Egyptian Government. There may be special reasons why, under the present régime, they cannot be allowed to join the Union. The latter has, however, been formed primarily to deal with the situation which may arise under the new régime, to be introduced when the Anglo-Egyptian agreement has been ratified. Under that new régime the status of British officials will surely have changed in that they will no longer be servants of a Government controlled by the British Government, and, therefore, bound by disciplinary rules applying to servants of the Crown, but will be servants of an independent foreign State. It is, therefore, difficult to see how there could be any objection to their being members of the Union when the new régime comes into operation. It is, moreover, somewhat regrettable that this point should not have been made clear at the very outset; for quite an appreciable portion of those present were Government officials and members of the Army. Most of these voted on resolutions put to the meeting, and, in view of the statement that they cannot be members, the question which naturally presents itself to one's mind is whether in those circumstances they were entitled to a vote and whether the resolutions passed are legally binding.

One other point which has given rise to criticism is the question of subscription. This has been fixed at £1. Now, the Chairman, in his speech, very rightly said that it was desired that the Union should be as representative as possible. It is, however, to be feared that the fixing of the subscription at this relatively high figure will restrict the membership, for there are many members of the British community who, with small fixed incomes, could not afford this addition to the calls already made on them, but who could certainly afford a nominal subscription fee. Since there is a donation fund there is no reason why a nominal subscription of, say, 5s. should not be fixed, and why it should not be left to those members of the British community who are more fortunately situated to make an annual donation in addition; alternatively, it might be possible, as in the case of similar unions and institutes in England, to establish various grades of membership, such as associates at, say, 5s., full members at, say, £1, etc. Unless something on some such lines as these is adopted it is to be feared that the Union will not be of the required representative character; nor will it have the funds, without which it cannot work satisfactorily.

In recording these criticisms, I should like it clearly to be understood that I write in no spirit of antagonism either to the Union itself or to those gentlemen to whose public spirit its inception is entirely due. It is the duty of a correspondent to give publicity to the views of the public, and I do this all the more readily in this instance because I feel that the criticisms are for the good of the cause.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, April 18.

M. Drashkovitch Resigns.

To the regret of nearly everybody, M. Milorad Drashkovitch, Minister of the Interior, after making his sensational disclosures on the Communist plot, resigned his portfolio on the grounds of ill-health. He has made himself widely respected since he first accepted the portfolio of Communications in Dr. Davidovitch's Democrat Government in 1919, and his loss is a severe one for the party and for the Government.

The vacancy in the Cabinet caused by the resignation of M. Milorad Drashkovitch from the Ministry of the Interior has been filled up. M. Svetozar Pribitchevitch takes over his portfolio, which, it will be remembered, this strong politician held in the Democrat Government of eighteen months ago. This left the portfolio of Education empty, to be taken by Dr. Davidovitch, the former Democrat Premier, who returns to an old duty.

There is a noticeable tendency on the part of the Government's supporters to press on with the work of the constitution without waste of time. There are but few speakers, and they are commendably brief; only the Opposition tries to drag out time. Dr. Koroshets, Slovene Clericals are as angry as the Narodni Club, but neither is a strong party. Dr. Koroshets maintains that the draft constitution is in opposition to the Declaration of Corfu, the address of the National Council which led to the union, and the reply of the Regent to the address; and he threatens to withdraw. Raditch is still expected to come to Belgrade, and there are suggestions of a union of Raditch with Dr. Koroshets and the Narodni Club to form an Opposition *bloc*, which perhaps M. Protitch will lead.

An Interesting Ceremony.

It is announced that in May the Crown Prince Regent will be present at the ceremony of returning the remains of Vladika Petar II. of Montenegro to the Lovchen. Petar II., who was uncle of Danilo I., the first lay prince of Montenegro, and, in his turn, uncle of the late ex-King, was not only perhaps the greatest of the long dynasty of capable rulers which the House of Petrovitch-Niegush produced, but admittedly one of the finest of Serbian poets. His "Gorski Vijenats" (the "Mountain Garland") is a classic. Unfortunately, it hardly lends itself to translation, and is so full of local and peculiar expressions and colour that modern Serbs themselves almost require a commentary to read it with. There is a famous quotation in the preface where, speaking half-apologetically for the diminutive size of his realm, which in those days was the only free Serbian unit, he pleads that out of a small copse you can hardly expect a lion to emerge, but if one comes out of a large forest there is no marvel in the matter. On his death he was buried, at his own desire, in a tiny chapel built for his tomb on the very summit of the Lovchen, so that even in his grave he might watch over the destinies of his beloved people. The little chapel is so tiny that it is not visible from any distance, although the actual tip of the Lovchen is only a few metres in extent; but from here the traveller commands a tremendous and inspiring panorama over the Adriatic to Italy on one side, while the imposing fords of the Bocche of Cattaro are at his feet. When the Austrians, by stealth or by treachery, took the Lovchen, they removed the remains of the Vladika; but now he will be restored to his resting-place, and once more the Montenegrins will feel that their beloved "Vladika Rade" is watching over them.

War Echoes.

It takes a long time to restore to their homes the hundreds of thousands of wanderers scattered by the war. A credit has just been granted for the return of

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the last remaining Yugoslavs who still linger in Siberia, and who, it is hoped, will soon be returned to their homes. This is not all, for only now has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs succeeded in completing the necessary arrangements for the return to Serbia from Bulgaria, Austria, Hungary, and Germany of children who were taken away during the enemy occupation. Up to the present 125 such children have been found, but it is known that there are many more. It is such action as this that makes racial hatred so bitter in the south-east of Europe.

General News.

It is reported from Rome that the Pope has consented to allow the Epistles and Evangelists to be sung in Croatian, and that a Slavonic ritual be introduced in all Roman Catholic churches in Yugoslavia.

Zagreb always prides itself on being a more European city than Belgrade. To-day it looks more European than ever, or more London-like. The visitor wonders at first what strikes him as so familiar, till he recognises a typical London "bobby" at a street corner. For during the last few weeks a consignment of English policemen's helmets has arrived, and the police of Zagreb are to-day equipped with them. If one took away the red piping from their overcoats and gave them a truncheon instead of a bayonet, one could imagine oneself in London. But at night they carry rifles and their bayonets are not in the scabbard.

GREECE.

ATHENS, April 23.

The Military Situation in Asia Minor.

The Sub-Chief of Staff, Brigadier-General Stratigos, who has just returned from a visit to the Asia Minor front, has submitted a long report to the Minister of War with regard to the actual military situation. The general says that in view of the many changes which have recently taken place in the military condition of the enemy immediate action is necessary. The conventions concluded with the Bolsheviks and the French have enabled the Turks to bring up considerable reinforcements from the Caucasus and Cilicia, while the assistance afforded to Kemal at the London Conference by certain of Greece's Allies has greatly increased the *moral* of his troops. The plan of the Greek High Command was both laid out and executed well. There has been no defeat at Eskishehir, but merely a check. The information in the hands of the Greek staff was correct in every respect, with the exception of that concerning the *moral* of the Turk, which was raised by the Allies in London. The attack, the occupation, and, finally, the evacuation of Afion Karahissar were justified. Smyrna ought to be protected, the enemy forces in that sector dispersed, and the communications with Konia destroyed. To retain Afion Karahissar would have been an unpardonable mistake, seeing that the Greeks did not aim at territorial conquests. The operations at Eskishehir were likewise justified, in spite of the fact that the Greek forces were numerically insufficient to bring this enterprise to a successful issue. The enemy suffered serious losses and the Hellenic forces retired, realising that these operations would require enormous sacrifices. The actual military situation is good, the *moral* of the troops is excellent, and Smyrna is well guarded.

Referring to eventual future operations, General Stratigos says: "We are facing a serious war, which will undoubtedly be victorious. But in order to secure ultimate success it is necessary that we should intensify our actions and act without delay."

Admiral Kerr's Visit.

The ex-chief of the British Naval Mission to Greece, Vice-Admiral Kerr, arrived in Athens last Wednesday. He was received at Piræus by a Greek naval officer representing the Minister of Marine. Certain Government papers attach great political importance to Admiral Kerr's visit, and are trying to convince us that he is entrusted with a special mission in connection with the war in Asia Minor and the recognition of King Constantine by the Allies. To the journalists, however, who visited him at the Hotel Grande Bretagne, where he is

staying, the Admiral declared that he had long since been on the retired list of the British Navy, and that as he was now travelling as a representative of big British firms, his presence in Athens was devoid of any political significance.

Admiral Kerr was received in audience by King Constantine on Thursday.

The Canonization of Gregory V.

A ceremony by which the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople, Gregory V., was proclaimed a saint of the Orthodox Greek Church was held at the Cathedral here on Thursday morning. The ceremony was performed by the Patriarch of Alexandria and the Metropolitan of Athens, assisted by fourteen Archbishops. The King, the Duke of Sparta, Princes Andrew and Christopher, and many State officials were present at the ceremony, which was of an exceptionally solemn character. Patriarch Gregory V. was hanged in Constantinople by the Turks in 1821 when the Greek revolution for independence broke out; and his body was then thrown into the Bosphorus, whence it was recovered by a Greek fishing boat and conveyed first to Odessa and thence to Athens in 1854.

The Greek Officers in Constantinople.

The Venizelist officers, who, fearing reprisals on the part of the Royalists, sought refuge in Constantinople after M. Venizelos' departure from Greece, have placed themselves at the disposal of the Greek Government, and declared that they were desirous of proceeding to the Asia Minor front. The services of these officers would undoubtedly be of great value to the Army in view of their wide experience acquired both on the Salonika front, where they had served with the National Defence forces, and in Asia Minor and Thrace last year. Despite this fact the Greek Government has not so far stated whether it accepts or not the patriotic offer.

News Items.

Press censorship will be introduced in Athens and the provinces next Monday (April 25).

The Minister of Interior has decided to reinforce the

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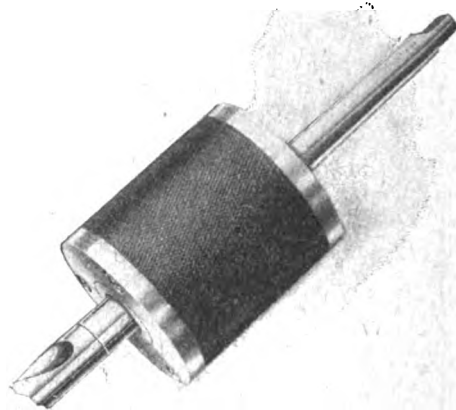
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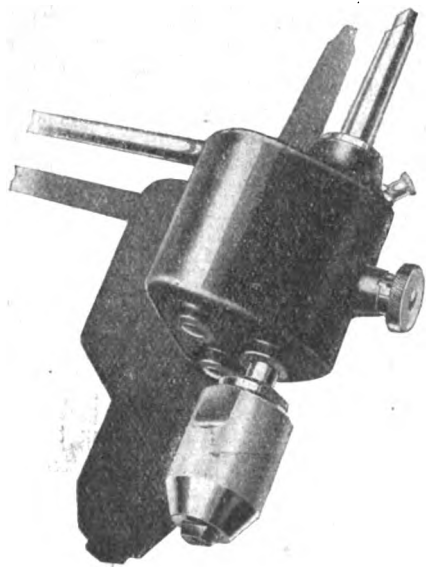
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police at Smyrna by eleven officers and 350 policemen.

A Royal Decree has been published by which the import from abroad of part worn blankets is prohibited.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, April 20.

Parliament.

The Agrarian Committee of the Chamber is still considering the Agrarian Reform Law, and several modifications have been agreed upon, notably one which provides that in densely populated districts the maximum estate to be left to any landowner will be of 100 hectares, irrespective of the number of his direct heirs—a consideration which in other cases is allowed. It may be remembered that at the present stage 450,000 hectares have still to be found to make up the total area designated by the Expropriation Law for distribution to the peasants. Though this law is undoubtedly destined to have excellent results in the future—and its far-seeing democratic tendency reflects great credit upon a governing class which voluntarily deprived itself of a large part of its landed property in order to provide for the needs of the peasantry—it will probably take some years for its beneficial effects to develop, owing partly to the abnormal economic conditions resulting from the world-war. On the one hand the financial difficulties of the Government have prevented its paying the landowners for the land expropriated; on the other the peasant who has received his parcel of land neglects to cultivate it because he finds that he can earn money more easily by carting timber or other produce into the towns, railway transport of goods having almost completely broken down and prices having risen up to a thousand per cent. In his present state the requirements of the peasant are few, and he is not naturally either very ambitious or very energetic; but as his education improves his ambition will no doubt increase; and it would, therefore, seem that one of the first objectives of the administration should now be the establishment of sufficient good schools in the villages, in order to provide a firm foundation for the re-establishment of the country on a progressively productive basis.

Suppression of Mendicancy.

An interesting measure came before the Senate this week for the suppression of vagabondage and begging, and the protection of children. It provides that all beggars capable of working shall be considered as delinquents and liable to sentences varying from five days' to one month's hard labour, either in special labour colonies to be founded for the purpose, or in the execution of works for the municipalities, such as road-making or the care of public gardens. It further provides that a relief bureau be established in every commune to procure work for the unemployed. Vagabonds and mendicants not able to work, including the aged and children under eighteen years of age, are to be placed under the charge of existing charitable institutions. Severe penalties are imposed for such contraventions of the law as the carrying of arms and the use of false identification papers, etc. This is a much-needed measure, and is sure to be warmly welcomed by the public; for at present the streets of Bucharest are infested with beggars of all descriptions, from strong men to miserable creatures whimperingly exposing their deformities or infirmities.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, April 20.

Political.

There have been no events of outstanding importance in the political world during the past few weeks, but on the 11th inst. the diplomatic representatives of Yugoslavia, Roumania, and Greece addressed a joint Note to the Bulgarian Government demanding that steps should be taken against the bands of *Komitajis*, which for some time, it was alleged, have been crossing the frontiers in different directions and causing disorders. The Note stated that the existence of these bands was known to

the Bulgarian Government, and was not being checked. The reply, delivered on the 13th, emphatically denied that these bands were tolerated by the Bulgarian Government, and asked for specific details as to the times and places of the occurrence of the alleged incidents. It also said that Bulgaria would welcome an international inquiry, to be conducted on the spot, and ended by reiterating previous expressions of the good faith of Bulgaria.

The Reparations Commission.

The Inter-Allied Commission of Reparations, on which Great Britain is represented by Sir Elliott Colvin, is now installed, and preliminary negotiations are on foot with regard to the fulfilment by Bulgaria of the financial clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly. A full council of Ministers was held on Monday, the 18th, and it is expected that the actual work of the Commission will begin early next month.

Whilst the Reparations Commission, of which I shall have more to say next week, is beginning its labours, the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control has fixed on May 31 as the probable date of its departure. This will affect General de Fourton, the chief of the Commission, and about thirty French, British, Italian, and Japanese officers.

Refugees from Macedonia.

On Sunday, the 17th, together with the correspondents of a French and an Italian journal, I went to Kustendil to see some Macedonian refugees. During the last few months several thousand Macedonians have fled from Serbia into Bulgaria, and at Kustendil we saw upwards of thirty families who had just come from Serbia. They all told the same tale—that at the elections a few months ago they were advised by local orators and politicians to vote for the Communist candidate on the ground that if he were elected they would gain all manner of benefits thereby. They, therefore, voted Communist, and as a result the Serbians burnt their houses and seized their goods. Thus bereft of all their worldly possessions, they fled to Bulgaria, and are now gradually spreading throughout the country. One could not help sympathising with their unhappy lot, but it is only fair to add that there were amongst them some men who had come to Bulgaria a few months back, presumably to evade service in the Serbian Army, and who are now protesting bitterly against their wives and families being left in Serbia. For these one could feel no pity.

All these refugees were dressed in their picturesque national costume, and one was struck by the magnificent physique of both sexes. It was interesting to note that all the refugees still pin their faith to an autonomous Macedonia, and, although they have fled to Bulgaria, do not wish to be incorporated in this country, in which

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there are to-day about a quarter of a million of them. Their ability to govern may be doubted, but one feels that such a people will in the long run come into its own. At present the Great Powers have their own houses to set in order, but the Macedonian Society in Bulgaria, which is still presided over by M. Karanjouloff, is very active in its endeavours to call the attention of the civilised world to the unhappy plight of its people.

The Prime Minister.

M. Stambolisky, the Prime Minister, has been in bad health lately, and after having so far recovered as to be able to attend the Council of Ministers on the 18th, has been again confined to his room owing to a severe attack of influenza. M. Turlakoff, Minister of Finance, is acting for him during his enforced absence.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 20.

The Return of Tewfik Pasha.

Although there is no doubt that now Tewfik Pasha has returned there must at least be a reshuffle of the Cabinet, nothing has yet been done in this direction. The resignations of Izzet and Salih Pashas immediately upon their return to Constantinople from Angora created a Cabinet crisis, which has only been postponed by their consenting to remain nominally in possession of their portfolios until the Grand Vizier's return. Izzet Pasha is credited in many quarters with the desire of becoming Grand Vizier himself, and it is probable that there is something in the rumour. In reality, however, the present crisis is interesting, not so much from the point of view of the possible composition of a new administration, but on account of the peculiar state of affairs in the interior. It must be remembered that the Nationalists have never given the slightest indication of having changed their views with regard to the Central Government's having no right to existence. The Angora Administration does not recognise the Sublime Porte as a Government, and studiously avoided addressing Tewfik Pasha as the Grand Vizier in the course of the correspondence exchanged prior to the departure of the two delegations for Europe. Nothing indicates that the situation has been changed in any way. Indeed, so far as can be gathered here the conduct of Bekir Sami Bey and the Anatolian delegates in London afforded ample corroboration of the Nationalist point of view towards Stamboul. Whether, as is reported in certain circles in Constantinople, Izzet Pasha was secretly nominated Governor of the "Province" of Constantinople before he left Angora or not, the fact remains that the Nationalists regard Constantinople and its neighbourhood merely as a province of Turkey temporarily under enemy occupation, but so far as possible under the jurisdiction of the Great National Assembly, like the rest of the country hitherto unoccupied. In these circumstances, the Constantinople Government must be either frankly hostile to the Nationalists or else of little more importance than a *liaison* between the capital and the Great National Assembly. By the exercise of the utmost tact and patience Tewfik Pasha has hitherto succeeded in steering a middle path, but how much longer will that be possible?

The War in Anatolia.

Turkish papers during the past week have been full of accounts of heavy fighting on the southern front during the retreat of the Greeks from Afion Karahissar. It would appear, however, that except at Turlu Punar and Banaz there was no fighting worth mentioning. According to the latest Turkish reports, the Greeks have been driven back from the two places mentioned to Ushak; and if this report be true, it would indicate that the Greeks have not yet sufficiently recovered to be able to make a stand except in those positions which they held before the commencement of the offensive, and which must be very strongly fortified. The Turlu Punar—Banaz positions are of considerable natural strength and afford a powerful preliminary line of defence for Ushak itself. It is inconceivable that these positions would have been voluntarily abandoned.

There is no doubt that a sharp fight occurred for the possession of the positions in question, and there is reason to believe that the Turkish report is true. For the rest, reinforcements are being rushed to the front by both sides, and another offensive by the Hellenes seems inevitable. Whatever the result, it is abundantly clear that the Anatolian question can never be definitely settled by the force of Hellenic arms. Would it not be wiser for the Greeks to recognise the fact without shedding any more blood and spending any more money? As the *Orient News* remarked yesterday anent the abandonment of the scheme for the reconstruction of Salonika, if the Greeks invested their millions in Salonika instead of throwing them away in Anatolia they would get a quicker and much better return for their money.

Requiem.

The overwhelming sympathy of the great majority of the Turkish nation with the Nationalists has been amply demonstrated during the last ten days, during which several requiem services have been held in one or other of the great Mosques in Stamboul. One of the most important of these ceremonies was held on the 15th inst., in the Mosque of Aya Sofia, by command of the Sultan. The proceedings were of a very impressive nature, and it is estimated that no fewer than twenty-five thousand people actually obtained access to the building, while many thousands were unable to find accommodation. On Monday a similar ceremony was held at the Fatih Mosque, when similar scenes were witnessed. There can be no doubt that a kind of revival is developing in the Islamic world; and it may be fraught with far-reaching results, the nature of which will depend to a great extent upon how European statesmen handle the situation. The lamentably weak and vacillating policy that has characterised the proceedings of the councils of Europe during the last two or three years, at all events, will inevitably bring about a very dangerous state of affairs.

The Russians.

Some ten thousand Russians have been repatriated to Russia so far, but there remain at least another fifty thousand. The French Government is anxious to be rid of them, but it is difficult to see how it is to be done in a short period. It is all very well to say, "No more relief after such and such a date!" But who prevented Mr. Lloyd George from carrying out his plan for obtaining an amnesty last year in order that the Crimean adventure might be wound up? Who is responsible for the presence of the Russians in Constantinople at all? Those responsibilities cannot be lightly ignored just because there is a different Administration in France to-day. Every Administration inherits the responsibilities of its predecessor, and must either maintain them or wind them up satisfactorily. When the British refused to have anything further to do with the South Russian venture, French papers wrote of us with the traditional "nation of shopkeepers" taunt, but events have proved that Mr. Lloyd George was absolutely correct in his forecast. The sudden recognition of the South Russian Government by the French without so much as informing the British Government even twelve hours beforehand was a profound error, which has cost the French Treasury very dear; and the full consequences of that ill-advised action cannot be so easily avoided.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, April 18.

The Centenary Celebrations.

The preliminary celebrations have passed, but not without untoward incidents at Nicosia. The Greek community, wishing to conform as far as possible to the programme adopted at Athens, decided to confine the public functions to a Doxology in the church and the crowning of the statue of the martyred Archbishop Kyprianos, and to postpone to April 25 (O.S.) the further festivities. The arrangements, however, included processions with flags through the streets, to which the Government very

wisely objected, as likely to provoke ill-feeling, especially in Turkish quarters, and possible breaches of the peace. The High Commissioner therefore intimated to the Archbishop that it was undesirable that any such processions should take place, and that Greek airs were not to be played in the streets. The Commissioner (Provost-Martial) and the Chief Commandant of Police also called to the office of the former the Mayor, the Greek Members of Council, and a leading citizen, and conveyed to them the Government orders on the subject. A new programme was thereupon made out.

On Wednesday morning (April 6) at a gathering in the Pan-Cypriot Gymnasium the director explained the orders, and told the students to go quietly to their homes. In spite of this a number of youths and boys organised a procession and marched out with small flags, in contravention of the orders. The Commissioner and Police Commandant, being informed of this, at once proceeded to the spot and ordered the boys to disperse. The order was disobeyed, and it was not until police arrived and a Greek member of Council, M. Theodótou, had spoken seriously to them that they took back their flags and broke up. In the afternoon the Commissioner and C.C. Police summoned the Director of the Gymnasium and the Greek members of Council, and recommended that the ringleaders should be severely punished, the punishment to include confinement in the school for an hour after close of studies for some time to come. Later, the Archbishop was called to the Commissioner's office and was directed that in the proceedings of the following day (March 25), April 7, mortar salutes were forbidden, that the band was not to play in the streets, and that the people could not be allowed to assemble in the open space near the Archbishop's Palace, but must collect inside its enclosure. Other precautions included the closing of all places licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors from Wednesday evening to noon Thursday.

Next day, Thursday (April 7), resolutions were passed in favour of "union," to be forwarded, as usual, to the High Commissioner for transmission to the Secretary of State. At 10 a.m., at a Doxology at the Church of Phaneroméne, the Archbishop officiated, and the Hellenic Consul, the Mayor, Members of Council, and other leading Greeks were present. After a speech by M. Theodótou, a resolution was passed protesting against the Government orders, as being uncalled for and "unworthy of a civilised Government." This also was sent to the High Commissioner with the same object. The crowd then proceeded to the Archbishopric, and, according to directions, passed into the enclosure and garden of the palace. But proceedings had scarcely commenced there when processions with flags began to arrive from various directions. These had to be dispersed or shepherded into the enclosure. The proceedings included a long address by the Archbishop, a speech by an Australian now visiting Cyprus, and a recitation by the poet, M. Perdios. The people then dispersed; but meantime a large procession with flags was encountered marching in defiance of police orders, and scenes of disorder ensued. This would probably have had serious consequences had not the Abbot of Kykkou, the Greek judge, M. Demetrios, and others arrived on the scene, and persuaded the demonstrators to hand in the flags at a Greek club close by and break up. Several persons were arrested and will be dealt with by court martial.

Congratulatory telegrams were despatched to King Constantine, expressing the hope that all Hellenic communities would attain to freedom under his rule. The Archbishop has written to the High Commissioner, protesting against his having been summoned to the Commissioner's office, as a violation of customary etiquette in conveying communications.

With regard to the draft law in respect of the Press and the publication of seditious matter, the "Central Committee" of union met, and, after discussion with journalists, decided to submit a memorial on the subject to the British Government and British Press.

Some of those summoned before the court martial have been sentenced to terms of imprisonment from six to nine months.

ALBANIA.

DURAZZO, April 17.

Parliament.

Scutari (Shkodra) has not yet elected its deputies, owing to the uncertainty regarding the exact numbers of the Catholics and the Mohammedans, and consequently as to the number of deputies to which each community is entitled. This uncertainty is due to the lack of a census, the Turks having never taken one, and Albania having had no time to do so since she has been independent.

As a result of this delay it is expected that the opening of Parliament will not take place on April 21, as was anticipated, but will have to be postponed. It must be made clear that this difficulty at Scutari is not due to any struggle of a religious character. Moreover, it is worth adding, here in Albania great astonishment has been caused by the announcement made in some European papers—including some in England—that the elections had resulted favourably to the Essadist Party—that is to say, to the reactionaries. The contrary is the truth. Among the sixty deputies thus far elected there is not a single adherent of the late Essad Pasha, and more than two-thirds of these deputies belong to the Nationalist Party, so that the Parliament will represent the progressive and patriotic elements of the country.

Oil.

Colonel C. L. W. Wallace and Major J. S. Barnes have spent some two weeks in Albania. It is understood that they came from London in order to enter into negotiations with the Albanian Government regarding prospecting for oil and undertaking trial borings on behalf of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. There is talk of the possibility of rich supplies of petroleum in the country; but, of course, such talk is not necessarily well informed. Messrs. Wallace and Barnes are reported to have come to some kind of arrangement with the Tirana Government; but there are rumours of other concerns, which had got wind of the negotiations, having recently made certain proposals. In this connection two companies are mentioned, of which one is American.

Foreign Representatives.

M. Béguin Bilcoq, French Consul, is already in Albania, but at Scutari, not Tirana. He was Consul at Scutari in 1915, and has just resumed his duties. The Albanian authorities are surprised by the appointment of a Consul who does not present his credentials and keeps away from the centre of Government. It may be added that at the present time there are two agents of Serbia (one at Kortcha, the other at Scutari) who reside in Albania without any official recognition on the part of the Government of the country. There are also three Italian Consuls—at Valona, Durazzo, and Scutari—besides M. Castoldi, who bears the title of Minister, and has resided at the Italian Legation, Durazzo. In August, 1920, he was notified that the Albanian Government would no longer recognise the title of High Commissioner, which he had borne up till then.

Albanians and Serbians.

The Yugoslav authorities are reported to be taking more and more drastic measures against the Albanians of Kossovo, and it is even said that within the last few months more than 2,000 Albanians have met with violent deaths, and more than thirty villages have been plundered or destroyed. Many Albanians have abandoned their homes and fled into Albanian territory. The Yugoslav Government has announced that the families of Albanians who have thus fled will be interned and their property confiscated. The refugees have telegraphed protests to the League of Nations.

Negotiations with Italy.

The Albanian Commission, headed by Tef Zurani, Minister of Finances, continues the negotiations with the Consulta in Rome. It wishes to bring about certain commercial and financial agreements between Italy and Albania, but the negotiations drag somewhat badly by reason of the Italian demands being excessive and the Albanians being, perhaps, rather intransigent.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

The London String Quartet.

The London String Quartet has succeeded too well. From Scandinavia to the South Sea Islands it has been hailed for what it might well have been, the finest quartet in the world. But this foreign success has not meant improvement. One of their greatest virtues used to lie in their tone, but this has now become coarsened and uncertain—the result of added vigour in the first and second violins. During the past week at the Æolian Hall they played in chronological order Beethoven's seventeen quartets, and, while there were often a beautiful finish to their playing and always a strict regard for the composer's directions, their interpretations were less moving than one had hoped and, in fact, expected they would be. They are still in some ways unique, but it will be a thousand pities if they allow popular success or routine permanently to impair their inherent excellence.

The Sevcik Quartet.

This Bohemian Quartet has now appeared three times at the concerts of the London Chamber Concert Society, and the judgment of the discerning has gone against them. For it is only in their own native music—Dvorak, Novak, and so on—that they excel; in stuff which is more refined or different spiritually, their rough, brusque rhythm avails them nothing, and only does violence to the text. Thinness and imperfect finish marred Cesar Franch's quartet in D major; heavy clumsiness in Arnold Bax's quartet in G major almost hid this composer's extreme sensitiveness; and the Sevcik's playing of the accompaniment which Goossens has given to the songs "Melancholy" and "Philomel" made one very seriously doubt their musicianship, so painfully erratic was their intonation, and so little sensible of the singer's existence did they seem. We have in England quartets better than this, and I do not think the Sevcik Quartet will leave this country with greatly enhanced reputation.

A Fine Violinist.

Although I was able to hear Mr. Laurance Turner only in Arnold Bax's Sonata in E major, with which he began his recital at the Wigmore Hall on April 27, I do not doubt that he will make a big reputation. He had in this sonata the very great advantage of Miss Harriet Cohen's piano-forte playing, and the joint performance was a fine one. His tone is rich and full, his technique considerable, and his insight remarkably vivid. A certain emotional ebullience he will probably in the course of time subdue, but already his sincerity and perceptiveness mark out a future for him. Of this sonata the first movement is too long, it meanders overmuch into by-paths; but the second and third are full of beauty. The main theme, which appears in both the first and last movements (and which, incidentally, is very similar to the beginning of Bax's song, "Far in a Western Brookland"), is very appealing.

Some Singers.

Recently at the Queen's Hall, M. Dimitri Smirnoff, a famous Russian tenor, has given two recitals; but, although I unfortunately was able to listen only to part of his second on April 28, I should imagine that he is living rather on his reputation than up to it. Probably he is far better in opera than on the concert platform, for his mannerisms seem rather the result of habit than the inevitable evidence of personality. He pulled the house down with his final "jamais" in Raoul Gunsbourg's "Le Moment qui passe," but any of our ballad singers on any Saturday afternoon can do that. His voice is a powerful one, fairly well under control, but his musical sense did not seem to me particularly refined—in Tchaikovsky's "At the Ball," for instance, he held up the impulse and dallied with the rhythm in order to make temporary side effects—and it appeared that he thought in notes rather than in phrases. But, as I say, I heard him only in half a dozen songs; and his audience certainly liked him very much.

In Miss Grace Tootell's programme at the Æolian Hall on April 25, there was a pretty choice of song, for it contained some old English songs, scrupulously arranged by Dolmetsch, some Purcell, Schubert, and Brahms (including "Mädchenfluch," which is from an old Serbian folk-song), some old and modern French, and, finally, an English group. Her voice is not strong, and, indeed, loses

in quality where vigour is needed, but she has a certain reticent charm that unfortunately was not supported by the memorised efforts of her accompanist, Miss Nem Cooper. Her French accent, as shown in Fauré's "Aurore" and in Duparc's "Chanson Triste," was a good deal better than her Irish brogue, as attempted in Stanford's "Cutting Rushes."

It is not fair to judge a singer from her singing of a few songs, especially when those songs are probably the weakest in the programme. Yet I could not honestly say that when Miss Ilma Marx, at the Æolian Hall on April 27, sang two songs of J. D. Davis, "Good-Night" and "Autumn," she gave much evidence either of vocal ability or of a knowledge of the worth of music. There was more value in the violin playing of Miss Dorothy Brook, whose playing of slight things of Glazounov, Gossec, and Dvorak-Kreisler was rhythmically good, if uncertain in intonation. But for some inexplicable reason her *rubato* was not understood by Mr. O'Connor Morris, usually a very reliable accompanist, so that many of his efforts came well after the fair.

ANDANTE.

EARLY CHRONOLOGY OF SUMER AND EGYPT.

On April 27 Professor S. Langdon delivered a lecture on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Society at the Royal Society's rooms at Burlington House on "The Early Chronology of Sumer and Egypt, and the Similarities of their Culture." The chair was taken by Lord Carnarvon, who has just returned from Egypt, and gave a few interesting details of recent excavation work carried out there.

Professor Langdon said that the ancient people commonly known as the Egyptians were not the first civilised people on the banks of the Nile, but they were preceded by an Asiatic people who were probably Sumerians or Elamites. These two Asiatic peoples are now known to have belonged to the same race, and they founded the first organised societies known to history, on the shores of the Persian Gulf and in Elam, in the Stone Age. The Sumerians, the most talented branch of a widely-spread race, spoke a highly organised agglutinative speech. They are found in prehistoric levels from the head of the Persian Gulf northwards along the banks of the Euphrates and the Tigris as far as Assur, north of the Lower Zab, and in Russian Turkestan. Recently discovered dynastic tablets established the date of the earliest kingdoms of Mesopotamia as early as 5,000 B.C. At that time the Semites had already invaded the Mesopotamian valley and established themselves in the region of Baghdad. The history of ancient Babylonia consists of two rival kingdoms, Sumer in the south, whose principal capital was Erech, and Kish in the north, whose principal capital from 5000-2900 was at Kish.

The earliest Sumerian culture is strikingly similar to that of prehistoric Egypt; it must be assumed that a branch of this people occupied Upper Egypt in the region of Abydos and Hierakonpolis as early as 5000 B.C. The Sumerian linear pictographic writing is clearly revealed in the Egyptian pottery markings which preceded the Egyptian hieroglyphs. This writing is known to have been well developed in Sumer, or ancient Chaldea, before 3800, and the prehistoric Egyptian linear style cannot be much later. The Sumerians and Elamites appear to have reached Egypt by sea routes, trading and adventuring along the coasts of Southern Arabia until they reached Punt, Ethiopia, and finally the Nile valley in the region of Koptos. All of their prehistoric remains have been found in Upper Egypt, principally at Abydos and Naghada.

They brought with them into Egypt the cylinder seal, the mace head, and a style of decoration in stone which is characteristic of Sumerian art. The characteristic features of this remarkable people were: a long head, of large brain capacity; a thin high nose, which joined the cranium without depression; a slightly receding forehead, and eyes whose axes are not horizontal but slant slightly outward. The position of the axis of the eye is precisely the reverse of the Mongolian type. It is possible to discern in their prehistoric tomb paintings in Egypt the same physical characteristics. They disappeared in Egypt some time before the first Egyptian Dynasty founded by Menes, and were superseded by an African people who amalgamated with Semitic races from Asia. This new race invented their own system of writing, which developed into the classical hieroglyph. The older Sumerian linear style appears to have been used in Egypt without intelligence even by the Sumerian-Egyptians themselves. It was probably never understood in Egypt, and the signs survived only as occult marks on pottery after the older Asiatic peoples had disappeared.

The religion of the Egyptians is obviously related to the Sumerian, and there is no Semitic influence in the fundamental religious concepts of the ancient religions of Babylonia and Egypt. The names of the gods in both pantheons do not reveal a single Semitic name. It is probable that the great cults of Tammuz and Osiris are the creations of two branches of the same people, that of Osiris being inherited by the Egyptians from the older Asiatic people.

Mr. Langdon attempted to fix the beginning of the First Egyptian Dynasty by comparing the methods of year dating of the famous Semitic Emperor Naram-sin (2795-2739 B.C.) with those of Egypt. He argued that Naram-sin borrowed his system of year-dating from Egypt, and showed that this could have taken place only after Den, fifth king of the First Dynasty. He also argued from archaeology to make Naram-sin a contemporary of the last two kings of the Second Egyptian Dynasty. He arrived by these two methods at a date circa 3200 for Menes.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"GLIMPSES OF BENGAL, SELECTED FROM LETTERS OF SIR RABINDRANATH TAGORE." (London: Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)
- II.—"A MOSLEM SEEKER AFTER GOD." By Samuel M. Zwemer. (New York and London: Fleming H. Revel Company. 12s. 6d. net.)

I.—THE CHARM OF RURAL BENGAL.

Sir Rabindranath Tagore has done well to publish a series of letters addressed to intimate friends during his prolonged tours in Lower Bengal. They date back to the concluding decades of last century, when the distinguished poet had not achieved the glory and penalties of fame; and reproduce the atmosphere of rural Bengal with marvellous fidelity. Most poets find inspiration in mountain scenery; Sir Rabindranath's plastic mind responded to the call of the vast Gangetic Delta, which occupies 390,000 square miles of the globe's surface. "Goethe," he wrote, "wanted more light on his death-bed."

If I have any desire left at all at such a time it will be for "more space" as well; for I dearly love both light and space. Many despise Bengal as being only a flat country; but that is just what makes me revel in its scenery. Its unobstructed sky is filled to the brim, like an amethyst cup, with the descending twilight and peace of the evening; and the golden skirt of the still, silent noonday spreads over all without let or hindrance. Where is there another such country for the eye to look on, the mind to take in?

A poet would find small difficulty in turning many of Sir Rabindra's word-pictures into flowing verse. Witness the following description of a tropical storm:—

Heavy clouds rose in the west. They came up black, tumbled, and tattered, with streaks of lurid light showing through, here and there. Then came an angry roar. Torn-off scraps of cloud hurried up, like panting messengers of evil tidings. Finally, lightning and thunder, rain and storm, came on together, and executed a mad Dervish dance. The bamboo clumps seemed to howl as the raging wind lashed the ground with them, now to the east, now to the west. Over all the storm droned like a giant snake-charmer's pipe, and to its rhythm swayed hundreds of thousands of crested waves, like so many hooded snakes.

But etymology teaches us that the true poet is essentially a creator. In July, 1893, someone who lacked the divine fire opined otherwise in an Indian newspaper, moving our author to define the basis of the craft of which he is a past-master:—

All I have to say about the discussion which is going on over "silent poets" is that, although the strength of feeling may be the same in those who are silent and in those who are vocal, that has nothing to do with poetry. Poetry is not a matter of feeling, it is the creation of form. Ideas take shape by some hidden, subtle skill at work within the poet. This creative power is the origin of poetry. Perceptions, feelings, language—these are only raw material. One man may be gifted with feeling, a second with language, a third with both; but he alone is a poet who has creative genius as well.

In his golden prime Sir Rabindra was keenly appreciative of feminine beauty, and put forth a novel theory accounting for it, reminding one of Burns's distich:—"His 'prentice hand He tried on man, And then He made the lasses, O!"

For some time it has struck me that man is a rough-hewn and woman a finished product. There is an unbroken consistency in her manners, customs, speech, and adornment. The reason is that for ages Nature has assigned to her the same definite rôle, and has been adapting her to fulfil it. No cataclysm, no political revolution, no alteration of social ideal has yet diverted woman from her peculiar functions or destroyed their inter-relation. She has loved, tended, caressed, and done nothing else; and the exquisite skill which she has acquired in these permeates all her being and doing. Her disposition and action have become inseparably one, like the flower and its scent. . . . Woman was cast in the mould of Mother. Man has no such primal design to go by, and that is why he has been unable to rise to an equal perfection of beauty.

If woman's new-born political status should lessen her claim to be the fairer sex it will have been dearly bought.

A word of praise, in conclusion, for Sir Rabindra Tagore's translator, whose version of our poet's vernacular effusions adds greatly to the charm of a remarkable book.

F. H. S.

II.—A PERSIAN MYSTIC.

Our knowledge of other civilisations is derived from the great men who adorned them, and who soared high above their contemporaries as mountains dominate the surrounding plain. Islam has produced but four of such giants during the fourteen centuries of its troubled existence, and chief among them was Al Ghazali—scholar, philosopher, and saint. The eleventh century of our era, which witnessed his birth, was a period of decadence for the followers of the Prophet. The Abbaside Caliphate at Baghdad was

little more than a name; the militant fervour generated in Arabia had spent its force; Eastern Asia was a congeries of petty principalities, which collapsed on the impact of the Seljuk Turks. These nomads trampled civilisation under foot and added nothing to human culture; but they breathed new life into the dry bones of Islam. Fired by the Koran's militant precepts, they enforced its dogma with the convert's fiery zeal. Hitherto Christians from all parts of Europe had been allowed free access to the holy places of Palestine. Its conquest in 1176 by the Seljuk Turks gave the signal for wholesale massacres of these pilgrims. A cry of indignation rose from Christendom: its princes, soldiers, artificers and peasants set out to rescue the Holy Land from desecration. Thus originated the Crusades: their object was defeated by the Turkish hordes whose conquest of the Near East gave a new and disastrous trend to the world's history. In that era of stress and storm Al Ghazali's youth was spent. Born at Tus, the capital of Khorassan, in 1158, he received the best education available at the time. Before reaching the age of twenty he had mastered the principles of every known science and learnt the Koran by heart. Migrating to Nishapur, he studied the traditions under Imam Ma'Ali, on whose death in 1085 he sought advancement from Nizam-ul-Mulk, the all-powerful Vizier of Sultan Alp Arslan, who ruled Eastern Islam from Baghdad. Receiving the appointment of lecturer at the Nizamiyeh College, he soon attracted crowds of students. The ten years he spent at Baghdad were a period of intense literary activity. Treatises dealing with the entire range of learning flowed from his erudite pen, and everything seemed to promise a brilliant and lucrative career. It was shattered by a mysterious ailment which prostrated him for several months. Doubts began to assail him; he found no solace from theologians and philosophers: for a brief spell Al Ghazali was a thorough-going sceptic. At length, however, he found a haven of refuge in mysticism. He absorbed the Sufi doctrine which denies self and seeks union with God through eight stages of spiritual growth—generally stated as Service, Love, Abstraction, Knowledge, Ecstasy, Union and Extinction. But his vigorous intellect saved him from the pantheism and antinomianism to which so many Sufis succumb; he remained to the end a faithful follower of the Prophet. After conversion he found Baghdad too narrow a sphere for his new-born energies. In 1095 he abandoned home, fortune and friends, and set out on a journey which lasted nearly ten years, embracing Syria, Arabia and Egypt. In 1104 he returned to active life, and settled down at Tus, to spend the rest of his days in study. They were cut short by the austerities and hardships which he had endured. In 1111 A.D. he passed peacefully away at 53. Al Ghazali was a true Aryan in genius and creative power: extensive travel made him a cosmopolitan: and his learning was on a par with his capacity for imparting it to others.

It is a hopeful sign of the times that Asia should have cast its spell over many students in the United States, who regard the champions of an alien creed with sympathy and discernment. Of such is Professor Samuel Zwemer, lecturer in the Theological Seminary of New Brunswick, and the College of Missions at Indianapolis. He has given the world an illuminating biography of Al Ghazali, followed by an account of his teaching which enables Westerners to grasp the secret of his hero's immense influence. A bibliography and list of Al Ghazali's works are given in the appendix; only an index is lacking to render Professor Zwemer's book an exhaustive study of a truly great career.

F. H. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Diary of a Yeomanry M.O. (Egypt, Gallipoli, Palestine, and Italy)." By Captain O. Teichman, D.S.O., M.C. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 12s. 6d. net.)

"A Short History of Antioch." By E. S. Bouchier, M.A. (Oxford: Basil Blackwell. 12s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

May 5 (New Style).
 April 22 (Old Style).
 Shaaban 27, 1339 of the Moslem Calendar.
 Nisan 27, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Albert Stern has arrived in Paris from the Hôtel du Palais, Biarritz.

Sir Rennell and Lady Rodd are returning to London this week from Rome.

The Rev. S. M. Zwemer has left Egypt and will spend a short furlough in New York.

Monsieur Eustrate Gueshoff, son of the ex-Prime Minister of Bulgaria, has arrived in London from Sofia.

Lord and Lady Dawson of Penn and the Hon. Sybil Dawson arrived in London this week from Algiers.

Dr. Greig, the new Bishop of Gibraltar, is the guest of Lord Plumer at the Palace of San Antonio, Malta.

Earl Curzon of Kedleston has returned to town from Kedleston Hall, and is now much improved in health.

The Maharaja of Patiala has left London for Aix-les-Bains, and will return to London the beginning of June.

Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Ralph Verney have returned from India, and their present address is Botolph House, Winslow, Bucks.

The Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., and Lady Beatrice Ormsby-Gore spent the week-end with Lord and Lady Harlech.

M. Frederic Nano, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, and Madamo Nano have taken up their residence at 12, Hill Street, Rutland Gate.

The marriage of Richard Roy Maconachie, Indian Civil Service, and Miss Joan Lethbridge will take place at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on June 2.

Lord Reading is making a personal scrutiny of the proceedings in Punjab Courts-martial, with a view to exercising his prerogative of clemency where it is justified.

Prince Nicolas of Roumania, who has now returned to Eton, was entertained to luncheon on April 28 by M. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place in India, between Captain W. T. Bird, 30th Lancers, I.A., and Mary, only daughter of the late Surgeon-Major W. Parsons Feltham.

Major W. C. F. A. Wilson arrived in Busreh on March 20 from Baghdad, says the *Busrah Times*, to relieve Major G. V. B. Gillan, the Divisional Adviser, who was to proceed to England on leave.

Mr. T. A. Leach, Senior Inspector, Kordofan Province, has been transferred to the Red Sea Province, and Mr. R. K. Winter, Senior Inspector, of the latter province, goes to the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province.

Lieut.-Colonel Edgar Geer Russell, late I.M.S., of the East India United Service Club, St. James's Square, S.W., and Rattray House, Crimond, Aberdeen, who died on November 8 last, left £20,487.

Among wills recently proved was that of Mr. Thomas Watt Smith, of Victoria Road, Kensington, W., late Judge of the Punjab Chief Court, and author of a handbook of "Acts and Regulations for the Punjab," who left £32,616.

Major W. E. Marshall, M.C., M.B., R.A.M.C., Government Bacteriologist, left Khartoum, says the *Sudan Times*, on April 17 for Jeddah, to take up the appointment of Agent and Consul under the British Government.

Major-General Sir Charles Townshend has been appointed a member of the Committee of Honour charged with the arrangements for the Napoleonic Centenary. Mr. Winston Churchill is the other British member of the Committee.

Sir Ralph Percy Ashton, J.P., of Beechwood, Reigate, Surrey, and Orient House, New Broad Street, a partner in Kilburn and Co., Calcutta, and director of other companies, who was found dead on January 28, aged 61, has left £26,239.

Among wills recently proved was that of Mr. Arthur Phillips, of Ormonde House, Weston Road, Bath, formerly standing counsel to the Government of India and Secretary to the Legislative Council of the Government of India, who left £36,404.

The Rev. H. C. W. Allinson, formerly engaged in missionary work in Persia, and who for the past four years has held the curacy of Christ Church, Cockfosters, New Barnet, has been presented to the living of Holy Trinity, Sheerness, in succession to the Rev. H. B. Cartwright.

The following contributions have recently been made to the Pro-Jerusalem Society:—The Princess Edmond de Polignac, £E30; Sir Hugh Bell, 10 guineas; Mrs. Clowes, 10 guineas; Banco di Roma, £E25; Anonymous Donor from Japan, £E50; Mr. James de Rothschild, £50.

The Hon. A. D. Pickford, Acting Chief Commissioner for India, and Mr. J. S. Wilson, District Commissioner for Calcutta, who will arrive in England shortly, are to take a course of training at the Scoutmasters' training school at Gillwell Park, Chingford, Essex, with a view to recommending it in India.

The Duke of Connaught, who has been staying in the South of France since the conclusion of his mission to India, which he undertook in place of the Prince of Wales, arrived in London on April 30. He was accompanied by his daughter, Lady Patricia Ramsay, who had travelled with him from Paris.

The Emir Faisal, who was joined by his eldest brother, the Emir Ali, at Yambo, arrived at Jeddah on April 25, where his father, King Hussein, had come from Mecca to welcome him. The King and his sons were expected to proceed to the capital on April 27.

On Sunday, May 1, in honour of the Bulgarian Easter, the Bulgarian Minister and Madame Staneioff gave a reception at the Legation, entertaining all the members of the Bulgarian Colony and many English friends, among whom were:—Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Buxton, and the relatives of the late Mr. Bouchier.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Madrid on June 30, between Mr. Arthur F. H. Wiggin, Second Secretary, Diplomatic Service, attached to the Residency, Cairo, son of the late Mr. F. H. Wiggin, nephew of the fifth Lord Dynevor, and Señorita Maria del Carmen Vallin y Parrella; only child of Señor Cristobal Vallin, Spanish Minister at Belgrade.

The King has given permission to wear the following decorations conferred by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered:—

ORDER OF THE NILE.

Second Class.—Bt. Lieut.-Colonel M. H. Logan and R. H. Dun.

Third Class.—Bt. Lieut.-Colonel J. J. B. Tapley, D.S.O., Bt. Lieut.-Colonel T. B. Vandeleur, D.S.O., Major (T./Lieut.-Colonel) C. A. Barker, O.B.E., Major C. S. Northcote, Major H. F. O. Thwaites, M.C., N. G. Davidson, and S. A. Tippetts.

Mrs. Sarsfield-Hall, O.B.E., has recently returned to El-Obeid, Kordofan Province, Sudan, from Darfur. She was the first white woman to visit Darfur, which was only brought under administrative control a little over four years ago, and accompanied her husband as far as Kuttum, the headquarters of the northern district of the province, seventy miles north-west of Fasher. Kuttum is over 500 miles by horse or camel from railroad at El-Obeid, and lies within a few days' march of the spot where Lieut. Boyd Alexander was killed some years ago in attempting to reach the Nile from West Africa. Mrs. Sarsfield-Hall has returned to El-Obeid, as her husband has been transferred there from Darfur on appointment as Senior Inspector, Kordofan Province.

May 1 was Greek Easter Sunday, and at the Greek Church, Moscow Road, Bayswater, a special service in celebration was held. The interior of the church was decorated with flowers and the floor strewn with olive leaves. The Great Archimandrite, Dr. Pagonis, officiated, being assisted by the Archimandrite Agathangolas Moscovakis. There was a large congregation. Among those present were M. Rangabé, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, Madame Rangabé, the

personnel, and M. Boeresco, Minister Plenipotentiary and Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation. At the conclusion of the service the Archimandrites distributed Easter eggs to the congregation, and a collection was made on behalf of the Greek Benevolent Fund.

OBITUARY.

SIR JAMES DUNLOP SMITH.

Sir James Dunlop Smith, whose death we recorded briefly last week, was one of those servants whom India cannot easily spare. He had a distinguished career as an officer of the Punjab Commission, and we can recall the time when he was looked on as a future Lieutenant-Governor, but he was brought home to undertake the important and delicate duties of Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India, and he filled that post with remarkable ability for the remainder of his life. The Political A.D.C. may fairly be described as the liaison-officer between the India Office and the outside world, the Press and the public in this country, and a host of more or less distinguished visitors from India; the post is one in which mistakes are conspicuous and widely resented, while success does not come prominently before the public, and the best tribute that can be paid to Sir James Dunlop Smith is to say that, while the public at large knew but little of his activities, his official duties brought him hosts of friends. It would be ungenerous not to add some acknowledgment of his attitude to the Press throughout the war; the India Office, like other Departments, had often to be reticent in those days, but there are different types of reticence, and the type affected by Sir James was that which the public desired—a frank statement of what could be published, and an equally frank refusal of information which had to be withheld.

The death of General Branko Yovanovitch, the Serbian Minister for War and Marine, occurred suddenly last week in Belgrade, states Reuter. General Yovanovitch was an officer of great ability, who commanded the Serbian cavalry with notable success during the Great War. He was appointed Minister for War in February last year.

ENGLISH BOOKS FOR BELGRADE.

During last year the South Slav Entente Committee of the Royal Society of Literature sent to Belgrade University over 18,000 English standard books presented to the committee for the purpose. The cost of carriage to Belgrade was £150, of which £96 has been subscribed, and the committee is now asking for contributions towards the balance. They may be sent to the hon. secretary, Mrs. J. D. Ellis, at the Royal Society of Literature, 2, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1.

ECONOMY IN BELGRADE.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes:—With a view to economising stationery, an order has gone forth to all public departments which will produce consternation among the crusted members of the staff, and recalls our own Army Orders during the war, when envelopes were used over and over again, and other petty devices succeeded in bulk in effecting very great economies. It has hitherto been customary in public documents in Serbia for the paper to be folded down the middle and only the right-hand half used for the text. Now the whole of the sheet will be used, with only a narrow margin, and so at one stroke a very large economy will be brought about.

PUBLIC ART GALLERY IN INDIA.

The opening to the public of the picture gallery in Baroda, India, on March 23, was, says the *Morning Post*, an event of much interest, for it is the first public picture gallery in India. The collection of 188 paintings formed for it by Mr. Marion H. Spielmann is designed to give a general idea of the whole course and scope of European art since the Renaissance, and examples of different Schools include a number of admirable works. The Maharaja Gaekwar presided at the opening, and at his request the ceremony of unlocking the silver padlock was performed by Mrs. Blakeway, wife of Colonel Blakeway, the British Resident, after Mr. E. Rimbault Dibdin, who has organised and arranged the gallery, had given an account of the inception and progress of the enterprise. Significant evidence of the nature of the climate which the pictures have now to endure is supplied by the fact that, in order to have a comfortable temperature during the ceremony, the hour fixed was 8.30 a.m., and the rooms were cooled by means of blocks of ice in metal trays. All possible precautions have been taken to protect from climatic dangers this collection, which introduces to Indian artists the valuable lessons to be learned from the great European painters of the past and present.

In fulfilment of certain reparation clauses of the Neuilly Treaty, the Bulgarian Government has issued an urgent order to the District Requisitioning Commission in Bulgaria for the delivery of 33,000 sheep to Yugoslavia. The delivery has already begun.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Djevad Bey, the new Turkish Minister to Switzerland, arrived at Berne last week.

Blackleg tramwaymen were attacked and seventeen injured by Cairo strikers on April 27 and 28.

An Athens telegram reports the Greek military classes 1913a, 1912, 1904, and 1903 have been mobilised.

A military and political agreement between Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania has been signed at Prague.

Yugoslav troops have occupied the island of Veglia, evacuated by Italy in accordance with the Treaty of Rapallo.

The Commissar Rothstein, diplomatic representative of the Soviet of Moscow, arrived in Teheran on April 25.

General Gouraud, the French High Commissioner in Syria, opened the Commercial Fair at Beyrouth on April 30.

Bekir Sami Bey, who represented the Angora Government at the recent Conference in London, has arrived at Angora.

The Greek railhead on the Southern (Ushak) front in Asia Minor has been advanced about twelve miles east of Banaz.

An Athens message states that Admiral Dopsmanis, the Commander of the Fleet in Turkish waters, has been removed from his post.

Strikers on the Oudh-Rohilkund Railway returned to work last week, but the strike in the P. and O. dry docks at Bombay still continues.

Statistics of plague in Alexandria published on April 22 were inaccurate. Not more than five cases have occurred, and the outbreak is now under control.

Two thousand five hundred men employed at twenty-seven oil mills in the Calcutta district have struck work for higher wages and have formed a trade union.

A decree has been issued in Cairo extending the mixed tribunal till November 1 next. The adhesion of the United States to this measure has not yet been received.

It is reported that a fire has occurred at the Ionian Bank cotton store in Alexandria. About 12,000 bales were destroyed, and the insurance runs into over £500,000.

H.R.H. the Prince of Udine, nephew of the Queen Mother, on April 30 formally opened the new Parliament of Cyrenaica, in Libya, in the name of the King of Italy.

In the Hall of St. Michael and St. George, on April 30 (writes the Malta correspondent of *The Times*), the Governor read the Letters Patent granting self-government to Malta.

M. Gounaris, the Greek Prime Minister; M. Theotokis, Minister for War; and General Dousmanis, Chief of the General Staff, reports Reuter, have left Smyrna on their way to visit the front.

According to the *Svenska Dagbladet* (says Reuter's Stockholm correspondent), the Crown Prince has taken the initiative in arranging that Swedish archaeologists should undertake excavations at Korone, in the Peloponnese.

A Constantinople message reports that at a reception given by the French Admiral de Bon, at which the Diplomatic Corps were present, there was an outbreak of fire. All the guests left safely, but the house was burnt down.

The Belgrade correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that the famous Russian daily paper *Novoye Vremya*, which ceased publication in Petrograd in 1918, has reappeared in Belgrade with practically the whole of the old staff, including Souvorine, Stolpina, Renikopp, Ksurine, and Yogerof. Menchikof and Rosanov were both killed by the Bolsheviks.

Our Belgrade Correspondent writes:—A series of lectures is ordered to be given in all schools in Yugoslavia of the career of the late Voivoda Mishitch and the significance of his life's work, crowned with the victories of Rudnik and the Salonika front. In the gymnasiums for boys the lectures will be given for senior officers.

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THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921.

ZAGHLOUL OR EGYPT?

Those who are inclined to regard with grave misgiving the proposed grant of self-government to Egypt will find confirmation of their fears in the crisis which has now arisen in that country. Some, indeed, are anxious over the menace to the British Empire that a studiedly hostile Egypt might introduce; but a larger number are really concerned for Egypt herself, in view of the setback to her social and economic development which, they hold, must inevitably follow in a land of peasants the placing of unrestricted power in the hands of urban politicians. While Egypt will have it in her power to be a thorn in the side of the Empire, there can be little doubt that the latter will be able to look after itself. It may well, however, be powerless to save Egypt from going down the hill of retrogression. So much will depend on the attitude of her public men, in particular of those entrusted with the reins of government. When once the right of the Egyptians to a freer hand in their own administration is conceded, opportunities for British advice and guidance will depend entirely on the readiness of the Egyptian authorities to invite one or the other. For this reason the struggle between Adly Pasha, the Prime Minister, and Saad Zaghloul Pasha has a special interest, as it represents the conflict between the two schools of thought—the one standing for self-government for Egypt, but in close reliance upon Great Britain, the other actuated by the sole idea of cutting the painter, in order that the fruits of power and the emoluments of office may be shared between the smallest possible number, whatever may be the fate of the country at large. Again, in Zaghloul Pasha's action we notice the first beginnings of that system of personal politics which has been the curse of so many countries on the morrow of independence. Adly Pasha suggests that the affairs of Egypt should be conducted decently and in order. The agreement with Great Britain provides for negotiations by the Egyptian Government, and Adly Pasha was nominated as Prime Minister to this end. Zaghloul Pasha, who has himself admitted that the new Cabinet represents the nation's will, is offered full co-operation with it in the negotiations with Great Britain, but claims that his own "Egyptian Delegation" is the only proper body to settle the terms of the treaty determining the status of the new Egypt. The essence of the Milner-Zaghloul agreement was that both parties were preliminary investigators, exploring the ground of possible understanding, which could be finally staked out only by the Governments of the two countries. Zaghloul Pasha is reckoning entirely without his host if he imagines that a formal treaty will be negotiated by Great Britain with a body of men having no Government responsibility.

It will be a matter for regret if Zaghloul Pasha belies the hopes that have been formed in regard to him both in Egypt and in Great Britain. Even if the British Government and public had to be somewhat forcibly reminded of his merits, they have since accorded him

appreciation without stint, as, in their desire for Egypt's well-being, they wanted her to be served by all who had qualifications for the task. But to-day Zaghloul Pasha is no longer challenging British obtuseness or indifference; he is in conflict with his own fellow-countrymen, because he would arrogate to himself the privileges of a dictatorship without its responsibilities. He is entitled to credit for the early success of his destructive tactics. Whether Great Britain allowed herself to be too easily persuaded or impressed need not be discussed now; we are prepared to believe that whatever arrangement is reached will work for the best in the long run. But as far as Zaghloul Pasha is concerned now, the time has come for a constructive policy, and if he has none to offer his country, his day is over. He must be conscious himself that, in spite of the splendid welcome accorded to him in Egypt, he has passed the zenith of his popularity. The practical statesmanship and sound common sense of Adly Pasha are having their effect. A noisy rout of students may acclaim Zaghloul Pasha, but the racial incentive that gave him his following in the first instance is lacking, and the nation is tiring of the pace that he has set and of the demands that he has made upon them. If he were to try to repeat the demonstrations and riots of two years ago the Egyptians themselves might conceivably suppress them without calling upon the British Army; and if it became necessary in the last resort to deport him again, popular excitement, we should imagine, would be of a mild character compared with what it was in 1919. In a public tribute paid last week by a former leader of the Zaghloul party to the Prime Minister and Rushdi Pasha there was a significant remark to the effect that these two statesmen, to whom, it was stated, the national movement owed everything, had undertaken their labours in London and Paris at their own expense. It is probably not forgotten by either the townsfolk or the fellahen that a substantial levy was required in the first instance to finance the agitation associated with Zaghloul Pasha. For a long period the latter found that the cause necessitated his sojourn in Paris in particularly comfortable circumstances, it has always been understood; and if it is now necessary to emphasise the fact that Adly Pasha and Rushdi Pasha paid their own way in Paris and London, the inference is that all the members of the Zaghloul Delegation did not.

At present no one in Great Britain bears Zaghloul Pasha any ill-will. His action in abandoning at the eleventh hour his wholly intransigent attitude and agreeing to negotiate with Lord Milner's Mission was appreciated, and was held to imply a return to common sense. He seemed to be marked out as the future leader of Egypt, and it was felt that his influence would be thrown into the scale of political moderation and economic progress. The first misgivings were aroused after the return of the Egyptian Delegates from Egypt, when Zaghloul Pasha attempted to reopen the negotiations *de novo*, and it required the good sense of Adly Pasha to keep the Delegation as a whole on the only sound line of policy open to it. Since that time Zaghloul Pasha would seem to have been at pains to stultify all the good opinions formed of him and to have steadily lost ground in Egypt as well as in Great Britain. Preferring the flesh-pots of Paris, he postponed his return to his own country until the time had come to appoint the official mission for the negotiations with Great Britain, and then imagined that the spirit of the London Agreement could be set aside to gratify his own personal vanity. It will say much for Egypt's soundness if public opinion, undeterred by the shouts of the students, rallies to the side of Adly Pasha in support of the contention that the treaty negotiations must be carried through by the accredited Government and not by Zaghloul Pasha's unofficial Delegation. Members of that body, indeed, are at issue with him on the point, and any further insistence on his part can only confirm the view that he is now playing solely for his own hand. If the Cabinet should be defeated on the question, it will be a bad thing for Egypt, even though the treaty with Great Britain go through without any modifications; for Zaghloul Pasha's success will set a low political standard from which the country is not likely to recover for a long period.

BRIGANDAGE IN YUGOSLAVIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ZAGREB, April 1.

"An Honourable Occupation."

One almost hesitates to refer to the subject of brigandage for fear of giving an exaggerated impression and opening the way to mischievous tongues to hold forth upon the dangerous and unsettled state of affairs in the country. But it is useless shutting one's eyes to facts. It must be borne in mind, too, that in many parts of Macedonia brigandage has been an honourable occupation from time immemorial, that Serbia had hardly liberated a great part of the country, and had had no time to introduce order and organisation, before the great war broke out. Consequently, the wilder Albanian tribes carry on their old borderland tradition of harrying the villages, and they are encouraged by enemy and Communist intrigues. In addition to these, there are a certain number of men who have lost everything in the war, having everything to lose and nothing to gain by demobilisation, and have become thoroughly accustomed to carrying and making free use of their weapons. With these two distinct sorts of ruffians the authorities have had their hands full. Their energetic steps have reduced the trouble very largely, but it is not entirely stifled.

Desperate and homeless Montenegrins seem to be the chief offenders. On March 22, as a party of peasants were on the road from Gacko to Nevesinje, they were attacked by half-a-dozen Montenegrins, who stripped them to the skin. One peasant was killed and fifteen more, including an old man of eighty, were taken away as hostages.

Recently a gang of five desperadoes were condemned to death at Nish. Just before they were shot they confessed to two other crimes of which they had not been accused, both heartless murders for robbery. As they were being bound to the stake they recognised among the onlookers some of their former confederates, who had doubtless come to look on at the execution. This annoyed the condemned men, who promptly denounced them, so the guilty onlookers were in their turn at once marched off to gaol.

The End of a Honeymoon.

A very serious and peculiarly ruthless case occurred a few days ago. On the well-known road from Kotor (Cattaro) to Cettigne, near the hamlet of Torijan, not far from Niegush, a party of ruffians attacked a lorry in the Sinn Fein style. They shot the chauffeur, a Russian captain, and his assistant, and the gendarme who was escorting them. M. Radul Radovitch, a finance official, was severely wounded and robbed of two million dinars that he was taking to Cettigne, and a lady, who was returning from her honeymoon, was wounded. The bandits looted the killed and wounded, and left them lying by the road. This happened in the evening, and it was not till the next morning that help was brought to the wounded. The Government has proclaimed a reward of a hundred thousand dinars for the men, and the gendarmerie and military are ordered out in pursuit. The Cettigne Press blames the authorities for their mildness in treating prisoners, and their easy granting of amnesties to savage and incorrigible brigands.

A battle with bandits is reported from near Podgoritsa, where they left ten killed and wounded on the field. Military, as well as gendarmerie, are hunting them down on all sides, and the families, where available, are being interned and held as hostages, and their property sold; in Montenegro, if the criminals are not caught, the village, parish, or district will be held responsible, and fined accordingly. In fact, the authorities are quite determined finally to stamp out the nuisance.

A Gallant Boy.

An exciting affair recently occurred near Mladenovats. The district had been infested by an armed ruffian named Nikodej Antonizevitch, who was badly wanted by the police. One evening he came into an inn bent on robbery, thinking that there was only a helpless woman there. Unfortunately for him, her brother was present, and he, recognising the ruffian, attacked him instantly. There was a fearful wrestling match, in which the brigand was getting the better of it, as he was the stronger man, when the brother, by a final effort, threw him, and succeeded in holding him down and preventing him from firing, while he called for help. His sister had fled in terror, but his thirteen-year-old son, Milutin, seeing his father's distress, ran and fetched an axe, with which he vigorously hammered the robber's legs. The boy soon saw that this was not enough, and that his father would soon be beaten, so he calmly walked round to the other side and staved the thief's head in with a vigorous blow of his axe. No wonder, then, that little Milutin is the hero of the village which he has delivered from the monster.

THEATRE-GOING IN TEHERAN.

TEHERAN, December 31, 1920.

One night last week I went to the Armenian theatre to see an opera called "Anoosh." It is an opera, with lots of music and dancing—Oriental music and dancing of the kind that suits our taste, and there were many Persians present, drawn from the ranks of the Persian aristocracy. Some of the gentlemen had seen the opera before, and they had liked it so well that they had decided to take their ladies to see it at the first opportunity; and now they were carrying out their promises. The ladies were in the gallery, far back, without any lamp or light, and well screened behind a huge curtain, through openings in which they watched the play with keen relish. In accordance with a previous arrangement, nobody else was in the gallery except one or two Armenian young ladies who acted as ushers and companions.

Now, among the Persians of the male sex who were present was a certain Seyyid, who is well known, if not widely esteemed. Although he has had the misfortune to lose one of his eyes, he yet contrived to observe that the gallery above was in darkness and the front of it screened. As Armenian ladies do not hide themselves behind veils or screens, the wise man very soon concluded that Persian ladies must be present, and became agitated. Once or twice he muttered that it was "khlaif shar" (against Holy law), but he was quickly silenced by the ushers, who threatened to remove him if he persisted in interrupting. This induced him to keep quiet, but he could not forget the "outrage." The next morning he went off to the Chief Mujtahid, and, without revealing his real object, asked: "Sir, what is your opinion, and what is the punishment according to our Holy law, if a Moslem woman permits herself to go to a Christian theatre to see an immoral performance?"

The Mujtahid at once replied: "At the time of our Prophet of the most blessed memory, and at the time of writing of our most holy book, Al Koran, there were no theatres, and there is nothing definite against them; but, according to the venerated custom of centuries, she has no right to attend a theatrical performance, and if she does so, death is her portion."

On second thoughts, however, the Mujtahid, recognising that aristocratic ladies could not very well be hanged for such an offence, yet anxious to please the Seyyid, promised to write to the Governor, to get him to have the ladies' husbands punished. After the necessary inquiries, the gentlemen were invited to the Governor's palace, and there rebuked for their "khlaif shar" conduct; and after a moral lecture and some advice regarding their future behaviour, took their departure, none too well pleased. It may be stated in passing that the son of the Governor had been present at the performance, but had seen no "khlaif shar" in the ladies' presence.

The perturbed husbands, joined by the Governor's son, next went off to the Mujtahid with a query of their own. "Agha," said they, "what is your opinion of, and according to our Holy law what should be the punishment meted out to, a seyid, a descendant of the Blessed Prophet (on whom have peace), if he drinks arak all day, and is intoxicated every night?"

The Mujtahid understood, of course, "where the head of the animal was hid," as the saying goes; but he was caught in a trap, and was bound to give his opinion. And his opinion could only be in accordance with the law, which, in plain words forbids drunkenness. "Such a man," said he, "is no true Moslem, but a kafir (unbeliever)."

At once came the second query: "And what is the punishment for a Moslem who conducts himself like a kafir?"

"The bastinado," replied the Mujtahid, substituting that penalty for "death."

"Then," said the gentlemen, "this Seyyid X— must certainly be bastinadoed for being drunk every night, and must be beaten anew every time he breaks the law."

The Mujtahid promised to punish the Seyyid. But in truly conciliatory spirit proper to one of his position, he added: "He is guilty, and so are you gentlemen; but this time we will let his sins obliterate your guilt, and your offences shall be set against his wrong-doing. Thus the account is even. Take care that you offend no more."

By MIRZA FIROOZ KHAN.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

A Balkan Pot-Pourri.

In an article entitled "The Truth About the Balkans," in the current issue of the *Quarterly Review*, Mr. H. Charles Woods summarises conditions in South-Eastern Europe as he was able to diagnose them during a recent tour in that part of the world. It is not possible within the space available here to deal fully with the comments on the situation in the several countries. Mr. Woods has himself experienced difficulty in compressing his survey into the limits imposed, and it is probable that some of his analyses have suffered from over-condensation. In Yugoslavia he recognises the difficulties of reconciling tendencies towards autonomous privileges in the component States with the requirements of union. But there are two facts "which speak well for the future." The Prince Regent is "a material asset and a binding force in the country," and "I found nobody in Croatia or Slovenia (where I saw representative men of the various political parties) who was opposed to some form of union with Serbia."

"The future," Mr. Woods adds, "almost entirely depends upon whether M. Pashitch, who is the most experienced statesman in the country, is capable of adapting and broadening his ideas to suit the new circumstances by which he is surrounded, and upon whether the present or another Government is able to arrive at a compromise upon the constitutional question—a compromise which must be acceptable not only to the Cabinet assembled at Belgrade, but also to the peoples of the component parts of the present State."

On the subject of Roumania, Mr. Woods is more critical, and it is hardly likely that his potted strictures will pass unchallenged in Roumanian quarters. Probably in no country in the Balkans—Greece not excepted—is the game of politics fought out with greater intensity of feeling, or do politicians "let themselves go" with such complete abandon. It is only necessary to read a party paper to feel convinced that every prominent adherent of an opposition party ought at once in the interests of the country to be hanged from the nearest lamp-post, until, of course, you pick up an opposition paper and realise that such an end would be far too mild and flattering for that organ's political opponents. The result is that the foreigner from a land where politics are run under different rules is apt to imagine that Roumania, like Sodom of old, is likely to perish for want of five righteous men. It remains to be seen whether the inferences which the writer has drawn obviously from the speeches of ardent politicians will be borne out by the actual course of events. Mr. Woods writes:—

"... the people (Roumanes and others) of all the new areas, and especially those of the former Austro-Hungarian empire, who are far better educated than those of old Roumania, are becoming more and more dissatisfied. Indeed, as things stand, I believe that discontent is rife and widespread in the new territories (particularly in those which used to form part of the Dual Monarchy), and that, unless their peoples, who at one time favoured union, are given the very considerable voice which they deserve in the government of the whole country, there may be a most serious movement either for independence or for union with Hungary, the government of which, though severe, was always correct."

Again, Mr. Woods indulges in a very sweeping denunciation of the Roumanian administration:—

"This is the only country in the Balkans where little attempt has been made to set up a policy of reconstruction and where chaos and corruption exist on all sides. . . . In spite of the absolute necessity for Roumania to introduce reforms, one finds that from the time of her entry into the war up till last December there had been no proper budget, and the current expenses of the State, so far as paid, were met largely by internal loans and issues of paper money. . . . Again, the corruption, for which Roumania has always been notorious, has increased to a degree which makes the present state of things more dreadful than that which existed in Turkey during the worst days of Abdul Hamid, when bribery there was at its height."

Clearly the picture is over-painted here, and one is forced to wonder how many personal experiences have gone to make up the winter of the artist's discontent. The corruption legend can be overdone, and the surest way to bring that about is to allow every visitor to Roumania to arrive convinced that nothing but open-handed bribery will enable him to set one foot in front of the other. In regard to hotels, it is probably true that the shortage of accommodation has encouraged every staff to make the foreigner pay for the privilege of admission, but higher up in the social scale it is not infrequently the case that readiness to accept a commission is surpassed by the eagerness to offer one, and the transaction is simply regarded as further evidence of the spendthrift folly of the average foreigner. Generalisations are invariably misleading, and it would be unfair to Roumania to allow the impression to get abroad that conditions there are as hopeless as, let us say, the Irish-American represents them with sublime conviction to be at the present moment in the United Kingdom.

The Progress of Iraq.

The *Basrah Times* of March 15 contains an article with the above heading, in which it states that the tour from

Baghdad down the Tigris of Seyyid Talib Pasha, whose recent deportation makes the article of immediate interest, "has certainly done a great deal of good." It should, it says, serve to show critics of the new Administration that the people of Iraq are not so lacking the spirit of cohesive nationalism as, for instance, H.H. the Aga Khan suggested when he wrote that "the people are split up into tribes and sects, mostly jealous of one another, and the atmosphere is that of perpetual strife."

It would be idle to contend that the history of the Arab peoples of Iraq does not afford substantial ground for his Highness's belief. The tribal system in Mesopotamia, whatever advantages it may or may not confer on those who live under its aegis, is not conducive to the longevity or peace of mind of a central administration, unless the latter deliberately trades on the tribal proclivity for internecine warfare, and foment trouble in order modestly to divert the attention of the country as a whole from the effects of its edicts. Such a policy would not appeal to the British advisers in Mesopotamia, and, if one may judge by the speeches of the recently appointed Ministers and Mutasarrifs, neither does it hold out any attractions to the Arab Council of State.

Continuing, the article says that when the future of the regenerated Iraq comes to be written, this tour of Seyyid Talib Pasha, who took as his slogan "Partnership is a necessary service for all," must rank as a milestone in the path of progress.

The writer proceeds to examine the causes of the alarm with which some members of the House of Commons were struck when they considered the annual cost to Britain of the mandates for Mesopotamia and Palestine, and concludes:

As we understand the situation, there is to be no pretension on the part of the British advisers in Mesopotamia that their mission is to "reform" the Arabs. The object is rather to afford the people of Iraq an opportunity to reform themselves—an opportunity which they have never had before. Not long ago Lord Sydenham protested against an assertion that Britain had "one story for India, one for Egypt, and a different story for Mesopotamia," and he went on to say: "This I regard as unjust and misleading. We have only one policy in these countries and others which fate has left upon our hands. We desire to give the fullest measure of self-government compatible with the discharge of our responsibilities to the peoples as a whole and to foreign Powers." This statement is the true interpretation of our policy and presence in Mesopotamia. We have heard Arabs object that such disinterestedness is no more probable in the policy of a nation than it would be in the private transactions of the average individual. "The British," said a Basrawi merchant the other day, "are not here for the sake of our bright black eyes!" He forgot that not only is there a moral obligation on the part of Britain to do her best to set up an administration in Iraq to replace the corrupt government which, in pursuit of her military policy, she was compelled to destroy: there is another incentive, and possibly a stronger, in the fact that a peaceful, prosperous Mesopotamia would be a valuable guarantee for the future welfare of Britain's important interests in the Near and Middle East. Our Arab friends should consider this in conjunction with British assurances that there is no intention to exploit the commercial resources of Iraq in the interests of outsiders. There is an even more pregnant factor to be kept in mind; it is that at the Near East Conference in London the official delegates of the Ottoman Government and those representing the Angora Government were agreed on certain principles, one of which laid down that Turkish rule should not be extended to countries inhabited by Arab majorities. Mesopotamia, it seems, has to choose between British help or none at all.

Articles to Note.

"Physiography and Settlements in Southern Macedonia," by Alan G. Ogilvie; and "Some Highways of Albania and a Forgotten Riviera," by George P. Scriven, in the *Geographical Review* (April).

"The Sacrifice of Greece; or, The Story of a Scrap of Paper," by R. B. C. Sheridan, in the *Nineteenth Century* (May).

"The Revision of the Turkish Treaty: (1) Armenia, (2) Smyrna, and (3) Thrace," by Viscount Bryce, O.M., Sir J. J. Stavridi, and Noel Buxton respectively; and "India and the League of Nations," by A. Yusuf Ali, C.B.E., in the *Contemporary Review* (May).

"Reconciliation in India," by Holford Knight; "The Situation in the Middle East," by Robert Machray; "Trieste, Salenica, and Smyrna," by H. Charles Woods; and "Persia at the Crisis of Her Fate," by Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes, K.C.I.E., C.B., in the *Fortnightly Review* (May).

A special census, with the help of the police, is to be taken of the beggars of Bombay. This census is expected to throw light on the part the beggars play in disseminating disease.

A new hospital building containing four wards, fully equipped with every modern convenience, has been given recently by the Bora caste of Mohammedan merchants of the city of Madiad, India, to the Thoburn Memorial Hospital, maintained there by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church (United States).

A White Paper (Cmd. 1239) has been published at 6d., containing the text of the Anglo-French Convention of September 8, 1918, which supplements the Boundary Convention of June 14, 1898, and the Declaration of March 21, 1899, about the boundary between the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and French territory. This is shown on a scale of 1:3,000,000 from 9° to 22° north latitude.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

April 25.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Col. Wedgwood that the Allied Governments had decided that the sub-Commission of the International Allied Military Mission at Budapest would remain at Pecs, in the Baranga district of Hungary, to supervise the transfer of that area from the Yugoslav to the Hungarian authorities on the ratification of the Hungarian Peace Treaty; and the Allied Governments were considering the question of the desirability of ensuring the presence of some civilian representatives as well.

Commander Bellairs asked the Secretary of State for India the relative cost of a British and native Indian soldier per annum in India. Mr. Montagu replied that a recent estimate by the Government of India gives 1,971 rupees and 411 rupees as the annual cost respectively.

April 26.—Mr. Aubrey Herbert asked whether Greek military forces have landed in the Gulf of Ismid, and whether this is compatible with the neutrality that the Allies have declared. Mr. Harmsworth replied that Greek forces were landed in the Gulf of Ismid last year, and were placed under the command of Sir T. Harrington. He relinquished his command over them, however, before the outbreak of the recent Greco-Turkish hostilities. These troops are doubtless receiving reinforcements by sea; but the neutrality of the principal Allied Powers in the present hostilities precludes them from interfering with the passage of such reinforcements except to the extent of preventing any territory or port in Allied occupation being used as a base for their despatch.

April 28.—Mr. Amery informed Sir W. Davis that all the vessels of the Bulgarian Navy have, with two exceptions, been left in Bulgarian hands, the majority being damaged or worthless. The latter consist of four torpedo-boats and six armed motor-boats. The exceptions are one gun-boat, which is being sold for the joint benefit of the Allies, and one submarine, which has been allocated to, and will be sold for the benefit of, Great Britain.

Mr. Montagu informed Sir Thomas Bennett that, according to a newspaper report from India, the new census reveals the population of Bombay City as 1,172,953, while that of Calcutta is 884,705.

Mr. Wood informed Mr. Ormsby-Gore that the territory east of Palestine is now known officially as Transjordan, and will retain that name.

Several questions appeared on the paper during the course of the week, in the name of Lieut.-Col. James and others, dealing with the situation in Egypt occasioned by the changed attitude of Zaghloul Pasha. All these questions were postponed at the request of the Foreign Office for a week.

TOPICS IN PARLIAMENT.

The subjoined headings are those given in the official report:

PEACE TREATIES: Italy and Turkey. GREECE (OPERATIONS AGAINST TURKS). ARMENIA. DEMOBILISED OFFICERS' PASSAGES (INDIA). INDIA: Sikh Regiment, Amritsar (Unfounded Report). (April 18.)

INDIA: Colonisation (British Subjects).—Army Reductions.—Established Church. EGYPT, PERSIA. (April 19.)

TURKISH NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT (AGREEMENTS). ALBANIA. MIDDLE EAST (MR. CHURCHILL'S VISIT). CONSTANTINOPLE. (BILLETING). INDIA: Provincial Legislatures (Standing Committees).—Egret Feathers (Export). (April 20.)

GREECE AND TURKEY. PEACE TREATIES: Turkey. PERSIA. CONSTANTINOPLE (GENDARMERIE). INDIA (FRONTIER OPERATIONS). EGYPT AND PALESTINE (RAILWAY COMMUNICATION). (April 21.)

SOVIET PROPAGANDA, INDIA. INDIA: Provincial Council Elections.—Allahabad University. INDIA: British and Indian Soldiers (Cost). NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL. (April 25.)

INDIA: Seditious Speeches.—Elections, Madras.—High Court Judges.—Trade Unions.—Dr. Kichlew and Rambahuj Dutt.—Cavalry Regiments (Reduction).—Disturbances (North-West Frontier).—European and Native Troops.—Madras Military Fund. GREECE AND TURKEY. PUBLIC SERVANTS, INDIA. MESOPOTAMIA. (April 26.)

GREECE AND TURKEY. PEACE TREATIES: Bulgarian Naval and Merchant Ships. ROYAL AIR FORCE: Collision of Aeroplanes, Cairo. INDIA: Bombay and Calcutta (Population).—Feathers (Export).—Silver Dollars (Purchase).—Army Officers (Repatriation). TRANS-JORDANIA. (April 28.)

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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 CASE OF RAHMY BEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Readers of THE NEAR EAST are familiar with the question of Rahmy Bey's imprisonment at Malta. During the war, Rahmy Bey, Governor of Smyrna, showed very unusual kindness to British residents and British prisoners at Smyrna. The British Government took the unprecedented step of thanking him, during the war, through Sir F. Elliot, our representative at Athens. When the Greeks landed on April 21, 1919, and the massacres occurred, Rahmy Bey, after being treated with considerable indignity by the Greeks, was taken on a British cruiser and sent to Malta. Since then he has been imprisoned in Malta, separated from his wife and children, without any charge being preferred against him. I have several times pointed out in the House of Commons that his treatment was against all our traditions, and, in fact, against the traditions of honour and gratitude. The other day, I received a letter from Rahmy Bey, thanking me, in formal terms. I enclose my answer. I shall be grateful to you if you will publish.—I am, etc.,

AUBREY HERBERT.

House of Commons, April 27, 1921.

[COPY.]

April 27, 1921.

Dear Rahmy Bey,—I am much obliged for your letter of thanks to me, which was, however, quite unnecessary, as all the thanks should come from men like myself. I am very sorry that my efforts to achieve your liberation have been unavailing. There are a number of people in this country who know of the great kindness with which your Excellency consistently treated Englishmen and British prisoners during the war.

All who know the facts are sorry and ashamed that you should have been treated with such gross ingratitude.

I am, yours sincerely,

(Signed) AUBREY HERBERT.

We have received the sixth annual report of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund. It is stated therein that during the year 1920 the amount of £6,503 was received, bringing the total of the Fund to the end of the year to £26,104.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Greeks and British Trade.

Our Smyrna Correspondent reports that the Greek military authorities there have placed an embargo on the export of "cloth and such other articles that may be used for military purposes" from Smyrna to Adana, Adalia, and Sokia areas. This restriction, he points out, falls heavily on British firms, who have imported large stocks of cloth to distribute in these districts. It is not difficult to understand the motive underlying Greek policy at Smyrna, but there can be little doubt as to the effect of measures such as that in question. If traders are to be harassed at every turn by regulations and restrictions, of which that on the export of wheat provides the outstanding example, there is a great danger that they will turn their attention to some centre where they are free to pursue their business. Under the Turks Smyrna was a flourishing commercial centre, and one of constantly growing importance. It will be a poor bargain for Greece to gain territory in Asia Minor at the expense of ruining Smyrna.

Pumps for Mesopotamia.

Makers of pumping machinery will be interested in the reference in the article on cotton cultivation in Mesopotamia which appears in another column to the increasing use of centrifugal pumps in that region. The Arabs discovered the utility of these pumps some years before the war, and, as I have pointed out in these columns, were beginning to utilise them then on a moderate scale. But, of course, the obstacle then to their adoption on a great scale was the lack of security under the Turkish administration. That they have been coming rapidly into use since 1918 affords the best possible testimony that the Arab could give to British rule. As the writer of the article aptly puts it, the fact "is a positive indication that the Arab in general is satisfied that his property will, under British administration, be reasonably secure."

The Export Credits Scheme.

There is no little impatience in commercial circles because the authorities have not yet brought their new export credits scheme into operation. Business men anxious to develop trade with countries whose exchanges render ordinary transactions out of the question are hindered from doing so because the original export credits scheme, which still holds the field, falls far short of their requirements. The delay in introducing the revised scheme is, I believe, due to the numerous criticisms that were made when its provisions were outlined last March. It was felt necessary to make certain alterations in order to meet the critics as far as possible, and the revision has taken time, while the coal strike has naturally occasioned further delay. I gather that the scheme is now ready and that the requisite steps will be taken to make it operative at the earliest possible moment.

Related Tenders.

I have had occasion to refer several times in these notes to the serious handicap with which British traders are too often confronted in regard to tenders for Near Eastern countries. Unfortunately, it is impossible to say that there has so far been any great improvement in this state of things. Only last week a correspondent received notice of a tender, the closing date of which absolutely prevented him from taking any action in the matter. It is well known, of course, that some of the Balkan countries are not too exigent in the matter of dates, but British firms, as a rule, do not care to interest themselves in tenders unless they are certain they can comply with the stated requirements. In the majority of cases Balkan tenders give ample time for British firms, provided they receive notice at once. In the circumstances, it would seem eminently desirable that British Consular officials should cable home particulars of all important tenders.

Great Britain and Bulgaria.

A very encouraging note is struck by our Sofia Correspondent in his letter this week, in which he compares the commercial aspect of Sofia as it is now and as it was four

months ago. He comments on the much greater variety and the larger stocks of goods on view in the shops and warehouses. "Goods have been coming in in large quantities," he adds, "and one is glad to be able to state that, as regards actual merchandise, England is fully holding her own." In view of the hampering effect on trade of the adverse exchanges, this is more than gratifying, and it carries a plain moral for the British business man as to the prospects in the Bulgarian market, once conditions permit normal trade.

The British India Corporation.

At the general meeting of the British India Corporation held recently at Cawnpore, Sir Alexander McRobert, the chairman, was able to give a most satisfactory review of the position of the company, which, it will be remembered, was formed a little over a year ago to incorporate a number of the leading industrial establishments of India, notably the Cawnpore Woollen Mills and Messrs. Cooper Allen and Co. The results of the year have enabled the directors to write off the whole of the preliminary expenses and to reduce goodwill by 35 lakhs, leaving only 20 lakhs to be dealt with under this heading, so that we may assume that in a year or so this item will entirely disappear. The actual profit amounted to Rs. 75,60,000, a considerable advance on the forecast in the prospectus, which was Rs. 66,00,000, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is 10 per cent. free of income-tax, regarding which Sir Alexander said that the directors believed it wise to play for safety and to recommend a distribution which there was reasonable hope of maintaining, if not bettering, in future years. Sir Alexander concluded with a reference to the unsettled labour position in the country, and pointed out that a reasonable dividend in future depended very much on the attitude and behaviour of the workers.

French Enterprise in Syria.

While French policy may seem not infrequently to be open to question, it is impossible not to admire the energy and thoroughness with which our Allies have set themselves to the task of administering and developing a region like Syria. Our Beyrout Correspondent gives this week a few details which throw a very interesting light on French enterprise there. Special attention is naturally being paid to railway communications, and the Tripoli-Homs line is being rapidly reconstructed, while plans are ready for lines between Beyrout and Tripoli and between Alexandretta and Aleppo. Then, in addition, the French have granted a concession for the construction of a central wireless station near Beyrout and smaller stations throughout the country to a French company. I mention the nationality of the company because it is symptomatic of the policy of every country but our own to safeguard the interests of their nationals where business of this kind is going. It would be a very excellent thing if we could bring ourselves to take a leaf out of their book in this respect. As it is, we read without surprise of orders being even placed in Germany by British Possessions. Imagine such an occurrence under French régime!

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

GREECE.

ATHENS, April 19.

The National Bank Meeting.

At a general meeting of the shareholders of the National Bank of Greece, under the chairmanship of M. G. Streit, the Governor, M. Maximos, who recently returned from his unsuccessful journey to London, made an important statement regarding the general financial position. He said that in order to ensure the application of the Treaty of Sèvres, the Greeks were obliged to make great sacrifices both in life and in money. Only a few days ago the Government had found it necessary to reinforce the army by calling up three more classes of reserves. The balance-sheets of the National Bank gave an idea as to what the economic consequences of these measures would be. On December 31, 1920 (o.s.), the debt of the State to the bank amounted to 1,369,299,743.00 drachmæ, as against 653,036,179.00 drachmæ on December 31, 1919. It would be seen by these figures that during the former year the bank had advanced 716,263,564 drachmæ to the State, which money was chiefly used in connection with the campaign in Asia Minor. As soon as the economic crisis had ceased to make itself felt on the foreign markets, the National Bank would direct all its attention to obtaining assistance in order to relieve the situation. He then pointed out that on December 31, 1920, the Greek national debt amounted to 4,200 million drachmæ, which was considerably less per head than that of any of the Allied nations. Finally, he said that he was very optimistic in regard to the pourparlers with financial circles in London.

Price of Bread Increased.

The Government has increased the price of bread by 40 lepta per oka for first quality flour, and by 30 lepta for the second quality. As soon as this increase was announced a bakers' deputation presented itself before the Minister of Supplies, and demanded an increase in wages. M. Protapadakis consented to this, and the bakers will now receive an additional four lepta for every oka of bread. The price of wheat has been fixed at 1.25 drachmæ c.i.f. Greek port, and that of white flour sold in the Government stores at 2.57 drachmæ per oka.

Customs Receipts.

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during March amounted to 6,810,024.05 drachmæ in paper and 268,105.25 drachmæ in gold. Compared with the receipts during the corresponding period last year there is an increase this year of 755,512.35 drachmæ in paper and a decrease of 202,209.65 drachmæ in gold.

ATHENS, April 23.

The New Loan.

The news published by two morning papers last Tuesday to the effect that the Government contemplated putting into circulation a considerable amount of paper money caused something like a panic amongst financial circles. The pound sterling from 57 drachmæ jumped up to 62, and the French franc was quoted at 1.20 drachmæ. Early in the afternoon the Government officially denied the rumour, but at the sitting of the National Assembly on the same evening the Minister of Finance introduced a Bill proposing the ratification of the following convention concluded between the Government and the National Bank of Greece on March 31

last (O.S.):—The privilege of the National Bank to issue banknotes is extended up to 1950, and will include the territories ceded to Greece by the Treaty of Sèvres. The National Bank undertakes to grant a loan to the State of 550 million drachmæ, and has the right to increase by 500 million drachmæ the circulation of its paper money. The new issue of notes will be guaranteed by short-term commercial concessions and National Loan Bonds. The State's share of the bank's profits accruing from the issue of these banknotes is regulated by the convention of 1914. The National Bank undertakes to increase its capital to 100,000,000 drachmæ within two years, and to establish five new branches within the same period. The loan of 550 million drachmæ will be made against bonds of an equal value. The interest is fixed at 5 per cent. for the first 50 millions, plus one per cent. per annum for amortisation. For the balance of the loan a yearly interest of 4½ per cent. will be paid. The interest and the amortisation are guaranteed by the State's share of the National Bank's profits, by the surplus public revenue at the disposal of the International Control, and, if necessary, by the regular revenues from the State's Budget.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, April 25.

Rumour of Forged Notes.

It has been rumoured that there are large quantities of forged 10 dinar notes in circulation. The rumours have been widely believed, especially as the 20 dinar notes were so largely forged that they had to be recalled. The Ministry of Finance has issued a statement that there are no forged notes of this denomination known to be in circulation, and that action will be taken against any persons spreading the story.

Machinery from Germany.

It is stated that the Government has accepted an offer made by Germany to deliver machinery instead of the ten thousand horses due under the treaty. There is no lack of horses, and good ones, too, in Yugoslavia, and even a certain amount of export has been permitted. But there is a decided shortage of cattle, and it is hoped that Germany will not be long in fulfilling her obligations in this respect.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, April 20.

The Budget.

The Budget is still passing through the Committee stage, where several modifications have been made. It has become the chief topic of discussion, and the Press of all shades of opinion is at one in condemning some of the measures proposed. These include a levy of 6 per cent. on salaries and pensions, 15 per cent. on net income, 75 per cent. on inheritances in the direct line, and a heavy percentage on capital, including property of different kinds. Incomes of 9,000 lei per annum in the towns and 7,000 lei and under in the country are to be exempt from income tax.

Export of Cereals.

The Village Co-operatives have been charged with the export of the 20,000 wagons of wheat for the purchase of which the French Government contracted with the Roumanian Minister of Finance on December 8, 1920. Precedence is to be given on rail and river for the transport of this grain to the ports, and the co-operatives are to be exempted from the 1 per cent. commission tax on its value.

The *Moniteur Officiel* of April 10 publishes a decision of the Council of Ministers authorising the export to Switzerland of 500 wagons of wheat, subject to an export tax of 15,000 lei per wagon. This tax will not be paid by the exporters but will be credited towards the payment for certain supplies ordered by the Roumanian Postal Department from the Société anonyme des Laminiers et cablerie of Cossonay, and from Hasler of Berne, to the value of 2,781,680 Swiss francs. As guarantee for the execution of the contract the exporter will deposit with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce a bank guarantee of 7,500,000 lei.

In order to provide the sterling necessary for the payment of certain sums in England the Government has decided that Messrs. Spears and Brunstrom may export 20,000 wagons of maize to England at the world market price with a reduction of two and a-half per cent. for commission, delivery to be made in November. The concessionaires will have to purchase the maize and find the means of transport.

Owing to the long drought the Government has prohibited for the time being the export of all other cereals.

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Miscellaneous

The Council of Ministers has decided that of the extraordinary credit of 30 million lei provided by the law of 1920 ten millions shall be employed for the purchase of horses and cattle, etc., required by the populations in the devastated regions.

The owners of gold mines have addressed an appeal to the Government requesting that the fixed price of gold be raised so as to allow them a profit of 15 per cent., or that they be allowed to export it.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, April 20.

Live Stock for Allied States.

May 1 has been fixed as the date on which Bulgaria must deliver to the three neighbouring States all the sheep, cattle, horses, oxen, and other animals, due to them under Article 127 of the Peace Treaty. Orders have been given for the rounding up of the animals, and in order that there may be no scarcity of meat, and that prices may not run too high, the period April 20-30 is to be observed as a meatless one throughout the country.

Yugoslavia, Roumania, and Greece have intimated to Bulgaria that they wish the animals delivered at places which are some considerable distance inside their respective frontiers. The Bulgarians say that it will not be possible to do this, as the guards accompanying the animals cannot cross the frontiers, and also on account of the difficulty that would be experienced in feeding the beasts.

It is not yet decided where they will be handed over, but it does not seem at all likely that the various commissioners who are collecting the animals will have finished their work by May 1. The total number of beasts to be handed over is 70,825, of which Roumania is due to receive the most, viz., 15,000 sheep, 5,250 horses, 6,060 head of cattle, and 4,450 oxen and mules.

Miscellaneous.

Coming back to Sofia after an absence of only four months, one is greatly struck by the much larger stocks that are on view in the shops and warehouses, and their greater variety. Goods have been coming in in large quantities, and one is glad to be able to state that as regards actual merchandise England is fully holding her own.

The low rate of exchange still ruling—one receives 325 liras for the £1—is, however, the great drawback to our traders, and it is to be feared that unless a good deal of rain falls during the next two or three weeks, prospects of a good harvest, on which any great improvement in the exchange depends, will be seriously impaired. For the past two and a-half months there has been hardly any rain, and the whole country bears a very parched and dried-up aspect.

M. Dashkaloff, Minister of Industry and Commerce, in the course of an interview, told me that he was very well satisfied with his recent European tour, and was especially struck with the manufactures that he saw whilst visiting Birmingham and Glasgow. He is advising Bulgarian commercial men to go to England and thus see for themselves the goods that they need.

SYRIA.

BEYROUT, April 12.

Beyrout Fair Postponed.

As was anticipated, the opening of the Beyrout Fair has had to be postponed from April 1 until April 15, while the official inauguration will not take place before the 25th of the month. Even then the buildings in the public garden of Liberty Square, allocated for exhibits of native industries, and meant to represent the four principal towns of Syria, as well as the restaurant building behind the old Seraglio, can hardly be ready. Apart from this the original date of opening could not have been kept because of the delayed return of General Gouraud, whose special interest in this essentially French enterprise is evidenced by his references to it in some of his recent conferences on Syria. The commercial crisis, which Syria, like all other countries, is going through at present will, it is feared, interfere with the success of the fair, but not, it may be hoped, to the extent of discouraging the project of making it an annual event.

[A Reuter message from Paris states that the fair was opened by General Gouraud on April 30.]

New Wireless Station.

The French, who were foremost among European Powers in the practical application of wireless telegraphy in their overseas dominions, are devoting special attention here to this method of quick communication. Besides the military station which is nearing completion at Jdeidé—a couple of miles or so on the east side of the town—another very powerful station is to be set up in Khaldé, three or four miles south of Beyrout. A French company has obtained the concession for this central station and other lesser stations in Syria, and their rates are said to be most reason-

able. If they are as cheap as the rates obtaining in Tunis, it will be a veritable boon to the public. It is understood that the station will admit of direct transmission to Bizerta and Bordeaux. The company has already secured the necessary land—an area of about a million square meters—and the work on the principal building will shortly be started. Those who, like the shipping agents, have been suffering no little trouble in their business from recurring interruptions of the wires owing to atmospheric or political disturbances, will especially welcome a medium that cannot be affected by these factors. Since the Kemalist rising telegraphic communication with Mersina has been completely interrupted, and the only medium of communication open to the public has been a more or less irregular postal service.

Railway Projects.

The reconstruction of the Tripoli-Homs line, the rails of which were torn up by the Turks during the war for use in Southern Palestine, is going on rapidly, and it is expected that its completion will be effected in the course of a few months.

The next railway works to be taken in hand will be the broad gauge line between Beyrout and Tripoli to connect with the Tripoli-Rayak-Aleppo system, and the direct line between Alexandretta and Aleppo. There are two alternative plans for this line. One would involve the cutting of a tunnel through the mountain behind Alexandretta, while the other is for a line following the coast to Antioch and running thence northward to Aleppo. The latter plan is likely to be adopted.

ADVERTISING IN MOROCCO.

His Majesty's Consul at Casablanca (Mr. H. L. Rabino) has furnished to the Department of Overseas Trade a report on advertising in Morocco, of which the following are extracts:—

"The native is of a conservative disposition, and is only attracted by the well-known marks, designs, and patterns of goods or their coverings to which he has long been accustomed, so that advertising is a waste of time and expense, and its aims are not understood by the native mind. In all cases of trade marks and inscriptions to be placed on the goods, or their coverings, the description of the quality, etc., if in the Arabic language, should be short and to the point, avoiding all unnecessary comparisons with other similar goods, and strictly abstaining from the use of the name of 'Allah' or any of the terms by which the Deity is usually designated. It is useful to draw attention to the fact that the article is of British manufacture, but native taste as to size, shape, design, and mode of packing, etc., should be studied by the manufacturer.

"With the above remarks, advertising as a means of furthering business with the natives of Morocco can be dismissed as unproductive generally of any perceptible results; not so, however, with the large and growing European population who can be reached through the same media as employed in Continental Europe, though the letterpress or posters, etc., should be in the French, Spanish, and even Italian languages in the French zone of Morocco, where showrooms, advertising novelties, calendars, sandwich men, illuminated screens, posters, and daily papers are all used to give publicity and to reach the European population, but Morocco is not the country in which to embark on a campaign of advertising any article which has not already proved its potentialities in the markets of the world."

As regards the Spanish zone, there would not appear to be much scope for advertising, as the following report by the British Vice-Consul at Tetuan will indicate:—

"Advertising here is still in its infancy, and, in view of the general illiteracy especially of the Moorish population as regards either their own or any other language, it is likely to remain so for a considerable number of years. Pictorial advertisement by posters is practically unknown, even in the Spanish quarter of the town, and it would scarcely be worth while for British manufacturers to advertise here at all unless perhaps in consultation with their local agents, whose names should be prominently displayed on the advertisements."

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated April 28:—During the week ending April 16 crop prospects fair to good generally, except in North-West Frontier Province and unirrigated areas of the Punjab, where rain badly wanted. Jute sowings practically completed, except for Northern Bengal and Deshi districts. Sowings probably short, but weather hitherto favourable, and bright sunshine would be beneficial. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to April 22, 1921, were 1,840,000 bales, as compared with 2,350,000 bales for the corresponding period of last year. Bombay imported piecegoods market steady; some fresh business with Manchester for Karachi and Calcutta markets reported. Indian trade returns for twelve months from April, 1920, to March, 1921 (in lakhs of rupees):—Imports, merchandise, 33,551; exports, 25,636; net exports of gold, 914; net imports of silver, 742; reverse councils, 2,855. Net balance of trade against India, Rs.4,967 lakhs. The previous year showed a balance of trade in favour of India by Rs.8,844 lakhs.

COTTON GROWING IN MESOPOTAMIA.*

III.—THE POLITICAL ASPECT.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

BAGHDAD.

In previous articles the commercial possibilities of cotton cultivation in Mesopotamia and the experimental work already undertaken with the view to increasing the area under cotton have been discussed. It remains to consider the changes that are likely to accrue in the event of cotton being commonly introduced into the crop rotation on those lands which enjoy a perennial flow of water.

A review of the topography and of the main agricultural practices in vogue will lead to a better appreciation of the place which cotton can take in the life of the Arab population. Broadly speaking, cultivated lands in Mesopotamia may be divided into the unirrigated zone and the irrigated zone. The unirrigated zone is that belt of land stretching the whole length of the country from the Shatt-el-Arab to Asia Minor. This is the sub-montane tract which skirts the foot of the Pusht-i-kuh and Kurdistan Hills. It normally receives enough rain to grow successful crops of wheat. The common rotation is wheat followed by fallow.

It is with the irrigated zone that we are mostly concerned. Here the cultivation is more intensive, and as a natural consequence the population more dense than in the unirrigated parts. Irrigation water is applied to the land by one of the three methods, in the order of their importance: (a) By perennial gravitation canals; (b) by inundation canals; and (c) by mechanical lift.

It is the perennial canals constructed by engineers along prescribed gradients that comprise the major portion of the irrigated zone. The agricultural development and wealth of the country depend primarily on an extension of this system of irrigation. The chief areas which are now controlled by perennial irrigation are the Diala tract, the Feluja-Baghdad tract, the Hindia-Hillah tract, and the Amara tract. The Shatt-el-Arab date zone is included under inundation canals.

The inundation canals comprise the creeks which take the tidal flow along both banks of the Shatt-el-Arab; and, secondly, the series of flood-distributary channels along the whole course of the Euphrates and the Tigris from the points at which they enter the Mesopotamian Plain, at Ramadi and Sammarra respectively, to their junction at Kurnah.

The contour of the country lends itself readily to this latter use of flood water. Both rivers, from the points at which they enter the alluvial plain, have built up ridges of alluvium which are barely perceptible to the naked eye. During the flood season, in the absence of protective "bunds," the surrounding country becomes inundated. Travelling by river in the flood season in Lower Mesopotamia it is quite a common scene to see as far as the eye can reach continuous sheets of shallow water separated from the river on both banks by a relatively narrow strip of land which constitutes the ridge referred to.

Wherever the contour of the adjoining country lends itself to the practice the Arab endeavours to direct the flood inundation water on to his land. The flood season is normally between March and May each year. Seed is sown with the rains in winter from December to the end of January. The rainy season extends from December to April. On the alluvial plain these rains are seldom sufficient to mature a

cereal crop. But where flood water is available to give the crop at least one and generally two irrigations at the tail end of the rainy season a good crop of cereals can in normal years be secured. As the level of the river subsides these inundation canals cease to function, and as a result no summer crop is grown in the lands commanded by them. During the "slack season" which follows the harvest and threshing of the corn in June large numbers of cultivators migrate annually to the rice areas further downstream, where they are engaged in harvesting the rice crop. They return to their native villages in time to prepare the land for the subsequent winter crop of cereals.

Thus swings the pendulum in so far as the majority of these cultivators are concerned. Others of this class are engaged in tending and caring for the sheep flocks, and still others used to (and some of them still do) eke out a meagre and precarious existence by raiding and looting during these summer months.

These riverain Arabs who have hitherto depended almost entirely on the sparse rainfall and on flood water to grow their winter crop of cereals are now devoting more attention than ever before to the intensive cultivation of that strip of land nearest the river. A very conspicuous feature of this riverain tract is the rapidly increasing number of centrifugal pumps that are being installed since the war. This fact in itself is a positive indication that the Arab in general is satisfied that his property will under British administration be reasonably secure, despite "Nationalist" movements.

Much has been written about the Arab preferring the nomadic pastoral life to the sedentary life of the cultivator. In so far as the Arab of Mesopotamia is concerned this is at root a fallacy. He adopts the nomadic life only by sheer force of necessity. During the Turkish régime, when but little security was guaranteed to life or property, the Arab could continue to live only in virtue of his mobility, and his property remained his only in virtue of its not being "immovable." His innate pastoral habits, acquired from his forefathers in Arabia proper, coupled with the steppe vegetation of large tracts in Mesopotamia, ensured the investment of his wealth in live stock being reasonably secure, and certainly more so than in immovable property.

A signal proof of the validity of the contention that the Mesopotamian Arab is an agriculturist at heart, as distinguished from a pastoralist, is to be found in the readiness with which he settles down wherever he is supplied with a perennial flow of water with which to cultivate crops, and whenever there is a reasonable degree of security that he may reap what he sows.

The lands controlled by all the existing perennial canals in Mesopotamia are occupied by Arab cultivators to the extent of their full requirements of labour for the winter crop of cereals. And, except for the relatively small quantity of rice at the tail of both the Tigris and the Euphrates canals, these winter cereals of wheat and barley are the staple food crops, and the primary source of income to the cultivators. During the summer months the only crops of any importance that are cultivated are inferior millets and maize, vegetables, and some low-grade cotton for the local market. The economics of the agricultural practices now adopted on the greater part of the area commanded by these canals would appear to be radically unsound in so far as the rotation of crops is concerned. But, as is the case with practically all agricultural practices, there are, or at least were, sound reasons for their adoption. In the past Mesopotamia has grown crops, with the one notable exception of dates, to meet the local demand only. Exportable produce was not grown, mainly owing to the absence of facilities for transport and of security that the produce, in course of transit, would reach its destination.

(To be concluded.)

PALESTINE BRICK AND TILE FACTORY.

The Department of Commerce and Industry of the Government of Palestine has forwarded to the Department of Overseas Trade particulars regarding the Brick and Tile Factory "Silicate" which will shortly be registered in Palestine as a limited company with a capital of £E75,000. The head office and factory will be at Tel-Aviv, Jaffa. The company has been formed to manufacture building bricks, by a patent process, from compressed sand and lime, and roofing tiles from asbestos and cement. It is also proposed to manufacture asbestos cement sheets suitable for building purposes. Production is expected to commence about the end of July. It is estimated that a daily output of 40,000 bricks will be made, which quantity will be doubled, should the demand arise, by the adoption of two shifts instead of one.

Yugoslavia states that the management of the State tobacco monopoly of Yugoslavia has granted to sixty farmers of the district of Tselje a concession for the cultivation of 218,000 plants.

A notice has been issued by the Egyptian War Trade Department to the effect that exports to Russia are no longer subject to an export licence, except in respect of articles of which the export from Egypt is, or may hereafter be, specifically prohibited.

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ENGINEERING.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

The Marine Engine.

The existing coal situation has caused renewed attention to be given to such questions as the economy of using Diesel oil engines in marine work, of using producer gas in motor lorries, of annealing malleable iron castings in oil furnaces, and of raising steam in oil-fired boilers. As a matter of fact, the events of the past month have given a remarkable fillip to the motor ship movement, and so it is an ill wind that blows no one any good. According to my friend, Mr. Perman, who is one of the leading authorities on the subject, and who has been conducting a good deal of research work on behalf of the motor ship, the price of oil fuel suitable for use with Diesel's has dropped from £10 to £6 per ton at British ports, a figure on the basis of which contracts for three years' supply seem to have been entered into. From this it will be seen that the views of those who prophesy a coming oil famine are apparently not shared by all who have oil to sell. Incidentally, however, it is worth emphasising that the fuel bill of a motor ship bunkering at British ports is now approximately one-half that of a steamer.

The increasing popularity of the motor ship may be gauged from the fact that at the end of last March there were 16 per cent. more motor ships under construction in the various shipyards of Great Britain than there were at the close of 1920, and those interested in comparative statistics will find food for thought in the fact that during the same period the number of steam-driven vessels being built was reduced by 5 per cent. Amongst the more important orders for motor ships recently given are two which are worthy of note, one being for a cargo vessel of no less than 15,000 tons capacity, and the other for a big passenger liner, the Domala, being built for the British India Steam Navigation Co., for trading between London and Calcutta. There are at present four big passenger liners, fitted with Diesel engines, being built in this country.

Gas-Driven Cars.

It is generally admitted that the high price of petrol is materially affecting the extensive use and development of the motor vehicle and tractor. Indeed, the question of running costs has a direct bearing, not only upon the future prosperity of the motor industry, but also upon the selling price of all road-borne commodities. Economy of operation is imperative in this connection, and any and every practical effort to reduce running expenses without impairing the efficiency of the heavy motor vehicle is to be welcomed.

Many attempts have been made during the past few years to find a satisfactory substitute for petrol, but the only direction in which a practical solution has been reached is that of using coal gas obtained by means of a suction plant fixed upon the vehicle itself. The following is an extract from the report of a sub-committee of a standing committee on the Investigation of Fuel Prices issued last November:—

The use of portable gas producers should be extended, more particularly for transport lorries, agricultural machinery, and omnibuses. This form of power would appear to be immediately available, and opens up the most hopeful avenue of speedy relief. Hitherto research in the application of this form of fuel to motor vehicles has been more or less in the experimental stages, but a sound commercial application has now been made by the manufacturers of the "Parker" producer gas plant, and a series of carefully compiled records of 3-ton lorries under actual working conditions show that a saving of at least 75 per cent. can be effected in the operation costs of any type of commercial motor vehicle.

A 3-ton lorry fitted with a Parker installation will carry a full load at the same speed as with petrol for 100 miles on a consumption of 300 lbs. of coke costing 10s. 9d.—the coke being priced at the outside figure of £4 per ton. The same vehicle running on petrol and doing the same work would consume about 17 gallons, costing £2 11s. Thus, in a journey of 100 miles a saving in fuel costs of £2 0s. 3d. is effected. Several 3-ton lorries equipped with the plant have been in regular use for some time, in which the fuel costs work out at 1.32d. per mile and .35d. per net ton mile.

The principle of the producer gas plant may briefly be outlined as follows:—A stream of air and steam is drawn through glowing coke, anthracite, or other fuel, producing a highly combustible but impure gas. This gas is conveyed by pipes through a dust box, where it is relieved of all solid impurities, and thence it passes to another chamber, where it is bubbled through water and afterwards scrubbed by passing up through a grid containing moistened pebbles, thus eliminating all volatile constituents which might otherwise gum up the engine. Thence the gas is conveyed to the engine throttle, which takes the place of the orthodox carburettor.

The feature of the Parker plant apart from its simplicity is its compactness. It can be fitted to any existing commercial motor vehicle or farm tractor in such a manner as to occupy no space that in the ordinary way would be utilised for useful loads, nor does any part of the installation project beyond the body line of the vehicle.

The producer itself is constructed of mild steel plate, with welded joints, surmounted by a hopper of similar material from

which the fuel (coke) is fed into the fire-box. This latter is situated at the bottom of the producer, and is equipped with a special refractory lining made from a patented composition, which resists heat to such a remarkable extent that an oxy-acetylene blowpipe flame has no destructive effect upon it. The fire grid supporting the incandescent fuel is a steel casting, and a novel point about the arrangement is that the bottom portion of the grid forms a trough containing water, which is kept at a definite level by means of a float feed, the supply being received from the tank, which previously carried the petrol supply. This device not only prevents overheating of the fire grid, but also supplies the necessary steam to the producer. Thus one of the most important points which have in the past hampered progress in the adaptation of producer gas to motor vehicles—namely, the rapid destruction of parts due to high temperature—has been satisfactorily overcome. Excessive weight and bulk have both been eliminated by the employment of mild steel plating throughout, and by keeping the outside dimensions of the plant down to the lowest practicable limits. The additional weight of the plant amounts to only about 8 or 10 lb. per h.p.

In the Parker plant the air is admitted at the top of the producer, passes down a jacket between the outer wall and fire-resisting liner, and thence, mixed with the steam, passes up through the grate, and so generates the gas. It is then conveyed by a large suction-pipe to the top of the dust-box, where it passes under a baffle plate, and, emerging from the other end of the box, is carried to the rear of the chassis, where the scrubber is situated. From the scrubber it is taken along the rear side of the chassis to the engine. An air-valve is provided, by which the driver can regulate the mixture. The hopper, which is situated above the producer, contains enough coke to run the vehicle a distance of about fifty miles, and it is provided with a quickly detachable lid, so that it can be replenished with a minimum of trouble. A hand-operated blower, placed at the right side of the producer, is provided for starting, which process takes about eleven minutes from the time that the fire has been lit. Thereafter starting after the vehicle has been stopped is a matter of simplicity, just as in the case of an engine using liquid fuel.

Another important feature of the plant is that the whole of the firebox may be removed by simply undoing a few nuts, so that in the event of a liner burning out a spare can easily be fitted, as all the fireboxes are interchangeable. The burnt firebox can be refired at a cost of about £3, and can afterwards be carried as a spare.

The company is manufacturing Parker producers to the order of the Crown Agents for the Colonies. These plants use charcoal as a fuel, and this fact must be of immense value to our colonies, and in fact in many parts of the world where charcoal, or in other words, timber is available, and where, owing to distance from the sea, oil fuel is almost prohibitive in cost. The above-mentioned plants are for use on vehicles in Nigeria, where petrol at the present time costs something like 15s. per gallon. The saving here will be enormous, for there is obviously an unlimited supply of charcoal in the densely wooded tracts of the colonies. It is expected that the development of this plant in Central Africa alone will make possible the development of huge tracts of country which are eminently suited for mechanical cultivation, although at the moment this is unremunerative owing to the cost of petrol.

The great feature of the company's designs and patents is that they have been successful in evolving a design of producer which will produce gas under the varying loads inevitable in road transport in a plant weighing approximately 400 lb., whereas a stationary producer gas engine plant for the same horse power weighs about 6 tons. Producer gas is, of course, in no way novel—it is accepted as the cheapest form of power available for all stationary engine purposes, and most of the gas engines in this country are, in fact, run on producer gas.

It is interesting to note that in the near future one of the Parker producer gas plants will be in use for bus work, the British Automobile Traction Company having taken delivery of a set for this purpose. One large firm of hirers is contracting for 250 sets, and a well-known member of the motor trade has announced that he has booked orders for no fewer than 1,000 sets. Another big corporation has placed an order for 500 sets.

The Parker plant in its present form is the result of years of experiment, and its design and operation have been so simplified that a driver without previous experience can operate it by following the simple directions provided with each installation. It is fire-proof and fool-proof, and there are no mechanically operated parts to get out of order. It is fitted to any existing petrol vehicle or tractor at a total cost of £150, and in fuel saving will pay for itself in anything from three months to six months' running. As already stated, experience shows that with a 3-ton lorry a sum of £2 0s. 3d. can be saved on a day's

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run of 100 miles compared with the petrol-driven lorry. Assuming 200 working days per year, the fuel costs for a lorry fitted with a Parker plant would be £503 2s. 6d. less than those of a petrol vehicle of the same power and carrying capacity.

Motor Speeds.

My old friend, Mr. Harry Vane, the managing director of Messrs. D. Napier and Son, Ltd., of Acton Vale, writes me as follows:—"Having regard to the considerable interest created by a special racing car at Brooklands Track on Easter Monday, attaining a speed of 120 m.p.h., it is interesting to recall that in November, 1908—nearly 13 years ago—a six-cylinder Napier attained a speed of 119.34 m.p.h. On this occasion the car used was a standard six-cylinder Napier adapted for racing purposes. It is significant that after the intervention of over 12 years a car with a special engine for high-speed racing should only slightly improve on the performance of the old six-cylinder Napier. Napier's, as you know, have had their share of racing experience, and are now concentrating on the production of the famous 40-50 h.p. six-cylinder model, as well as 450 h.p. and 1,000 h.p. Napier aero engines, which have proved themselves, each in their particular sphere, the best in the world."

Artificial Lighting.

Few who have had any considerable practical experience in the lighting of factories and workshops will be disposed to agree with the somewhat academic remarks of *Engineering* in this connection. The journal said recently that, with all due regard to illuminating engineers, it does not look upon the adequate lighting of a factory as being other than a simple matter. It continued: "We admit that if one went to the average electric wiring contractor and told him to prepare a scheme to give a minimum horizontal illumination of .05 foot-candles (sic) at floor level in a workshop, and a minimum illumination at three feet from the ground of 5 foot-candles for work-benches and machines, he might be considerably at a loss. The reason for this, however, would not be that the problem was a difficult one, but that the wiring contractor did not know much about his own job." To put it plainly, this is not worthy of the paper which put forward the view. The argument, if such it can be called, shows that the problem, difficult to a wiring contractor, would be a simple one to an engineer. As a matter of fact, so it is—to the specialist or illuminating engineer. It would be harder for a general engineer or a chemical, mechanical, or hydraulic engineer than any problem arising in the ordinary course of his specialist work. Does the paper intend to imply that any and every kind of engineer has a specialist knowledge of electrical work, particularly scientific electric lighting? It is certain that *Engineering* would be the last paper in the world to make such a claim, so that all the argument amounts to is that the problem, which would be difficult to any other class of engineer, would be simple to an illuminating engineer. Which, so far as I understand it—and I have been engaged in factory and workshop lighting for a number of years—is exactly what the illuminating engineers claim. Engineers who have specialised in electric lighting work will, however, agree with the contention that the illumination of workshops and factories would receive more attention, and bad examples would be rectified if works engineers or others concerned would make use of a foot-candle meter as an every-day workshop instrument. The unaided eye is a very poor judge of illumination intensities, but if a practice is made of actually reading and recording the candle-power in every important part of a factory, remarkable variations will probably be discovered and a general improvement of the bad patches is likely to be undertaken.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—A firm tendency has generally been in evidence in the market. Currants have been a strong spot, and rates have advanced. The shortage of sultanas has had its effect on the prices of this commodity, which are now very high. Persian dates have come to business well at advancing rates.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in good demand at the official prices. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 58s. to 62s., while American granulated at 65s. 6d. has lost 1s. 6d.

Coffee.—The futures market has been unsteady. East Indian has been done at 128s., and bold greyish and greenish is quoted at 94s. to 113s. Costa Rica has been done at 123s. 6d., and Nairobi good bold greenish was sold at 123s. 6d. Quotations are:—May, 39s.; July, 40s.; September, 40s. 6d.; December, 41s. 6d.; March, 42s.

Oilseeds.—The market has been firm. Indian linseed at 16s. 6d. is 1s. 6d. down, but La Plata at 14s. 6d. is 3d. up. Rapeseed is firm, with Toria at 18s., bold Ferozepore at 17s., and brown Cawnpore at 15s., an increase of 6d. in each case. Egyptian cottonseed (black) is 3d. up at 12s. 6d.

Oils.—Linseed oil is firm at 26s. Rape oil is steady, with crude at 45s. Refined cotton oil is quoted at 40s., and the Egyptian crude variety at 32s. Turpentine has come to business at 72s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 172s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 257s. cwt.; cheese, 140s. cwt.; chillies, 100s. cwt.; eggs, 17s. 9d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 94d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 75s. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 110s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (East India bold), 115s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Mocha longberry), 92s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos superior), 52s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 45s. cwt.; hams, 147s. 6d. cwt.; lard, 81s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 114d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 34d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 84d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 115s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 76s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 145s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 67s. 74d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes) 72s. 3d. cwt.; sugar (white Java), 65s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (West Indian crystallised), 62s. 6d. cwt.; sago (small pearl), 24s. 9d. cwt.; sago flour, 13s. 9d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 17s. 6d. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), £5 15s. ton; tea (Indian), 6d. lb.; tea (Ceylon), 64d. lb.; tea (Java), 4d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 81s. 44d. qr.; wheat (English white), 90s. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 79s. 9d. qr.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 94d. lb.; citric, 2s. 44d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 84d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £20 5s. 74d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £47 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 114d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 10s. ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 133s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 104d. lb.; chlorate, 64d. lb.; caustic, £47 10s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 104d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 4d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £27 10s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 150s. ton; bicarbonate, £11 ton; bichromate, 74d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 15s. ton; chlorate, 43d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 5s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 10s. ton; prussiate, 84d. lb.; nitrate, £19 15s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £33 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 3d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 54d. oz.; red lead, £38 10s. ton; white dry lead, £41 15s. ton; white ground lead, £52 ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English regulus), £39 12s. 6d. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £69 16s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £72 10s. ton; gold bars, 104s. 9d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 120s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 180s. ton; galvanised sheets, £23 ton; lead (soft foreign), £20 18s. 9d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 44d. unit; molybdenite, 55s. unit; nickel, £195 ton; platinum, 340s. oz.; plumbago, £30 ton; quicksilver, £11 10s. bottle; silver bars, 35d. oz.; spelter (G.O.D.), £26 3s. 9d. ton; tin (standard), £167 17s. 6d. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 27s. box; wolfram, 12s. 3d. unit; zinc sheets, £36 10s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 7d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 74d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 64d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 54d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 5d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 5d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 44d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 34d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 44d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 44d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 34d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 34d. lb. Bulls (first), 3d. lb.; bulls (second), 2d. lb. Casualty hides, 24d. lb. Kips (first), 34d. lb.; kips (second), 24d. lb.; kips (third), 2d. lb. Calcutta market. Prices in rupees per 20 lb. Arsenic hides (cows), Agrad, 5 to 11; Durbhangas, 4 to 5; Patnas, 3 to 4; salted cows, 2.8 to 5. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 2.8 to 6. Skins: Calf, 6 to 8 per 20 lbs.; goat, 150 to 180 per 100 pieces. The Bombay hide and skin market is dull.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 8.31d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £14 2s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £17 5s. ton; soya beans, £11 10s. ton; palm kernels, £18 ton; Oils: Linseed, £24 15s. ton; soya, £30 ton; cotton (crude), £29 ton; olive, £87 10s. ton; ground nut, £35 ton; palm, £32 ton; rape (crude), £44 ton; petroleum, 2s. 34d. gallon; turpentine (American), 57s. 6d. cwt. Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 11d. lb.; smoked sheet, 10d. lb.; fine hard Para, 104d. lb.

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SUDAN PRODUCE.**Rainfall and Cultivation.**

The following are further extracts from the C.E.B. report for February:—

Halfa Province.—Most favourable reports have been received regarding all sagia and seluka crops throughout the Province during January.

Nuba Mountains Province.—Ushur boards have completed their work, and according to reports, crops have been very good. No definite figures have yet been received.

Dongola Province.—Reports received from all Mamurias state that Spanish sparrows are causing a good deal of damage to the ripening barley and wheat crops, particularly on Argo Island and in Kerma Basin. Shooting parties have been organised throughout the Province. The village of Baga has been included in the Ghaba pumping area, adding some 150 feddans to the site.

Mongalla Province.—3.4 millimetres of rain during January at Mongalla. It is unusual to have rain in this month. The total rainfall at Mongalla in 1920 was 1,128.5 mms. (45.1 inches), compared with 1919 901.6 mms. (36 inches), 1918 850 mms. (34 inches). The readings of the Nile gauge on the first and last days of the month were 11.15 and 11.3, compared with 11.60 and 11.48 in 1920.

Bahr el Ghazal Province.—The dredger Agrab arrived at Meshra on the 27th, having cut through several blocks 300 yards in length, and reports river in a very bad condition, and estimates another two months' work. Rainfall for month nil. The Jur river is half a metre higher than it was this month last year.

Berber Province.—Grain prices continue to fall, but comparatively high prices are still being obtained for sakia dura and red dura from the atmurs, as compared with the feterita from the South. Near Abu Hamed, at the beginning of January, wheat was doing well. At Bouga pumping station (Berber), the damira-dura has averaged nearly 4 ardebs (380 rottles), and the large area of winter crops, principally wheat, with a considerable amount of Egyptian beans and Fasulia, was looking well.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar had some light rain towards the end of February. Rains in Beni Amer Hills were good and grazing excellent.

Trade.

Nuba Mountains Province.—Trade is disappointing. This is mostly caused by the slump in prices for native produce. There is little demand from the North for dura, simsim, and ful sudani, all of which are abundant in the province.

White Nile Province.—General slump in trade here appears also to be due to lack of ready money. Owing to the high prices obtainable last year, practically everyone, including a great number of merchants, put most of their ready money into cultivation.

Labour.

Halfa Province.—The labour situation is easier, and the cost slightly down. Difficulty is anticipated when work on hospital is started.

Khartoum Province.—The harvesting of the rain crops during January has absorbed most of the labour available in the province.

Nuba Mountains Province.—Average daily wage is P.T.4, plus food. There has been no scarcity of labour this year. Streams of natives have been applying for work in Talodi, and although nearly 500 have found employment under the different building schemes going on, many have been turned away. Batches of men have been found for work at Malakal and with the Army transport in the south, also for wood cutting, etc. The cause of their desire to find work may be traced, at any rate as far as Eliri is concerned, to the slump in prices of ful sudani and simsim. Eliri natives made a speciality of these two items, and in the past few years have done very well. This year they find their products on their hands unless they are willing to part at a very much reduced rate. Many are holding up their produce in hopes of better prices later, and in the meantime have been forced to look for work to keep them in money.

Dongola Province.—It is estimated that one-third of the male population has left the Province for Tokar and Makwar. Average local wage is P.T.5 a day.

White Nile Province.—Labour is still very scarce, and what is available is absorbed locally.

Kordofan Province.—The average number of labourers employed during February was 120 in El Obeid and thirty at Um Ruaba, at 70 mms. per diem in both places.

Berber Province.—The labour situation is becoming more difficult, principally in the towns, and the rate is mostly P.T.10.8 per day. There is as yet no serious shortage for agricultural purposes, and both Zeideb and Shendi record an improvement now that rain crops are in.

Cattle Plague.

Outbreaks of minor importance have occurred in the Blue Nile, Fung, and Kordofan Provinces. The Berber and Khartoum Provinces were reported clear of the disease during the latter half of the month. A veterinary inspector visited the Upper Nile Province during the month, and proceeded to Kodok to investigate diseases in that district. Whilst there he was instructed to proceed to Taiba, in Renk district, to inquire into cattle disease reported to be existing there. On arrival he found few cattle and no signs of disease. The veterinary inspector in Mongalla Province reports that during a tour in Kajo-Kaji and the southern districts he found rinderpest. He states that the natives, as a rule, do not believe that rinderpest is a contagious disease, but the majority are very interested in any suggestions to prevent the spread of this disease.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.**Cheerful Tone Maintained.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

The tone of the market during the past week has maintained its cheerful aspect, but during the last few days there has been a falling off in business. Although this slackening off in trade is attributable to the continuation of the coal strike, many prominent traders are of the opinion that buyers have satisfied their immediate wants, for during the last three weeks there has been quite a big trade done in Lancashire goods. With regard to cloth, the principal outlet of the Near East has been Egypt, and, at the beginning of the week, fair lots were reported as having gone through. Buyers for the Levant and Constantinople have not been altogether idle, but trade has been difficult to arrange. A feature of interest has been the steadiness displayed in Egyptian cotton circles. With regard to the new crop the latest advices show that the growth is about 30 days late. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have not fluctuated to any great extent, and a steady offtake has been registered. Cloth buyers for India have been in evidence, and fair lots of dhooties and other light cloths have been booked for Calcutta, Karachi, and Bombay. Transactions have been difficult to arrange on account of buyers insisting upon the insertion of a strike clause in contracts. Reports from China are not at all favourable, and shippers are slow in raising rates. American spinnings have been in fair request, and prices have been well held. In export bundles a fair trade has been done in dyed sorts for India and in extra hards for the Levant and other Near Eastern outlets.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date April 28:—

Egyptian Spot.—Taking into account the adverse conditions under which spinners are working at the moment, the demand has been on quite a satisfactory scale, the sales for the week totalling 2,000 bales (including 20 bales Sudan), against 1,900 bales (including 60 bales Sudan) in our last report. The inquiry continues to run nearly exclusively on the medium grades of Sakel. Uppers have been rather neglected, whilst a small business is reported in both the brown and white varieties. Egypt shows more disposition to let cotton go when bids at anything approaching the market value are cabled out. The basis for Sakel cotton there has eased somewhat, no doubt on the prospects of the duty on the imports of staple cotton into America becoming law in the near future. Quotations show no change during the past week. F.G.F. Sakel, 17.75d.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

112. An Alexandria firm wish to enter into business relations with United Kingdom firms dealing in the following exports:—Beers and stout; salmon, sardines, tinned fruit and vegetables; coconut oil; gunny bags; pepper, rice, flour and soap.

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

114.—Importer in Karaohi (India), travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

The report of the directors on the working of the bank for 1920-21, submitted to the shareholders at the eighteenth ordinary general meeting, held at the offices of the bank in Cairo on April 29, states:—

The directors have to report that the net profits of the bank for the financial year 1920-21, in accordance with Article 40 of the statutes, amount to £E447,395. 797. From this amount there has to be deducted: The service of the debentures, £E236,012. 489; the provision for the reserve fund, £E13,439. 221; the provision for the special reserve fund, as per Article 40 of the statutes, £E18,153. 636—£E267,605. 346, leaving £E179,790. 451; and there has to be further deducted: Dividend on £1,250,000 preferred shares, £E48,750; commission to the National Bank of Egypt, £E8,151. 011—£E56,901. 011, leaving £E122,889. 440, 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 £E1,989. 440 is available to the extent of one-half, or £E994. 720 for the ordinary shares, and to the extent of one-half, or £E994. 720 for the deferred shares.

Ordinary Shares.

The amounts therefore available for dividend on these shares are as follows:—Balance from the year ending January 31, 1920, £E379,795. 055; interest for the year, accrued on the above balance, £E18,989. 753—£E398,784. 808; for dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £E120,900; further amount available, £E994. 720; total, £E520,679. 528. The directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 8s. per annum for the financial year 1920-21, amounting to £E193,440, and to carry forward the balance of £E327,239. 528.

Deferred Shares.

The amounts available for dividend on these shares are as follows:—Balance from the year ending January 31, 1920, £E317,084. 423; interest for the year, accrued on the above balance, £E15,854. 221; total, £E332,938. 644; amount available as above, £E994. 720; total, £E333,935. 364. The directors propose to pay a dividend of £40 per share, amounting to £E78,000, and to carry forward the balance of £E255,935. 364.

As will be seen above, we recommend the maintenance of the same dividends as those paid during the three previous years. In order to do so it is necessary to draw on the balances carried forward to the credit of the ordinary and deferred shareholders' accounts. During the year under review a transfer was effected of £50,000 nominal of British Government 5 per cent. War Loan 1929-47 from the general investment account to the account of the general reserve fund; the loss on this realisation of a part of the general investments has been deducted from the profits of the year. The fund formed for depreciation on investments stands at the same amount as in the previous year, viz., £E245,000. The special reserve fund formed in accordance with Article 40 of the statutes now stands at £E78,640. The latter fund was instituted to build up a reserve against possible losses connected with the extended powers granted to the bank, permitting it to invest its surplus funds in securities approved by the Egyptian Government and to make loans guaranteed by such securities or by mortgage. The total depreciation on our Government securities amounts on January 31, 1921, to £E384,529, but we do not recommend making any further provision against this out of the profits of this year. As regards the Mortgage Company of Egypt, we can confirm the opinion we expressed last year that the shares we hold in this company are worth the sum at which they are shown in our balance-sheet. There has been lately a marked revival in demands to the company for loans at good rates; but as might be expected the settlement of instalments has been affected by the fall in price and the slow disposal of cotton. Further purchases of debentures of the company have been made at lower prices than the offer of 1919. For the year ending March 31, 1920, the dividend paid was 12 per cent., as compared with 8 per cent. in previous years.

Arrears.

On January 31, 1921, the total arrears outstanding were £E172,760, against £E83,724 on January 31, 1920. Of the sum of £E172,760 in arrear shown above, £E73,102 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., £E99,658, 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 £E172,760 will go entirely to the profit of the year in which they are effected. Up to March 15 the encashments since February 1, 1921, on account of the arrears of £E172,760 amount to £E6,000.

The sums collected during the past year from the annual instalment due and from the arrears of past years are considerably less than the corresponding amounts of the previous year. £E434,758 were collected out of the annual instalment of £E572,726 and £E47,700 from the arrears, making a total collection as regards these two items of £E482,458. It was to be expected that the encashments for account of arrears would sensibly diminish in view of the greatly reduced amount of the arrears outstanding for collection during the year. As regards the annual instalment, the collections during the earlier part

of the year were proportionate to those of previous years, but the rapid fall in the price of cotton just when the year's crop was coming on the market caused a marked diminution in the payment of the instalment in the Delta, with the result of increasing the total of the arrears to be carried forward to the ensuing year.

There were many applications for new loans during the earlier part of the year, and this demand was greatly increased later, due in great part to the temporary difficulties in which certain cultivators found themselves owing to the fall in the price of cotton and the difficulty in selling it during the last few months of the year under consideration. There is reason to believe that this increased demand for credit will continue during the coming year, and we expect to increase our output considerably. The total of loans exceeding £E1,000 each was £E120,273 on January 31, 1921. Our arrears on these loans were £E10,227.

Land Acquired.

The reduction in the area of land acquired by the bank during the year and in the total land still held by the bank is chiefly due to the decreased number of expropriation cases in which it was necessary to sell up the land. The area of land which the bank found it necessary to acquire during 1920-21 was 80 feddans, as compared with 207 feddans in 1919-20, and we have sold 402 feddans as compared with 531 the previous year; our land holding has thus decreased by some 322 feddans. We hope to be able to sell gradually the 425 feddans remaining on our hands at satisfactory prices. The number of expropriations made by the bank during the year are as follows:—Number of cases in hand on February 1, 1920, 780; number of new cases begun during 1920-21, 513; total, 1,293; cases settled, 851; balance, 442; cases brought to expropriation, 40; balance pending on January 31, 1921, 402. In ten of these cases of expropriation sixty feddans were bought in by the bank, and in thirty-four remaining cases 198 feddans were bought in by third parties.

We have to report that Sir Frederick Rowlatt, having retired from the office of Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, has ceased to be president of our board, and his successor at the National Bank of Egypt, Mr. B. Hornsby, takes his place, in accordance with our statutes. We take this opportunity of expressing to Sir Frederick Rowlatt our great regret on losing him as a colleague and our appreciation of the valuable services he has rendered to the bank during the fifteen years of his presidency. The directors beg to thank the staff at head office and the agencies for their satisfactory work during the year.

IONIAN BANK.

The annual general meeting of the Ionian Bank, Ltd., was held on April 26 at the offices of the company, Basilidon House, Moorgate Street, E.C., Sir John Stavridi (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. John Lindsey) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said that there had been a steady advance and expansion in the business of the bank during the past year, in spite of political and commercial difficulties and adverse circumstances in Greece and in Egypt during the period under review. The general result was all the more remarkable when it was borne in mind that banking competition in Greece was now very keen, and that, in such competition, the Ionian Bank was to some extent handicapped by its conservative instincts and traditions, by the fact that all speculative handling of exchange was rigorously forbidden by the directors, and that the bank's profits were and could only be made from sound genuine banking business and on unimpeachable lines of policy. In Greece commercial conditions during the year had been determined largely by those prevailing in Western Europe. The abnormal activity and expansion there during the first half of the year led to an unprecedented rush of imports into Greece. Under the pressure the exchanges naturally gave way. Then in the second half of the year a determined attempt was made officially in Western Europe and in America to stop further advance of prices and to produce deflation. The fall in prices which resulted in England and the United States had most serious consequences on Greek commerce. In addition to these adverse conditions, the bank's business had been affected by the unsettled political situation, which had necessitated the adoption of a more than usually cautious policy on the part of the management during the last two months of the year. Such policy inevitably led to an accumulation of unemployed funds. Last November, owing to the change of Government, the Powers refused to allow Greece to draw unused credits in England and France granted to the previous Government. This financial boycott placed Greece in a most difficult position. Should the campaign in Asia Minor be prolonged, as seemed more than probable, and should the Great Powers maintain the financial boycott, the country would soon be in such straits as might lead to disaster, notwithstanding the recent loan of 500,000,000 drachmæ by the National Bank of Greece.

The Position in Egypt.

In Egypt the commercial year had been a black one. The prosperity of the country turned entirely upon cotton, which, after a phenomenal rise, had a precipitous and disastrous fall. It hit badly not merely the fellahen growers and the middle men, but also several of the banks. The Ionian Bank, however, had not only come unscathed through the crisis, but had earned almost its normal profits, while at the end of the year every existing account was substantially covered by margin or collateral.

The balance-sheet was, as usual, drawn up at approximate rates, namely, drachmæ 25 and piastres tariff 97.50 per £. In view of the heavy depreciation in drachmæ, adjusting rates

were necessary with a bank such as this, whose funds and transactions were in different currencies, and these rates only actually affected the figures of the balance-sheet by the net balances which required to be adjusted. In their case these balances were very slight, and fully provided for under "other liabilities." There was an apparent falling off in the gross figures, which were now £11,554,590, against £11,977,230. This falling off was entirely in the "other liabilities" and "other assets" accounts, and they welcomed this reduction, as it meant a return to a more normal state of affairs. During the war these accounts were swollen considerably by contra and suspense items, which had to appear on both sides of the balance-sheet pending final settlement, and they hoped in future that they might possibly be able to reduce these figures still more. The reserve fund, if the report and accounts were adopted, would be increased to £130,000. Deposits and current accounts showed a healthy increase of over £500,000, and the fluctuation in "bills payable" and "contingent liability" (the latter this year nil) were accounted for by market conditions. Shareholders would notice the strong showing which the bank again made in available cash on hand and at call. In investments there was a falling off of £189,713, due to customers' requirements, which, however, in no way affected the general position of the bank. "Bills receivable" showed an increase, due to larger holdings in British Government Treasury Bills. The increase in "bills discounted" followed an increase last year, so that the amount of commercial bills held by the branches of the bank, which two years ago amounted to only £285,859, now showed the satisfactory figure of £1,564,962, all good-class banking and commercial trade paper. They had written down all the investments of the bank to market value or under, which naturally had materially reduced the profits. Since December 31, when the books were closed, there had been a steady and material appreciation in the value of securities, and if the accounts had closed now instead of on December 31 there would have been a very different showing in the profits. It had been decided to appoint Mr. J. Lindsey (the secretary) as chief inspector of the bank, with headquarters in London, as from May 1. Mr. R. H. Fry, the assistant secretary, becoming secretary. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Warrington Laing seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted, and a final dividend was declared of 3s. per share, with a bonus of 1s. per share, both free of income-tax.

Mr. G. S. S. Guthrie was re-elected a director. Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. were reappointed auditors, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff concluded the proceedings.

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH.

The fifty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Indo-European Telegraph Company, Ltd., was held on April 27 at 18, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. J. Herbert Tritton (the Chairman) presiding.

The Chairman said that while the directors' report was for 1920 the accounts presented were those for 1918, though they hoped before the end of the summer to present those for 1919. The main position with regard to the Russian assets remained as outlined at the last meeting, except that normal accretions of interest, etc., had slightly increased the item of Russian Government debts to £97,223.

Turning to the report, the year 1920 had been a year of disappointment for directors and shareholders alike. Since their last meeting trouble after trouble had supervened in Eastern Europe and in the Near East, and they had found it impossible to maintain their existing position in many sections of the line, their officials and staff having, in many instances, to be withdrawn. Complications in the Near East also extended to Persia, culminating in the threatened withdrawal of the British troops from that country and the enforced evacuation of the families of all telegraph and other officials resident in Persia. Their representative in Teheran remained at his post, and was doing all in his power in the interests of the company. The Persian Government, having surmounted their difficulties, would be in a position doubtless to further the re-establishment of this company's telegraph system transiting their country, which, meanwhile, was in a state of suspended animation, though the international importance of the route seemed greater than ever.

Now they came to an important section of the route—namely, that controlled by the Soviet Government. They had learned from the Moscow Government that, in principle, there was no objection whatever to the conclusion of an arrangement by which their line would transit that territory on its old ground. The directors had also reason to hope that where the influence of the Soviet Government might be needed in territory which might be described as more or less debatable ground, it would be exercised in favour of the company. They were once more encouraged to hope that all might, within a measurable space of time, be again well with them, and that reconstruction and consolidation might here be begun along their route. It was only in the Polish section that reconstruction over a considerable distance might have to be faced, and even there they were confident that by the utilisation of temporary links pending permanent reconstruction they would very quickly supply a workable line.

The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the accounts, the payment of a final dividend for the year 1920 of £1 2s. 6d. per share (making 7 per cent.) and the distribution out of the equalisation of dividends fund of 15s. per share, both free of income-tax and payable on May 2.

Mr. Charles Holland seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

INDIAN ELECTRIC SUPPLY.

The report of the Indian Electric Supply and Traction Co. for 1920 states that the surplus on working in Cawnpore was £34,959, plus transfer fees, interest, and discount on Treasury bills in England, making £40,557. London expenditure was £2,462, and after providing £3,113 for debenture interest profit is £34,981, plus £3,803 brought in, making £38,784. After placing to reserve for depreciation and renewals £6,000, to general reserve £6,500, to debenture issue expenses written off £2,500, to new share issue expenses written off £514, the directors recommend a final dividend of 7 per cent. (making 10 per cent.), carrying forward, subject to taxation, £5,074.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at January 31, 1921, 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	585,000
Current, Deposit and other Accounts	15,504,320
Mixed Tribunals	2,038,886
Egyptian Government	781,979
Bankers' Accounts	690,554
Cheques and Bills payable	833,794
Sundry other Accounts	693,558

£E25,515,591

	£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	7,501,545
Sundry Securities	269,814
Advances on Merchandise	1,587,882
Advances on Securities	1,876,803
Advances otherwise Secured	1,052,164
Sundry other Advances	494,000
Bills of Exchange	2,175,347
Local Bills Discounted	147,092
Buildings and Furniture	233,354
Money at call and at short notice	1,603,875
Bankers' Accounts	838,276
Egyptian Government	5,295,902
Sudan Government	246,443
Sundry other Accounts	220,505
Cash:—	
Notes	£E1,694,342
Gold	23,761
Silver, Nickel, etc.	254,492

1,972,595

£E25,515,591

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Notes Issued	37,200,000
	£E37,200,000

	£E3,333,190	£E.
Gold	15,266,810	18,600,000
British Treasury Bills		
Securities:—		
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	£E383,367	
British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds ..	18,216,633	18,600,000
		£E37,200,000

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

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended April 23 amounted to £10,091.

Mr. Francis Alexander Johnston has been elected a director of the Bank of British West Africa.

The shareholders of the Banque Marmorosch Blank et Cie have sanctioned an increase of capital from 125,000,000 to 250,000,000 lei.

The South Indian Railway Company announces an interim dividend from surplus profits of 2 per cent., less tax, making 3½ per cent. for half-year.

An official film record of the Duke of Connaught's Indian tour will be seen at the principal cinemas towards the end of June. A large proportion of the pictures deal with the scenery, the products, and the industries of India.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended April 10 amounted to £E8,807; total for year, £E8,807. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E11,880 and £E11,880 respectively.

THE GHARBIEH LAND CO., CAIRO.

The Ordinary General Meeting of the above Company will be held in Cairo on the 30th May, 1921. Shareholders wishing to be represented at that Meeting should lodge their Share Warrants with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., not later than the 14th May.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a General Meeting of the above-named Company, held in Cairo on the 29th April, 1921, it was decided that a Dividend of 8½ 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 5th May, 1921, 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. 18, DEFERRED No. 17) 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.

Cairo, 29th April, 1921.

By order,
B. HORNSBY, President.

MOTOR CARS IN SYRIA.

Before the war there were only fifteen motor-cars and two trucks in Beyrout district (says an American consular report). Now automobiles number 700 and trucks 105, in addition to the trucks used by the French Army of Occupation. The major part of the trucks were purchased from the British Armies of Occupation in Egypt and Palestine. Second-hand motor trucks of European and American make, of from two to four ton loading capacity, are also being exported from Europe. Owing to the fact that transport by railway is limited, slow, and expensive, and that there is a shortage of carriages and horses due to the war, there is an open field in Syria for motor vehicles. Generally speaking, Syria is hilly, even mountainous, and good hill-climbing machines should find a sale. The total mileage of all the roads in the territory under the jurisdiction of the consulate general is about 1,500 miles. Cars should be equipped with double and solid brakes, because of the sharp stops and numerous turns. Carriages should be high on the wheels, and the radiator should have a large surface for cooling. Furthermore, cars should have electric unmooring, and three speeds are desirable on account of the steep grades.

It is reported that the Tariff Commission of the Roumanian Ministry of Finance has been considering the question of a considerable reduction in the export tax on petroleum and allied products.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended April 29 was 3,189 tons, as against 3,007 tons for the previous week.

THE GREEK DEBT.

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 (new style January 14 to March 13, 1921):—

	Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery.	Piræus Customs.
Gross receipts Feb., 1921.....	Dr. 4,392,839	Dr. 3,952,981
Do. do. 1920.....	4,416,250	4,890,161
Estimated receipts for 2 months (Law of Control).....	4,816,666	1,783,333
Actual do. do 1921.....	9,833,067	8,469,506
" " " 1920.....	9,187,335	9,828,421
Difference between estimated & actual receipts for 2 months.....	1921 + 5,016,401	+ 6,686,173
	1920 + 4,370,669	+ 8,045,088

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 on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos Emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

GEORGE STEPHANOFF & SONS,
SLIVEN (Bulgaria).

Textile Factory for Woollen Cloths
 (Founded 1888).

Branch

SOFIA, Plochtat Tzar Kaloyan,

Telegraphic Address : "Stephanovi, Sofia."

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Capital - £10,000,000
 Paid-up - £5,000,000
 Reserve - £1,250,000

CONSTANTINOPLE.

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.

Lt.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs P. REDON

B. KERESTEDJIAN

J. UNGAR

} Directors.

DJEVAD BEY
 HAMID BEY.
 NOURY BEY.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.
LONDON.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.

E. W. H. BARRY.

THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH,
 C.M.G.

SIR W. GUY GRANET.

SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I.
 K.B.E., C.I.E.

LORD HILLINGDON.

General the HON. SIR HERBERT A.
 LAWRENCE, K.C.B.

LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE,
 K.P.

Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN,
 K.B.E., C.M.G.

SIR W. LAWRENCE YOUNG, Bart

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O.

ANDRE BERTHELOT.

JEAN BOISSONNAS.

CHARLES DE CERJAT.

HORACE FINALY.

GEORGES HEINE.

ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.

HENRI HOTTINGUER.

RAOUL MALLET.

FELIX VERNES.

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

Manager : E. W. H. BARRY.

Assistant Manager and Secretary : C. E. L. CORTHORN.

Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary : R. S. C. PEARCE.

Assistant Manager : W. P. SHEPPARD.

PARIS :

7, Rue Meyerbeer.

MANCHESTER :

25, Pall Mall.

MARSEILLES

41-43, Rue Grignan.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

EGYPT.

Alexandria. Cairo.
 Mansourah. Minieh.
 Port Said.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.
 Jaffa.
 Caiffa.

CYPRUS.

Nicosia. Larnaca.
 Limassol. Famagusta.
 Paphos.

SYRIA.

Aleppo.
 Alexandretta.

Beyrout.
 Damascus.

Hamah.
 Homs.

Saida.
 Tripoli.

MESOPOTAMIA.

Ashar.

Bassorah.

Bagdad.

Mossoul

SALONICA.
TUNIS, AFRICA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

GREEK SHIPPING SINCE 1914.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, April 19.

The eminent economist, Professor Andreadis, published recently a very interesting article dealing with the development of the Greek mercantile marine since 1914. This, says the Professor, was in a flourishing condition prior to the European conflict. During the first two years of the war, when the submarine warfare had not reached large proportions and freights had greatly increased, Greek shipowners realised enormous profits which, after allowing for expenses, were estimated at about 385 million drachmæ. Three unforeseen events, however, practically neutralised these important war profits. These were: (1) The intense submarine warfare carried out by Germany from early in 1917; (2) the Allied blockade; and (3) the requisition of Greek shipping by the Allies.

Greece, having lost through enemy action 66 per cent. of her mercantile marine, was hit harder than any other Allied or neutral country. Even Norway had lost fewer ships, that country's losses being only 40 per cent. The Allied blockade during 1916-1917 was a great blow, but matters became still worse in February, 1917, when the mercantile fleet was requisitioned by Great Britain and France.

Up to the day of the Armistice the Hellenic mercantile marine had lost 299 ships out of a total of 455. Greece was thus left with only 156 boats! In other words, the boats which had escaped destruction did not even equal three-sevenths of Greece's entire fleet. Even Germany's losses, which amounted to 36 per cent., were inferior to those of Greece. The Central Powers had sunk in proportion more ships flying the Greek flag than of any other nationality.

In January, 1920, the number of sailing vessels was practically equal to the pre-war figures. The net tonnage available on that date was 106,000, representing 1,048 vessels, as against 107,460 tons on January 1, 1915. The tonnage of steamships on January 1, 1920, had reached four-fifths of its pre-war figures, viz., 451,000, as against 550,000 tons on January 1, 1915. This rapid recovery was due to the many purchases effected by the shipowners, who actually placed orders abroad on the day after the Armistice. In 1919 alone they had ordered or purchased 48 ships, representing 112,000 tons net. There has been a marked tendency to buy big ships.

The Venizelist Government, in order to assist and encourage the reconstruction of the national mercantile marine, introduced two Bills in connection with the taxation on war profits. The shipowner who had suffered loss, but who benefited by the difference between the cost price of the boat he had lost and the compensation he had received, was exempted from taxation. He had, however, to pay the tax in advance, this being returned to him on his undertaking (within a period of two years from the date of the signature of the Peace Treaty) to place orders for ships the value of which must be equal to at least double the amount already paid for tax. A second Bill exempted from taxation all shipping profits realised after 1918. Unfortunately, these two laws so beneficial to the mercantile marine were now in danger of being cancelled by the new Government.

Referring to the compensations allotted, M. Andreadis said that Greece was treated in a very unjust manner. He points out that countries such as Brazil, which had played but a very small part in the Great War, were compensated by many German ships, whereas countries like France and Greece which were badly hit have received practically nothing. There were 11 German boats interned in Greek

ports in 1914, but when in 1917 Greece became officially a belligerent, and proceeded to seize these ships, she discovered that this had already been done by the Allies in the autumn of 1916. Furthermore, the Allied Commission for Indemnities have decided to consider Greece as a belligerent from the day she officially declared war on the Central Powers, and not from the date on which war was declared by the Venizelist revolutionary Government at Salonika. This would mean that Greece will only be entitled to receive an indemnity for losses sustained from and after June, 1917, instead of from October, 1916.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia, for Bombay (Glasgow, May 18 and Liverpool, May 31).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mangalore, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 11); s.s. Matheran, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 26); s.s. Masirah, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 28); s.s. Imani, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 11).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 11); s.s. Leicestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 25).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Chattan, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, May 5); s.s. Clan Ogilvy, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 5); s.s. Clan MacTaggart, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 19).

Cunard Line.—S.s. River Orontes, for Gibraltar (Liverpool, May 5); s.s. Tyria, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Liverpool and Manchester, May 26; Swansea, May 31); s.s. Brescia, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, June 1; Glasgow, June 6, and Swansea, June 8).

Ellerman Line.—A steamer will sail for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, on June 11 from Liverpool.

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Manchester, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 16); s.s. City of Exeter, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, May 27); s.s. City of Bristol, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 30).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt and Levant ports.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenshane, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 19); s.s. Glenamoy, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 2); s.s. Glenade, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 16).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Architect, for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 5); s.s. Astronomer, for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 19); s.s. Orator, for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Birkenhead, in May).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Bhamo, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 18).

Holt Line.—S.s. Ixion, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 6, and Birkenhead, May 13); s.s. Lycaon, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 6, and Birkenhead, May 13); s.s. Polyphemus, for Port Said, Suez, Batavia, etc. (Birkenhead, May 6).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 21); s.s.

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Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, middle of May).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Grodno, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, May 7); s.s. City of Palermo, for Malta and Alexandria (also taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Haifa, Mersina, Jaffa, Port Said, Cyprus, etc.) (Liverpool, May 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Dongola, for Bombay (London, May 6); s.s. Kashgar, for Bombay (London, May 20); s.s. Nyanza, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (also taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden) (London, May 20).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Margha, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, May 13); s.s. Gambada, for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 14); s.s. Manela, for Bombay and Karachi (London, May 28); s.s. Hatimura, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 4).

Prince Line.—S.s. Glendhu, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria (also taking cargo for Beyrout, Jaffa, Haifa, Tripoli (Syria), Latakia, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus ports, with option of transhipment at Alexandria) (Manchester, May 6).

YUGOSLAV MERCHANT FLEET.

Greater Serbia is preparing to have a merchant fleet of her own in conformity with her requirements now that she possesses a sea-board, says the *Journal of Commerce*. One of the first companies to be created is the Crao Shipping Line, with registered offices at Spalato, whose capital is 100 million dinars. A concern, which is to be called the Serbian Lloyd, is also to be formed in the port. The nucleus of its fleet will be twenty ships handed over by members of the Denikin forces now refugees in Turkish territory. Russians will in this way own the majority of the capital. At Ragusa similar plans are going forward with the assistance of British financiers. It is already settled that there is to be a regular Serbian service between this port and Great Britain.

SHIPPING AT THE PIRÆUS.

There were 513 arrivals of various steamers at the Piræus during March (O.S.) of the following nationalities:—Greek, 410; British, 32; Italian, 22; American, 10; French, 8; Inter-Allied, 7; Russian, 7; Roumanian, 6; German, 3; Dutch, 2; Swedish, 2; Japanese, 1; Belgian, 1; Egyptian, 1; Canadian, 1. The number of sailing vessels of various nationalities which entered the port during the month was 426.

LESS CONGESTION AT GALATZ.

Messrs. Watson and Yonell have issued the following communication, received from their Galatz house:—The dock organisation has considerably improved, and the masters of steamers express their satisfaction with the rate of discharge. The congestion having been worked down, goods can now much more easily be manipulated on the quay and in the warehouses, to the great satisfaction of consignees and others. The railways are removing goods stored at the docks at the rate of ten to fifteen trucks per day, destined for the interior, and much less time is lost in the transit of goods to destination, especially on the Galatz-Bucharest line.

The services of a representative of the P. and O. Banking Corporation are now available for the banking and monetary business of passengers on board the larger P. and O. passenger vessels at the time of embarkation in London or on arrival at Plymouth.

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TENDERS INVITED.

[Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.]

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

Egypt.

Drugs, etc.—Tenders are invited for the supply of drugs, etc., required for the period July 1, 1921, to March 31, 1922, by the Department of Public Health, Cairo. The articles required include various drugs and chemicals, surgical dressings, and various sundries, such as bottles, ointment pots, filter paper, etc., etc. Tenders will be received by the Director of Stores, Department of Public Health, Cairo, up till noon on May 10. (D.O.T.)

Coal Tar.—Tenders are invited for the supply of a thousand tons of coal tar to the Roads Office Tanzim Department, Cairo, to be delivered between July 1 and October 15. Alternative prices can be quoted for British Standard Specification No. 2, of any coal gas tar suitable for road spraying. May 15. (D.O.T.)

Saddles, etc.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for (1) saddles, No. 1, officers'; (2) brushes and brooms; (3) rugs, horse; tenders are due on May 12, and to remain open seven days; (4) cement, Portland, tenders are due on May 13, and to remain open seven days; (5) 1,000 yards of galvanised wire mosquito netting; tenders are due on May 18, and to remain open seven days. Samples of (1) and (3) may be seen, and particulars of (2), (4), and (5) obtained at the office of the Inspecting Engineer to the Egyptian Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1.

India.

Steel Bars, etc.—The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company invite tenders for the supply of the following stores, namely:—Mild steel bars, sections, etc., stationery, etc., Sheffield tools, etc., brake beams for wagons. Specifications and prices of tender can be obtained from the company's offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C.2, May 10.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on April 15 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 19-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6½; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £3; Associated Cotton Ginnings, £25-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 61; Behera Ord., £E8 9-16; Behera Priv., £E3 3-16; Bonded Stores, £10½; Brasseries d'Egypte Fr. 115; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16; Cassa di Sconto Priv., Fr. 102 ex; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt. 5; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 590; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 7.700 ex; Credit Foncier 1886 Oblig., Frs. 328; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Frs. 229½; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Cap., Fr. 73½; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 99½; Egypt and Levant s.s. Ord., 27s. 9d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4½; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10½; Gabbari Lands, £2; Immeubles d'Egypte, Soc. An. des., £5 3-32; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Pref., £2½; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., 110s.; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £4½; Kom. Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £35; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond., £35; Lots Turc. Fr. 45; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 280 ex; Nungovich Hotels, £7½; Ramleh Railway, £1½; Salt and Soda, 27s. 9d.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 40; Tram d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 55; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2 9-16; Egypt Hotels, £2 1-16; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachma to £	25'22½	65'75-66'25
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25'22½	136-139
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1'3½-1'3½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25'22½	235-250
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1'3½-1'3½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	525-545
New York	Dollars to £	4'86½	3'96½-3'97½
Paris	Francs to £	25'22½	50'82-51'50
Prague	Kronen to £	24'02	280-290
Rome	Lire to £	25'22½	82-83
Sofia	Levas to £	25'22½	326
Teheran	Krans to £	50	52½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24'02	1,425-1,550
Warsaw	Marks to £	20'43	3,200-3,400

In some cases quotations are nominal.

Profits in Foreign Exchange Dealings.

An expert writer has compiled for us a series of Articles explaining Foreign Exchange transactions from the English Investors' point of view. The writer explains the Exchange value of the English £, shows an actual transaction resulting in 60 per cent profit, explains the profit possibilities of the French franc, the German mark, the Italian lire, &c. This Article will be sent free of charge by

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 522.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

"A Small Incident."

In enumerating the various matters that come up before the Cabinet Mr. Lloyd George in a public speech last Saturday described Asia Minor as a small incident, and in those words we probably have a measure of the attention now being paid to the Near Eastern problem. This neglect, if inevitable, is unfortunate, for the incident in question is not only keeping two peoples at war, but is also responsible, directly or indirectly, for unrest over a considerable portion of the continent of Asia. One danger in relegating the Turkish question to the background at this time is that the moderate element at Angora, which created a good impression at the London Conference, may be overborne by the extremists. Already the agreement with France would seem to have been shelved, and further fighting is reported in Cilicia. Bekir Sami Bey is still hopeful that the Powers will make a new treaty of peace with Turkey, but in the absence of any indication that he has definite ground for this hope, the Angora Government may decide that the Delegation was unduly optimistic and shape its policy accordingly.

Revising the Treaty of Sèvres.

In a letter to the Indian Moslem Delegation which came to England to express its views in regard to the revision of the Treaty of Sèvres, Mr. Montagu has thrown some light on the Allied Government's intentions towards Turkey. After premising that Turkey will be as free and independent as she was before the war, save for the limitation of armaments imposed upon her and the internationalisation of the Straits, the Secretary of State for India pointed out that "there is every reason to hope that Adrianople will have a special autonomous organisation to be determined by the Council of the League of Nations; that the rights of Moslems throughout Thrace will be recognised and respected by the provisions of the Treaty; and that steps will be taken to secure the demilitarisation of that part of Thrace which would threaten the new Turkish frontier."

A Basis of Settlement.

There is a distinct advance in Mr. Montagu's words on the attitude of the London Conference, which, while compelled to reconsider the question of Smyrna, refused to entertain any suggestions regarding Thrace. Very gradually the Allied Governments are beginning to realise the hopelessness of their first attempt to settle the Near Eastern question. From an autonomous

organisation for Adrianople and demilitarisation for that part of Thrace which would threaten the new Turkish frontier it should not prove a long way to autonomy for Macedonia and demilitarisation along all Balkan frontiers. If the latter is necessary in the interests of peace along Turkey's European frontier, it is required far more urgently along other boundary lines in South-Eastern Europe. Whatever authority can prescribe demilitarisation on one frontier will be equally able to enact it for all. Without some such demilitarised zone for a few years to come there will be no real peace in the Balkans. Already mutual recriminations are being bandied between Serbian and Bulgarian, Greek and Bulgarian, Albanian and Serbian, and it may only be a matter of time before even Greeks and Serbians are similarly embroiled. Allocation of blame is beside the point. There will always be friction so long as armed forces exist along the frontiers. Crude diseases often call for crude remedies. With demilitarised zones—the conception is the Allied Governments' own—and heavy economic penalties for any violation of foreign territory, all the States will be concerned to see that the peace is kept. But Macedonia must have autonomy as well.

A Trade Handicap.

In our leading article this week an appeal is made in the interests of British trade for the abolition of the Clearing Office system as applied to Bulgarian debts. It is not a question of remitting any of the indebtedness of Bulgaria or of her nationals, but merely a common-sense step for the benefit of British business houses, in view of the fact that our Allies have waived their right to establish Clearing Offices. There are sufficient handicaps to trade to-day, without superimposing those of a bureaucratic character. Where there are any cases in regard to which the chances of payment or compensation are held to be doubtful, enough machinery exists to enforce an equitable settlement, without penalising trade in general between this country and Bulgaria. There is, for instance, the question of the losses incurred by two enterprises founded by British capital at Varna and Yamboli, but there should be no reason why this or any other matter is not susceptible of a satisfactory solution without keeping out of circulation for trade purposes the money held in Great Britain by a number of Bulgarian traders. At the University of Sofia lectureships in a variety of foreign languages have been instituted; the lectureship in English is conspicuous by its absence. There may be no actual connection between the two circumstances; but unsuccessful application, it is understood, has been made for the liberation of a

sum of Bulgarian money (about £15,000) invested in England which was bequeathed some time ago to the University of Sofia. When international trade rivalry promises to be keen there is no need to weight the scales against our own people.

Rioting at Jaffa.

Jaffa has been the scene of rioting of a rather serious character, in which about forty people were killed and some 150 wounded. Although described by many papers as a "racial" struggle, it is quite clear that the trouble began in consequence of attempts by Communists to rouse up class hatred and to establish a Communist régime; but eventually it developed—as was inevitable in the circumstances—into a fight between Jews and Arabs. The first step in the business was an attempt, on May 1, by Jewish Communists, to break up a Labour meeting, and this was followed by fighting, in which most of the casualties reported seem to have occurred. Troops and armoured cars restored order, and on May 2 all was reported quiet. The next day there were further disturbances, and martial law was proclaimed. Thereafter Jaffa appears to have been quiet, and official reports state that "apart from small incidents no disturbances took place in Palestine" on May 6. The authorities have handled the situation firmly and wisely, and though disturbing reports are reaching the country regarding trouble at Nablous and elsewhere, it is to be hoped that the unrest will now die out. But it is unfortunate that Ramadan has to be faced just now, since that month is always trying to Moslem patience; and Sir Herbert Samuel and his assistants will doubtless be deeply thankful when it is over.

Zaghloul's Petulance.

The breach between the Egyptian Cabinet and Zaghloul Pasha is now complete. Our Cairo Correspondent in his letter this week gives some details of the events which led up to it; and since that letter was despatched Zaghloul has been busily widening the breach till there is not the remotest chance of anyone being able to close it in the near future. Happily, he has not thus far been able to carry the country with him, and his attempts to discredit Adly Pasha and the Government are meeting with scant success. They appear indeed to have cost him the adherence of several influential old followers and to have brought him no fresh recruits of any value. His declaration that he would now refuse to co-operate with the Government even if it agreed to all his demands can have done him no good, for it must have reminded even his warmest admirers of the "shan't play" of a spoilt child who is not allowed to take the leading part in a game upon which it has set its heart. The Government, on the other hand, has scored heavily. It has issued a statement setting forth its own point of view, controverting Zaghloul's statements to the effect that it has been putting pressure on the people to obtain an expression of confidence in itself, and declaring that, since he has made co-operation with him impossible, the Ministry will go forward with the negotiations without him. That is not only the courageous course to follow, but the only one likely to lead to any result; and if the Egyptians are wise they will now lend Adly Yeghen Pasha and his colleagues all the support they can.

The Mixed Courts in Egypt.

A little while ago the British Residency in Cairo asked the representatives in Egypt of the Capitulatory Powers to obtain the sanction of their Governments to the prolongation until November 1 of the existence of the Mixed Courts. Most of the Powers concerned very promptly agreed to the step proposed, but the United States' reply had not been received when, at the end of April, a Decree extending the period was signed by the Sultan and issued; and the United States were specifically excepted from the operations of the Decree. It will be remembered that there has been some question regarding the appointment of an American judge in the Mixed Court of Appeal, and that there has been a vacancy there for about six months. This not unnaturally gave rise to rumours that America was withholding her acquiescence in the further prolongation as a protest

against this state of affairs; and those who would fain see misunderstanding between America and Great Britain in Egypt began to feel hopeful. The hope has been very short-lived, however, for the United States have now notified their agreement, and American subjects in Egypt will again be able to claim legal rights in the Mixed Courts.

The Bombay Labour Department.

The mail papers contain the welcome announcement that Sir George Lloyd has set up a Department to deal with Labour questions in Bombay. The main object at the outset is to secure, and to publish, accurate information regarding the economic and social condition of the workers, topics of which the Indian public is at present hopelessly ignorant; arbitration will not be attempted just yet, but the services of the experts will be available for what is probably the more useful process of conciliation, and every one will share the hope expressed by the organiser that the Department will be instrumental in opening a new chapter in industrial progress in the Presidency, a chapter which may prove better reading than the old. If we might offer a suggestion to the experts, we should urge them to pay particular attention to the feelings and prejudices of that very elusive person, the worker's wife; she does not take a prominent part in industrial disputes, but she has immense influence over those who do, and unless the Department can be sure what she really wants, it cannot be in the best position to intervene with effect.

The Bengal Council.

When we referred a few weeks ago to the heavy reduction of the police Budget effected by the Bengal Legislative Council, we expressed the hope that the representatives of that eminently progressive Province would realise by next Budget time the necessity of giving their police a chance. We are glad to recognise that we did less than justice to the political aptitude of the members of the Council, for the matter was reopened in a later debate, in the course of which it was made fairly clear that a supplementary estimate covering the bulk of the reduction would receive favourable consideration; the Council in fact required only a week or so where we allowed a year, and, as Lord Ronaldshay observed in addressing the members, the fact that the initiative was taken by them is of the happiest augury for the future. Nobody supposed that the new Councils would at the outset avoid all the pitfalls in the path, but many observers feared that they would be slow to recognise that a mistake had been made. In this matter, as in so many others, Bengal has given the rest of the country a lead which is likely to prove most valuable in the future, and in many branches of administration other than that which is affected at the moment.

The Task of the Police.

At the same time it must unfortunately be admitted that the efficiency of the police is itself a matter of particular importance all over India. Such news as the cables have recently transmitted has related almost exclusively to outbreaks of violence in widely scattered areas, and the ordinary Englishman is probably forming the idea that India is in revolt. He is wrong, but all the same there can be no question that the lower classes are being tempted to forget the lesson they have been learning for the last century, the lesson that the law must be obeyed. The common feature of recent occurrences is simply mob law; the liberty of individuals is interfered with, the police are attacked when they try to do their duty, and their prisoners are rescued by force. These activities are, of course, not general, but they are far too numerous, and anyone can see that their extension would wreck the new Constitution, or any other which might be established in its place. The old tradition of lawlessness is still potent among many of the most active classes of the people, and the only possible safeguard is a progressive improvement in the efficiency of the police. It is primarily a question of money, and it would be an excellent thing for India if the landholders and capitalists, the people who stand to lose most, would come forward at this juncture and give the politicians a definite lead.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

Coal.

No open move has been made to settle the coal strike during the week, and none seems definitely under consideration at the moment. It appears to have given the industry a rude shock to discover that the Government could be firm in its refusal to increase the subsidy; there is no doubt that coal owners and miners alike anticipated that they would be allowed to make good their deficiencies out of the taxpayer's pocket. The fact that any help is to be limited and temporary has proved disconcerting, and they are slowly digesting the portent. The end of reflection in this instance appears to be bitter.

Suggestions are now being put forward that the miners should ballot for or against a resumption of work on the modified terms. But this would mean the practical defeat of the Miners' Federation policy of a national pool, and the Federation does not appear ready to acknowledge defeat, although its funds must be running low. The miners themselves are living on credit, which their local shopkeepers, dependent on their custom, cannot refuse; but they must be running up heavy scores which will take a long time to pay off.

It is practically admitted that a better organisation of capital and improved machinery in the mines, combined with a better temper among the miners, would soon increase production, and put the industry on its legs again. But there are no signs of what we used to call "a change of heart" as yet apparent; the struggle is simply one of force against force. It is not a reassuring prospect.

A few more trains are knocked off day by day, and locomotives are obviously being run more slowly on main line trains to economise fuel. But, in spite of the reduced services, outside the suburban zone of London trains are not full; the conclusion is that the public is stopping at home whenever it can. It will soon have to go to bed earlier; some of the gas and electricity undertakings are notifying their customers that lights will be cut off at 9.30. As it is hardly necessary to light up until half-past eight, this does not allow much consumption of current.

The Railway Agreement.

There is at least one bright point in the industrial outlook. The railways are to be decontrolled in August, and some had feared that, as the decontrol of coal precipitated a strike, the same cause might precipitate similar consequences on the railways. It is true that neither the companies nor the men want a conflict, and the public abominates the idea, but sometimes these things happen in spite of that. A joint board has therefore been instituted to discuss the whole question of wages from time to time; its purpose might briefly be defined as being intended to obviate friction before it arises. Some of the old-fashioned shareholders and more autocratic managers may possibly object privately, but the idea has been widely approved, and there is little doubt that it will work satisfactorily. *O! si sic omnia.*

An Irish Truce?

A mediæval historian once expressed the opinion that the Irish question would be settled shortly before the Day of Judgment. One does not want to raise any fears of the approaching end of the world, but there are some indications that a truce may at last be on the road to discussion. A week or so ago the newspapers announced that Lord Derby had been in Ireland on a secret mission, and in disguise. Lord Derby is not an easy person to disguise, and his costume consisted in a pair of horn spectacles (in addition to, not subtracted from, his ordinary attire), but he took the name of "Mr. Edwards," he had the benevolent sympathy of the Prime Minister, and he had interviews with Sinn Feiners. Apparently nothing came of it, but the paragraphists and political note writers were fertile in speculations as to what might have happened.

Now, however, Sir James Craig, the first Premier of Ulster, has had an interview with Mr. de Valera. It is suggested that the interview took place at the suggestion of the new Irish Viceroy, but this is not confirmed. In any event, the interview took place. Neither side has made any statement as to what lines the conversation followed, but it is reasonable to suppose that the discussion was not entirely about the weather.

The air is full of talk about a settlement, Dominion Home Rule, and the usual constitutional paraphernalia. It would not be wise to build too great hopes on this incident, but its significance cannot be denied, and certain deductions may be made without improbability. It is admitted that there is a moderate and an extremist party among the Sinn Feiners. The extremists demand an Irish Republic, and nothing less; with them neither Ulster nor the British Government can come to any arrangement. But it has always been understood that the moderates would accept a good deal less—something not very different from Dominion Home Rule, towards which the existing Irish Home Rule Act is a long step forward. It is possible that this moderate section would not be averse from working the Southern Parliament recently instituted, for which elections are to take place in about a fortnight's time. At one time it was thought that these elections would be postponed on account of the gravity of the situation in the South, but it was announced a few days ago that the elections are certain to be held. As the British Government would hardly order them to go forward if they had not some grounds for believing that people would vote, it looks as though pretty definite information had been received that the Sinn Fein moderates will exercise the franchise, and that they are numerous enough to hold the extremists in check.

If they decide to work the Southern Parliament seriously, that may be the beginning of the end of the present difficulty, and the sign of a return to reason in Irish affairs. There is at least one indication that this may be so; for Sir James Craig, after his interview with Mr. de Valera, stated that when the two Irish Parliaments had been established and the Council of Ireland constituted the necessary link would be forged between Northern and Southern Ireland. It seems improbable that he would have looked so far ahead had the immediate situation been hopeless.

An Artistic Storm.

A sudden breeze has disturbed the respectable quiet of the Royal Academy of Art. For years past the Academy has been ridiculed by the critics and the younger artists as the abode of "official" art; new movements have knocked at the doors in vain for recognition, and exhibits were said to be almost standardised. This year, however, an agonised protest has come from Mr. F. O. Salisbury that a veritable typhoon of reform



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JOPPA

has swept Burlington House. He is himself hung—or is it hanged?—but he complains that well-known artists who have been accepted without a murmur for an incredible number of years past have been rejected, while mere youths and flappers of fifteen and sixteen have been taken. Obviously, this means a serious loss in revenue and reputation to the older men.

A reply has been forthcoming: almost as many pictures as before have been hung; the rejections have been exaggerated, the novelties enlarged by rumour; youth has been served, but not too well, according to the apologists. But the real sting lies in the tail of the answer: more people have been to the Academy in the first week this year than ever, and if the rejected are dissatisfied, they are told to go and open an exhibition of their own elsewhere.

Bacteria at Beckenham.

The pathways of science are proverbially hard, but a novel difficulty has caused some little discussion and amusement this week. A farm and laboratory for the research and manufacture of anti-toxins and serums had to be set up, and, unfortunately, the promoters of the enterprise, who were scientifically (and no doubt morally) above reproach, pitched on Beckenham for their location. Beckenham is a quiet suburb near London, whose chief products are the top-hat and the perambulator; it sneers at Streatham and looks up to Chislehurst, and has every middle-class virtue.

But Beckenham was seriously perturbed. It had visions of guinea-pigs with scarlet fever, dogs with diphtheria, and donkeys with smallpox on the experimental farm; what if the donkey got loose and whisked its bacterial tail in the neighbourhood of the perambulator, or the diphtheritic dachshund bit the top-hat on its way to the station one morning? In vain the men of science have protested; Beckenham will have no bugs or beetles or bacterial farms to disturb its peace, and every other suburb is now suspicious of scientific farmers who grow diseases on cats and monkeys. We must have

our bottled bacteria, but apparently Beckenham will not have a private zoo at any price.

The Week's Books.

"Fijian Society" (Macmillan), by the Rev. W. Deane, is one of the best anthropological books I have seen for some time; it has illuminating discussions on ancestor worship, cannibalism, etc. The institution of taboo appears to have been taken over by Christianity from the Pagans, like some other Pagan ideas; at least, the author writes that in Fiji "the Bible becomes taboo and likewise the Sabbath Day, and both the Book and the Day are held in greater respect in Fiji than either in Europe or Australia."

"The Life of Whitelaw Reid" (Thornton Butterworth), by Royal Cortissoz, is a real contribution to international history. The book contains many of the shrewd impressions of Reid, as ambassador, of the statesmen and policies of Europe with which he was brought into contact, and much of his correspondence with Roosevelt is full of interest. Typical of the President is his remark to Reid on his action in the Morocco question: "In this Algeiras matter you will notice that while I was most suave and pleasant with the Emperor, yet when it became necessary at the end I stood him on his head with great decision." Reid early formed the opinion that the ex-Kaiser, for all his professions, was a standing danger to European peace, while King Edward he looked upon as its real mainstay. There are many piquant and revealing anecdotes about British politicians, which will be widely quoted.

Mr. Graham Wallas made his name on the L.C.C., and then wrote an admirable work on "Human Nature in Politics." His next book, "The Great Society," was perhaps not so successful, but his latest publication, "Our Social Heritage" (Allen and Unwin), is likely to find many readers. Mr. Wallas is not dogmatic, and he belongs to no particular school, but his pages are full of thought.

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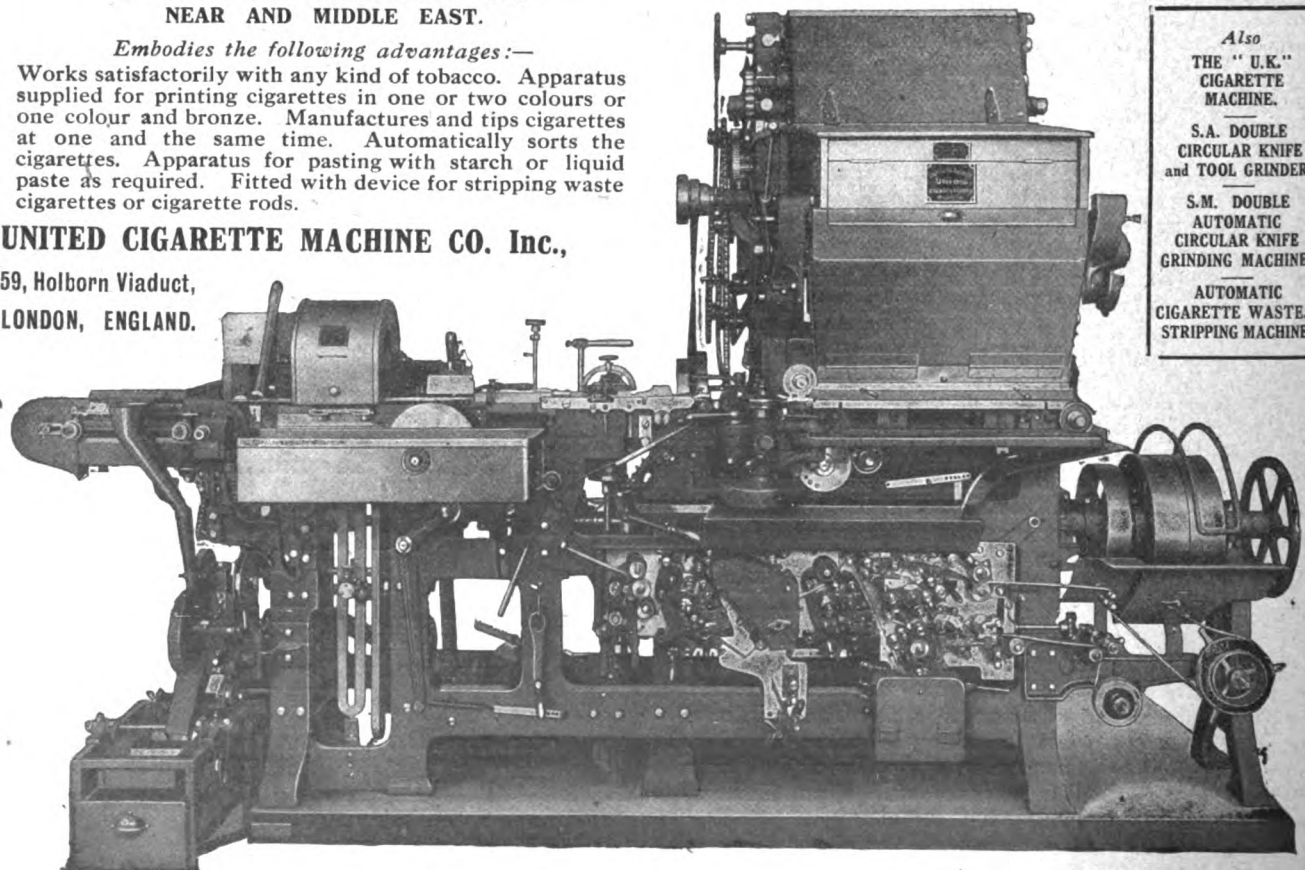
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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, April 30.

The Political Situation.

All hope of Zaghloul Pasha's joining with the Cabinet in its negotiations with the British Government disappeared on Monday last. That morning an interview had appeared in the *Ahram* in which Adly Pasha, replying to the statements made by Zaghloul Pasha two days before, sought to put the position of the Government clearly before the Egyptian public. He explained that Zaghloul Pasha's demand that the Sultan should issue a rescript stating the objects for which the negotiations were being undertaken was altogether unconstitutional, for that would be bringing His Highness into politics, and he considered that Zaghloul's requirements would be adequately met if the Cabinet addressed a letter to the Sultan setting forth in detail those objects. As regards Zaghloul Pasha's claim to the presidency and the selection of the majority of the members of the Official Delegation, Adly Pasha's reply followed closely on the lines of the explanation given in my last letter. He contested Zaghloul's claim that the president of such a delegation should have the right to stop the negotiations when he liked. Such power, he said, lay only with the delegation as a whole, and in his opinion it would be useless to send a delegation unless, first, they were all agreed on their objects, and, secondly, each member had an equal voice.

The decision of the Cabinet that it could not agree to Zaghloul's claim to the presidency of the Official Delegation or his demand for the rescript from the Sultan was conveyed to Zaghloul Pasha that afternoon by Rushdi Pasha. Evidently Zaghloul Pasha was so enraged at this refusal that he took the opportunity of a tea party given in his honour at Shubra in order to deliver a speech in which he declared that the Cabinet was a tool of the British Government, whose will alone it executed and to whom it owed its nomination, that it had deceived the nation and was therefore unworthy of its trust, and that he considered that his "Wafd" alone was qualified to represent, or to enjoy the confidence of, the nation. It was a most violent speech, undoubtedly intended to incite the country against the Cabinet—which it is instructive to note he had himself declared but a week or so previously, *i.e.*, before his claim to the presidency had been rejected, to be a body carrying out the will, and meriting the confidence, of the nation, with which it would be a pleasure to him to co-operate.

So far he has not achieved his object. On the contrary, the violence of his language and the uncalled-for nature of his attack threaten to rebound on his head, for everyone except the students and some of the extremist element now sees through his attitude, and certainly disapproves of the mud thrown at a Cabinet which consists of men who have done so much for their country. There are indeed unmistakable signs that the saner elements will rally in support of the Cabinet. Already five members of the Delegation have recorded in writing their disapproval of Zaghloul Pasha's attitude, and their view that the Cabinet should have the nation's full support although the Wafd should not collaborate with it. Another member—viz., Abdel Aziz Bey Fahmy—has already voiced similar views in a speech delivered to the Native Bar. Shaarawi Pasha, for some time Treasurer and a liberal contributor to the Wafd's funds, has resigned, and three other members have intimated that they consider that the Wafd should collaborate with the Cabinet and that the presidency of the Official Delegation should go to the Prime Minister.

The net result of these secessions is that Zaghloul Pasha alone remains of the members of the Wafd, who received the so-called mandate from the nation in 1919,

that only part of the members co-opted by him adhere to him, and that he has now to rely for support no longer on responsible elements in the population but on the students—and not all of them—and the irresponsible elements on whose fanatical and credulous minds he knows only too well how to play. The elements that really count for anything are in fact gravitating towards the Cabinet, which in undertaking negotiations on its own responsibility, as it intends to do, will have the full support of those elements; but while Zaghloul Pasha has been forsaken by the responsibly minded and decent Egyptians, the fact that his adherents are now mainly drawn from the irresponsible and fanatical classes may mean that we shall again have demonstrations and trouble. If this should be the case, then it will be patent to the world what a factor for agitation and discord Zaghloul Pasha is, for until he took the political movement in hand in 1919 we had no troubles of this sort, and until he returned at the beginning of the month the situation was in every respect most satisfactory and peace reigned in the land.

The High Commissioner in Alexandria.

The High Commissioner and Lady Allenby paid a special visit this week to Alexandria, where during their stay they were the guests of Mr. Richard Abdy. One of the objects of Lord Allenby's visit was to unveil and present to the French community a memorial to the French soldiers who, during the war, were buried in Alexandria.

Some little while back a committee was formed in Alexandria in order to collect funds for the execution of the general desire that had been expressed to erect a monument as a tribute to the gallant Frenchmen who had fallen in the great cause and as a recognition of the great kindness shown by the French Colony in Egypt to the British troops serving here. The necessary funds were collected without difficulty, and the memorial was entrusted to Mr. R. Erlanger, who designed it, and Mr. Stavro Mikhailidis, who carried out the work of erection. The memorial, which is erected on a site given by the Alexandria Municipality, consists of a broken column in yellow Calabrian marble, on one side of which is inscribed the following:—"In memory of French soldiers fallen during the great war and offered by members of the British Community to the French Colony to commemorate the glorious deeds of arms performed by the French Armies, 1914-1918"; and on the other sides are engraved the names of the 310 French soldiers buried in Alexandria. The unveiling ceremony was carried out with full military honours. Mr. Abdy opened the proceedings with a speech in which he explained the object of the memorial. He was followed by Lord Allenby, who paid a personal tribute to the gallantry of the French Army, and who at the conclusion of his speech unveiled the memorial. The Guard of Honour then presented arms, the "Last Post" was sounded to the accompaniment of the drums, and, after "reveillé" had been called, Monsieur Gaillard, the French Diplomatic Agent, and Monsieur Lebsohn, representing the French Colony, returned thanks for the generous act of the British Community.

Two Excellent Horticultural Shows.

While at Alexandria Lord and Lady Allenby attended the flower show, which her ladyship opened on the second day. The exhibition was generally conceded to be a great improvement on the one held last year, and, certainly, to judge by the quality of the exhibits and the number of the exhibitors the Alexandria Horticultural Society would appear to be doing very good and successful work.

An excellent rose show has also been held in Cairo at the Semiramis Hotel. In spite of the trying weather we have lately had, there was a fine array of blooms, particularly of the "Edouard Heust" variety, and in addition to roses there was an interesting exhibit of cut flowers grown from bulbs. The attendance was very good, and Lord and Lady Allenby found time to pay a visit before leaving for Alexandria.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, April 30.

The Constitution in Making.

The Constituent Assembly has shut its doors over the holidays, for this week is the Orthodox Easter, and most of the deputies are off to their constituencies, and the ministers on tours of inspection. The Yugoslav Assembly is probably one of the most picturesque in Europe. When a black-coated advocate from one of the main centres has finished his speech he will be followed by a stalwart peasant, in his practical and picturesque costume, perhaps from the Shumadia, the heart of Serbia, or by a short-sleeved Bosniak, or by a "Turk," or Mohammedan Bosnian, with perhaps a frock coat, and a turban. Here all the dialects of Yugoslav speech may be heard, from the Macedonian drawl, plentifully interspersed with Turkish, to the now almost purely Slav Croat, from which foreign, and especially German, words are now mercilessly banned. But the dialectical differences are no greater than those heard in different parts of Great Britain, except when Slovenes talk, for theirs is, indeed, a distinct language. But they can all understand each other, and most of the Slovenes who have been by now some time in politics have learnt to speak Serbo-Croat, or, at all events, largely to mix it with their own vintage.

One of the best speeches recently heard was from a Slovene peasant. There has always been a rivalry between the country folk and the townsmen. In Serbia the former contemptuously refer to the latter as "*jesvari*," from "*jezevi*," the Turkish word for a coffee-pot, as though they were constantly brewing those delicious little cups of coffee, while the townsmen retort by referring to the country folk as *dripts*, or bumpkins. But on this occasion a *dripts* scored. He made a moving appeal to the Assembly to throw aside party differences and, above all, to pass the Constitution. Union, he said, was the prime and fundamental essence: to retain it, we must have our Constitution; that once attained, they could squabble as much as they liked. His audience, one of the most critical imaginable, expected to hear a few village saws from this bronzed and stalwart figure, and were startled at his earnestness and his statesman-like views. His speech was, indeed, a contrast to that of Dr. Trumbitch, for he said that, much as he disliked many of the clauses in the draft, he would vote for the Constitution, as the prime necessity of the State.

Dr. Trumbitch's Views.

The speech of Dr. Trumbitch on the Constitution caused some sensation, not only on account of the universal respect which the author commands, but on account of the opinions expressed. It was remarkable, too, that it was begun in one week, and continued on the following Monday. Dr. Trumbitch pointed out that the three fundamental facts which could not be surmounted were: first, the Serbs are the most numerous, powerful, and politically experienced, and had made the greatest sacrifices for the cause of the union, and therefore nothing could be carried against their desires; secondly, that the country must have a constitution; and thirdly, that the country, from its birth, is essentially a monarchy under the Karageorge dynasty. He then proceeded to criticise all the draft constitutions that had been put forward, and demolished the idea of a federal system, since the country cannot be conveniently subdivided either upon an economic basis, or territorially, or ethnographically. He criticised very vigorously the draft as at present accepted by the

Government, chiefly on the grounds that it is no improvement on the old Serbian Constitution of thirty years ago, but mainly because the power of Parliament over the purse is not absolute. After stating some other points of objection, he surprised his hearers by saying that unless the Government met his suggestions, he would not be able to vote for the draft.

The speech has produced a feeling of disappointment, as Dr. Trumbitch has a deservedly high reputation for constructive statesmanship, of which the first tangible token was the Declaration of Corfu, and the latest was the Treaty of Rapallo, since when he has retired from the public, only appearing at the elections to be returned for his native constituency in Dalmatia, by a very large majority. Moreover, he enjoys the distinction of being the only independent non-party member in the House. It is noticed that his speech, however, is destructive rather than constructive: that he attacks all draft constitutions equally impartially; and that the only suggestion he can offer is a weak compromise, that the administration of the State be provisionally left grouped round the four leading centres of Belgrade, Zagreb, Liubliana and Serajevo.

The agreement with the Mohammedans of Bosnia has annoyed the Peasants' Party as well as the Socialists, and they have stated that they consider that they are no longer bound by their declaration of support provided that their demands are met. At the same time, they admit in principle that they will vote for the Constitution and support the Government.

Meanwhile, municipal elections in Slovenia are interesting as showing the present grouping, after the five months that have elapsed since the general election. Dr. Korshet's Clericals have got twenty-seven members, against the Social Democrats thirty-nine; the National Socialists get twenty-three, and the Communists ten, while the Democrats get forty-four, which shows that they are gaining ground, and are quite the strongest party in Slovenia.

"What's in a Name?"

One of the important details to be settled with the Constitution is the official name of the State. As is generally known, it is the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, abbreviated usually to S.H.S., with the native form of Croat, that is Hrvats, although in British official documents it is always referred to, for some reason, as the *State*, instead of the *kingdom* of the S.H.S. This title, although rather clumsy, has the merit of mentioning the three branches of the people and so maintaining immemorial tradition. Most Serbs, especially the army, were in favour of the title of Greater Serbia, but out of deference to their Croat and Slovene brothers, this was not pressed. But in the new provinces, especially in the Croatian districts, there is a vigorous movement in favour of the title of Yugoslavia, which is now generally known in Europe, which they connect with their struggles for freedom. The Government is in receipt of shoals of telegrams pressing for the name of Yugoslavia, especially from Zagreb, Slovenia and Dalmatia; while Srem, the Voivodina and parts of Bosnia equally insistently press for S.H.S. Most of the political parties have agreed to the title of Yugoslavia, although some suggest a combination of the lot. The Radicals, however, jib at Yugoslavia, and the decision of the Democrats is awaited with interest. Probably S.H.S. will carry the day, and Yugoslavia be used as a convenient abbreviation.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, April 27.

Parliament.

During the past week the Agrarian Reform Bill for Transylvania has been passed by the Senate. In both Houses the measure for imposing a 50 per cent. duty on goods imported from Germany has been discussed at length. Objections were made on the one hand because it would raise the price to the consumer, and on the other because the tax could be evaded by shipping the goods through Belgium or Switzerland. After a strong speech in its favour, however, by M. Take Jonescu the measure was passed. The Budget has not yet come

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before Parliament, but a monthly vote on account has been granted to bring certain of its measures into force as from April 1 this year.

The Parliamentary Session has been extended until May 28, with a break of a fortnight for the Easter vacation. Sunday, May 1, is the Roumanian Easter Sunday, and Government offices are all closed from April 28 to May 4.

Motor Buses for Bucharest.

A few months ago a limited company was formed, with the name Sardat and a capital of 3,000,000 lei, to be increased to 5,000,000 lei, which received a concession from the town authorities to run motor-buses in the Bucharest streets. Their appearance has been looked forward to with lively interest, as the few trams hitherto running have been notoriously insufficient and always hopelessly overcrowded. The inauguration of three of the motor-bus services took place last week. At the same time one or two of the horse tram services, unused since the war, were revived. The result was immediately felt on the electric trams, and it became possible to travel on them with comparative comfort, and even to find a seat occasionally. The Sardat company has acquired for its workshops a site of 4,500 sq. metres, on which the necessary buildings are being erected. The buses used are on the latest pattern adopted in Paris, and are divided into compartments of first and second class. The fares are 3 and 2 lei respectively for the whole course (e.g., St. George's Market to the Station), and 2 lei or 1.50 for any section of it. The electric tramway fare now is 1 lei for the whole route or any part of it. The buses are very comfortable, and strict orders have been issued that no more than the prescribed number of passengers must be admitted. Altogether Bucharest is congratulating itself on the introduction of an enterprise which is helping to restore its self-respect.

The New Taxes.

On Monday, April 25, at the request of the Press Association of Bucharest, M. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance, gave a lecture in the hall of the Fondation Carol on the new taxes introduced by his Budget. The Minister explained to a crowded audience why he favoured direct rather than indirect taxation. The latter, he said, affected labour, while the former affected capital. He claimed that his Budget included all the expenses of the Government, and said that he had introduced all the economies possible. In replying to a criticism that has been raised in the Press of certain parties against the large number of Ministers in the Government, he said that it was not the number of Ministers that mattered so much as the number of their staffs, and these have been reduced. He stated that most of the taxes were only old measures co-ordinated, systematised, and rendered equitable, and he appeared to convince his audience of the justice of the proposed measures on the whole.

Various.

It is reported that the Council of Ministers has authorised the Aviation Department of the Ministry of Communications to establish an aeroplane factory in Roumania to supply aeroplanes both to the military and civil aeroplane services.

In view of the anti-Roumanian movements which have recently been discovered in Transylvania among the Magyar communities, it has been officially announced that all correspondence with Hungary will be censored in Roumania as from April 20.

The rain has come at last. For several hours during each of the last three days it has rained steadily, though not very heavily. Good rains were reported in Bessarabia and other parts of the country last week.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, April 27.

Illness of M. Stambolisky.

The one topic of conversation during the past week has been the illness of M. Stambolisky, the Prime Minister. Ever since he returned from his European tour in January he has been in poor health, and from the end of March until the middle of this month he was

suffering from a bad abscess. He had, however, so far recovered that last week he was able to get up and attend to his duties, and when I saw him for a few minutes ten days ago he seemed to be in excellent spirits. On the following day he complained of feeling unwell, and shortly afterwards the doctors attending him announced that he had influenza, which has since developed into broncho-pneumonia. For two or three days his condition was very serious, but he is now better, although it is not possible yet to say how long he will need to recuperate.

M. Dimitroff, Minister of the Interior, who is expected back to-morrow from Prague, will act as Prime Minister and Minister of War, whilst M. Dashkaloff has been nominated provisionally Minister of Foreign Affairs. Although the American Government has agreed to M. Dimitroff's going to Washington as Minister, it seems unlikely that he will do so, as he personally prefers to remain in his present position, and will probably seize the present situation as an opportunity of arranging for the nomination of another representative to the United States.

The Opposition parties have, of course, everything to gain and nothing to lose by the temporary withdrawal of the Prime Minister from the political arena, and they are endeavouring to see a way of turning the present situation to account. M. Draghieff, who may be styled an Agrarian Communist, is at present staying quietly at Stara-Zagora, but he is not likely to remain a passive spectator if any change occurs in the Cabinet, and it is to be feared that there may even be certain dissensions amongst the more influential members of the Cabinet regarding questions of internal policy.

All these troubles will not help Bulgaria in her somewhat critical financial and economic situation, and it cannot be too strongly insisted on that what is required is a strong and united Cabinet, which only the Agrarians can at present supply. The present Government undoubtedly has its faults. What Government has not? But while M. Stambolisky is at the helm it is at least one ship, with one helmsman.

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Relations with Yugoslavia.

Relations between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia continue to be somewhat strained, and there has been some talk lately of Yugoslavia applying certain sanctions against this country, in the event of the cattle due under the Peace Treaty not being delivered on May 1 and the Law of Compulsory Labour not being abolished. The sanctions, which are as yet only shadowy in form, include the taking over of the Pernik Coal Mine, an act which would at once paralyse the whole of the commerce of Bulgaria.

In this connection it is interesting to note the interview that M. Rakitch, the Yugoslavian Minister here, recently accorded to a representative of the *Den*, a local daily. M. Rakitch said that Yugoslavia had no wish to take over Pernik, as the Bulgarians had already handed over the 50,000 tons of coal which is due from them on August 9 of each year, and that they were, in fact, proposing to begin sending next year's instalment now. The Minister also stated that Yugoslavia had no wish to remain on bad terms with Bulgaria, but that the Belgrade and Sofia Press was largely responsible for the present tension. He hoped that both countries would keep this point in view, and ended by saying that he would do all in his power to preserve friendly relations. The interview has made a considerable stir here, and will be of use in quieting the minds of the Bulgarians. The delivery of the cattle and other animals will, however, take place on Serbian territory, as the request of the Bulgarian Government that the delivery might take place on or about the frontier has been refused.

General News.

Next Sunday will be Easter Sunday here, and the traditional service will be held at midnight on Saturday in the Sveti Kral, at which the King, his Ministers, and the Corps Diplomatique are expected to attend.

The Inter-Allied Military Commission to fix the new Greco-Bulgarian frontier has now arrived here, and will shortly proceed to Philippopolis, which will be their headquarters during the summer. The Commission, on which Lieut.-Col. Allcard, R.A., is the British representative, spent four months in the autumn of last year on the frontier, but during the winter have been unable to carry on their work. As they have to delimit a frontier of, roughly, 300 miles, a third of which is entirely unmapped, it is estimated that they will be out here for at least another two years.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, April 23.

News has reached Smyrna to-day that a daring band of Kemalists have succeeded in blowing up the railway bridge at Iné, which is a station between Alashehir and Ushak. The engine of a train passing at the time was also blown up. This means that the Greek army defending Ushak is deprived of supplies by railway. The Greek military authorities in Smyrna have commandeered all horses and carts, as they evidently require these for their transport work now that the railway to Ushak has thus been cut by the Kemalists.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA (Undated).

The Situation.

The incidents that arose out of the Greek Centenary celebrations have caused much excitement and talk, and, it is to be hoped, serious reflection on the part of the agitating element. The open defiance of Government orders is, of course, condemned by all sensible persons. It was clearly one of the consequences of the extreme toleration and lenient attitude of the Government towards the demonstrations, flag-waving, political speeches, etc., of many years past. Those who organised the forbidden processions did but follow the example of leaders who have long tried how far they could go in behaviour calculated to lead to disorder. In the Turkish community, which regarded the proceedings with complete composure, and perhaps a little derision, there was entire tranquillity and a consciousness of the futility of the proceedings as regards their real aims.

The Greeks in America.

The autocephalous Greek Church of Cyprus has never been long without its internal troubles. Even during the

British occupation it has been divided against itself for over ten years, over a somewhat undignified contest between two rival bishops who were candidates for the office of Archbishop: an antagonism which caused much heart-burning and a great social upheaval throughout the island. There is now some fear of another Church "scandal," which recalls the island discussion. The late Metropolitan of Athens, Meletios Metaxákis, who was for some years Bishop of Kition, in Cyprus, was dispossessed of his throne after the fall of M. Venizelos, and is now in New York. As a result, it is said, of consultation in England with the late Acting Œcumenical Patriarch, Dorotheos, Meletios has assumed the spiritual charge of all Orthodox Greeks in the United States. In an encyclical issued by him he asserts that, according to the Canons of the Holy Synod, it was by an unconstitutional act on the part of that body that he was deprived of his see, that he left Athens in compliance with the dictates of a higher power, and that it is by desire of the Church that he takes up the position now assumed. Meanwhile, however, the Hellenic Government has decided to despatch to America Germanos, Bishop of Lacedæmon, as Exarch, to take charge of the Greek Church in the States. Unless, therefore, Meletios—who, by the way, is one of the most distinguished and able prelates of the Eastern Orthodox Church, withdraws his claim or submits the matter to higher authority, there will be fresh ecclesiastical troubles ahead. The outcome is awaited with much interest in Cyprus.

It has been definitely decided that Jacobus, Bishop of Papho, is to be bishop of the newly created see of the Menoufieh district in Egypt, with residence at Tanta. He will act as representative of the Patriarch at Alexandria, and will shortly take up his new duties.

Population of Cyprus.

According to figures recently published, the island population at the end of 1920 was 315,219. The births during the year were 28.7 per 1,000. There has been a fair increase in the rate of births over deaths, and much is no doubt due to improved sanitation, new water supplies, increased medical attendance, measures against mosquitos, and a general improvement in all conditions of life both in towns and villages.

There has been some good rain, which has relieved the situation and done much good throughout the island.

Gold to the value of £245,000 was landed at Plymouth last week from India. The consignment, consisting of bars and sovereigns, was shipped from Liverpool yesterday for New York.

We have received the first report for 1919-1921 of the British Committee of the Russian Red Cross Fund in Great Britain. It contains a short history of the inception of the Fund, and particulars of its efforts, among other places, in Lemnos, Egypt, and Serbia.

It is almost certain, says a message from The Hague, that Lieutenant Goedhart, of the Dutch Navy, will be unable to carry out his plan of flying to the Dutch East Indies, owing to serious difficulties that have arisen in regard to the flight across Mesopotamia.

M. Drashkovitch, Serbian Minister of the Interior, while entering his car at Belgrade late at night last week, was fired at by an unknown person. The Minister, however, struck the weapon out of his assailant's hand with his umbrella. The stranger vanished in the darkness.

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MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

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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.

ST. GEORGE IN BULGARIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In the very interesting article of Miss Estelle Blyth on St. George in your number for April 21 there is no mention of his connection with the Bulgarians.

In the tenth century three noblemen of Ochrida, who assumed the names of Aaron and Moses and Ivan, of the family of Tsar Samuel, founded the monastery of Zograph, on Mount Athos. An ancient document of this institution claims relationship of the three brothers with the Emperor Justinian, said to have been a Slav, who founded the autocephalous church of Ochrida, as well as St. Sophia. They hesitated as to which would be the best saint to dedicate their foundation to. One preferred St. Nikolas, but another insisted on St. Clement of Ochrida. To settle their differences they prayed to God to decide the question. Then one night, when they went into their chapel to pray, in the words of the old chronicle: "Oh, wonder! they saw that on a prepared board there was formed the portrait of the Great Martyr, the Conqueror and Miracle-Worker, George." There was, therefore, no doubt as to whom the monastery was to be dedicated, and it was called "Zograph," from the Greek for portrait. But the authorities at Byzantium were incredulous, and sent a bishop to verify the miracle. This doubting Thomas said it was a most ordinary portrait, and to show his contempt stuck his finger through it. But the outraged saint held the finger firm, and the bishop was not allowed to withdraw it until he had admitted his sin and craved forgiveness. And to-day the monks show a hole in the picture as undoubted proof of the miracle. As to the fact of the hole, your Correspondent can testify. The life of St. George, describing his martyrdom and the foundation of the monastery, is described in a pamphlet in Bulgarian, published by the monks, entitled "The Life, Sufferings, and Miracles of the Great Martyr, Conqueror, and Miracle-Worker, Saint George," which also gives a detailed account of the miracles worked by him in the annals of the monastery, in which we read, among other things, how in 1714 the saint visited his wrath upon some Turkish villagers who had stolen the crops from the monk's estate by setting fire to his property in the night. This great miracle is described in a manuscript by the monk Yakov in 1785, and concludes with the pious words: "All who saw this fearful and terrible miracle praised All Gracious God and His champion, the Great Martyr, Conqueror, and Miracle-Worker, Saint George. Under his protection we are protected from the seen and unseen enemies. Amen!"—I am, etc.,

YOUR CORRESPONDENT IN YUGOSLAVIA.

"TRUTH ABOUT THE BALKANS."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—An article in the latest *Quarterly*, by Mr. H. C. Woods, "The Truth About the Balkans," to which you have already called attention, certainly repays study. The first three pages contain a masterly summary of the general situation and give in clear and precise language intelligible reasons for some post-war anomalies confronting us in those regions. The public is accustomed to rely on facts ascertained by the painstaking personal research of Mr. Woods, and to accept the sidelights he throws on events and consequences; but in his conscientious endeavour to be fair, he sometimes allows himself to be biased. For example, he is unduly concerned for the export trade of Bulgaria, owing to her lack of a direct exit on the Aegean, while he scarcely touches on the hardships of Serbia, deprived of her one viable means of communication with the Adriatic until she evolves a route and port on the coast of Dalmatia—an injustice that will hamper for decades her trade with Western Europe.

Again, he errs in maintaining that Albania was neutral in the late war, as the ferocity with which the Moslem tribes attacked, plundered, and murdered sections of the retiring Serbian army can scarcely be called neutrality. He forgets that Serbia is fully entitled to take precautionary measures against her hostile, savage neighbours, just as France seeks to protect herself against possible future encroachments on her territory. The withdrawal of Serbian troops from certain positions would mean the resumption of raids by the ever restless Albanians.—I am, etc.,

E. CHRISTITCH.

May 8, 1921.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

May 2.—Commander Kenworthy asked whether it was true that coercive measures were being taken by the authorities in Egypt to compel the people to affix their signatures to a declaration of confidence in the present Premier, and against Zaghoul Pasha, and whether steps would be taken to reassure the people of Egypt of the good faith of the British Government without any further delay. Mr. Harmsworth replied that he had no information which would justify in the smallest degree the suggestion contained in the first part of the question, and that for the rest, no reasonable person in Egypt entertained any doubt as to the good faith of the British Government.

Mr. Spoor asked whether there were any indications that the Yugoslavs intend to apply sanctions against Bulgaria, and whether the compulsory labour law remains in force; and whether any steps could be taken to prevent an outbreak of hostilities between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Mr. Harmsworth replied that the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative. The British Ambassador in Paris had been instructed to draw the attention of the Ambassadors' Conference to the situation which had arisen between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, and to suggest that a friendly warning should be addressed to the former to the effect that no hostile action by them in respect of Bulgaria could be authorised. As regards the compulsory labour law in Bulgaria, the Inter-Allied Commission of Control is taking steps with a view to its repeal.

May 4.—In a return presented in reply to a question by Sir William Davison regarding the total number of casualties in the Great War, the following are given as the number of casualties suffered by Near Eastern countries:—

	Killed.	Wounded.
Turkey.....	300,000	570,000
Bulgaria.....	101,224	152,400
Greece.....	5,000	21,000
Serbia.....	127,535	133,148
India.....	61,398	70,859

In reply to Colonel Yate, who asked for an appreciation of the situation in Waziristan, Sir William Mitchell-Thompson replied that the Commander-in-Chief in India, who had just returned from a tour in Waziristan, stated that the activities of the recalcitrant sections of the Mahsuds and Waziris had considerably increased. They were now devoting their energies to destroying our convoys on every possible occasion, and had made several determined attacks on them, the latest of which, on April 23, resulted in the loss of one British officer killed, four wounded; two Indian officers killed, four wounded; two Indian other ranks killed and 26 wounded. Among the causes to which this recrudescence of warlike activity was attributed were the conditions dependent on the negotiations at Kabul and the approach of the hot weather.

May 5.—Lord Robert Cecil asked the Prime Minister whether the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations is now fully constituted; and, if not, who have accepted the invitation of the Council of the League to serve on the Commission. Mr. Balfour replied that on February 22, 1921, the Council decided to invite representatives of the following countries to become members of the Permanent Mandates Commission:—France (M. Beau), Spain, the United States (Governor Forbes), Portugal, Great Britain (Mr. Ormsby Gore), Belgium, Holland, Italy, and Japan. All these had accepted with the exception of Governor Forbes, who, having accepted an official mission from the Government of the United States, had been obliged to decline.

In reply to a question by Mr. Aubrey Herbert asking for information regarding the reports of attacks by Yugoslav troops upon Albanians in the district of Kossovo, Mr. Harmsworth stated that, according to information received from the British Minister in Belgrade, a certain number of families belonging to Komitajis who had failed to surrender after due warning had been grouped in internment camps at Nish and Kragujevats until work could be found for them. The reports of massacres of women and children which appeared almost daily in the local Turkish Press were not to be trusted.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Education in India.

The *Manchester Guardian* of April 29 contains an article on "National Education in India," written by a Bombay correspondent. The writer states that education is the root problem of India.

It is natural, but not quite fair, for the self expressive nations, who have sacrificed so much for their ideals of freedom or culture, to ask what efforts India has made to achieve national education. The answer is that she has done next to nothing. Her excuse is that she has never had a chance. Her bitterest complaint is that England has thrust down her throat a draught of poison producing slave mentality. The preposterousness of this assertion does not prevent India from believing it. She is uneasily aware that when England tried to develop indigenous education she could find nothing to develop. True, there were the "gurus," but the essence of that system was that the disciples must become members of the "guru's" households, and receive the impress of his personality by constant attendance on him, so the number that one "guru" could train must have been extremely limited. The training was for renunciation of the earth, not for its inheritance. The disciples dreamed of becoming anchorites, not citizens. In Burma the East India Company found something in the Buddhist monastic system which they could develop. In India they found nothing.

He then details the various attempts at national education which have sprung up with the growth of Nationalism, but these, he says, have either been unsuccessful, or derive so much help from the Government that they hardly count as expressions of Nationalist ideals.

There remains the almost frantic attempt now being made by Mr. Gandhi to establish national education. It is mainly a destructive campaign. Mr. Gandhi frankly does not care much what happens to the present generation of students so long as a demonstration is made against Western schemes of education. To boycott the existing schools, hit the prestige of the British, rouse Nationalist emotions in the young, these are his objectives rather than the spread of education. It is true that when the boycotting students asked what was to become of them Mr. Gandhi replied that schools would be opened for them, but he was plainly disappointed by the request. In his opinion, at a time of crisis like the present, no student should be thinking of his own career; he should be willing to sally forth into the countryside to do propaganda work for the Nationalist cause. Still, schools have been provided in many places for those weaker brethren who still care about their own future. In these every schoolboy and undergraduate is expected to spend two hours daily. A considerable number of students have entered these national schools, and the names of some well-known professors are found on the staffs. But as these professors are also ubiquitous agitators all over India, it is hard to believe that they get much work done in the colleges. The staffs are largely composed of voluntary teachers, who give what time they can spare from their own work, which is not exactly the best way to organise a school. There are, in fact, no funds from which to pay the teachers a living wage. It is not hard to see the rock on which the Non-Co-operators' scheme will suffer shipwreck.

Meantime, Mr. Gandhi's gallant but hare-brained attempt has had some good results. It has shown that Nationalism has other functions to perform than mere crabbing of the Government. It has constructive work to do. Mr. Gandhi has called on the Nationalists to act as well as talk. He has brought home to them that patriotism calls for self-denial. He has asked his fellow-countrymen to formulate their views on national education, to come down to facts, to decide which language is to be the *lingua franca* of India. He has proved that schools can be carried on without buildings, at least in India, and finally that everything turns on the pay of the teachers. All these are useful lessons for the country as a whole. Education is almost entirely under Indian control to-day. It is one of the transferred subjects. If India chooses she can change her national mentality, as Germany changed hers. She can educate her children to the old belief that life is a nightmare better ended than mended, or she can bring them into line with the other nations of the world and make her peculiar contribution to the world's needs. In any case, she is face to face with her biggest chance for hundreds of years.

Egyptian Moderates and Extremists.

The *Glasgow Herald* of April 30 contains an article upon "The Egyptian Crisis," which puts clearly the position of the different parties in Egypt. "The protagonist parties seem pretty equally divided, Adly Pasha being supported by some of the intelligentsia and by the prominent local Jewish families; Zaghlul by the students, fellahen, and labourers." But the whole question is one which the Egyptians themselves must settle:—

Though intimately concerned in the issue of the crisis, the British Government is not in a position to interfere effectively in what is primarily a domestic dissension. No doubt if the practice of intimidation by the Zaghlulites continues, and serious disturbance is threatened, proper measures will be taken for the maintenance of order. But the Egyptian Moderates must fight their own battle, and it is to be hoped that now, when something like open war has been declared between them and the Extremists, they will not allow themselves to be shouted down by their noisy opponents. A little strong self-assertion on their part will be of inestimable importance to the future of Egypt, since if the negotiations which culminated in

the Milner Agreement are now definitely broken off owing to Zaghlulite intractableness, months, if not years, may elapse before the pre-Reservations atmosphere can be recreated. Meanwhile the best hope of a peaceful solution lies partly in gradual realisation by the Egyptians as a nation of the sorry figure they are made to cut by the antics indulged in as the result of political differences which, as a clever and progressive people, they ought at least to make a semblance of trying to compose with some show of dignity and restraint. It is possible, too, that in the case of Zaghlul himself there may eventually be some sort of reaction, as there is beginning to be in that of the Indian extremist, Gandhi. Even the most fervid enthusiast among the Nationalist leader's supporters must in time come to perceive danger to national independence in such an arrogant assumption of authority as that with which Zaghlul has sought to overbear the existing constitutional government of his country.

Mesopotamia.

The *Daily Telegraph* of May 5 contains a last survey by Mr. Perceval Landon of Irak, which he believes could, properly handled, be developed into a community of much prosperity. And such development, he says, "it is our duty to guide, support, and supervise, not merely because of the vast potential service that Irak may render to less-favoured countries, but because the world looks with reason to us to justify ourselves in this matter."

The work that remains to be done is very great, as it is useless to lull ourselves to sleep with any illusion that the task is more than just begun. Equally impossible is it to pretend that the tutelage we are bound to provide for Mesopotamia is not set about with subtle difficulties that only consummate and sempiternal tact can hope to overcome. But in the whole strange history of the Empire there probably never was a case in which our essential quality as a guide and guard of races sorely in need of help has been so clearly challenged as in this trusteeship for another's sole advantage. The kernel of the whole matter is that we have it not in us to fail the men of Irak at this fateful passage in their history. But, in conclusion, this is a thing that must again be dwelt upon with all the earnestness of which I am capable. Every succeeding day has brought it home to me more clearly that in its present mood of division and natural mistrust of one another the people of Irak should still be nursed for a while longer into a better sense of, and a deeper wish for unity. As I have said, in the present time of waiting the desire of each community is not to have the present direct link with the British in the person of the High Commissioner weakened or even obscured by the votes of their neighbours in a substitute for the House of Commons, a desire which becomes more evident as time passes. That it may be overcome is a reasonable hope, but it seems to me that to challenge immediately in an untutored Arab race that self-restraint and even self-renunciation which alone makes representative Government possible is to make a future more difficult for them and for us than if, by continuing for a while the present policy, we yield to the deepest political instinct of the vast majority in Mesopotamia. We have, indeed, given an undertaking, and Irak would not prefer that its fulfilment should be put off for a while. There is no question but that the jarring sects and races of Irak, with their diversified interests, prejudices, geographical and industrial differences, would all be best pleased with a year's, or even two years', respite from the clash of party politicians, and the great bitterness certain to be thereby created.

AN ANCIENT MOSQUE LAMP.

A notable feature in the sale recently at Christie's of the late Morgan S. Williams's collection was a mid-fourteenth-century Arab glass mosque lamp, with six loop handles for suspension, the neck decorated with inscriptions from the Koran, and the bowl inscribed with the name of the Sultan Mohammad Ben Kalauon (died 1341). This lamp, which is 13 ins. high, was presented to the late owner by the Shah of Persia, and was now purchased by Messrs. Duveen at 2,500 guineas. The sale realised the unexpectedly high total of £45,307.

It is stated from Cairo that the United States has now signified its acquiescence in the half-year extension of the mandate for the mixed Courts in Egypt.

MUSICAL NOTES.

The Guild of Players and Singers.

This guild, which has the extremely laudable intention of making concert matters at once of commercial success and of increased artistic achievement, began its very notable series of experiments at the Steinway Hall on May 4. Its scheme is to bring on the same platform three or more artists, who are thus to share expenses and mutually to improve their knowledge of art. At this concert the chief performers were Mme. Lily Henkel at the pianoforte, Miss Grace Crawford, as singer, and the Pennington String Quartet. The virtues of the first two are well known, and there is need but to mention that Mme. Henkel played in Howells' "Comedy Suite for Clarinet and Pianoforte," and later in Fibich's placidly uninteresting quintet with much skill and quiet charm. Miss Crawford's artistry is a finished and beautifully zestful thing; in Bliss' "Rout" she was magnificent, and in some old Italian songs, which Bliss has arranged with string quartet accompaniment, her pure feeling was a joy. But she did not get to the bottom either of Bliss' delightful "Ragwort" or of Goossens' "Appeal," though for introducing "The Dandelion" of Bliss, which nursery rhyme is most cunningly set for voice and clarinet alone, she could be forgiven all. In the playing of the Pennington Quartet there was a surprisingly marked advance on their previous performances.

New Music.

The courage of Mr. Edward Clark in introducing new music to England is beyond all praise; and at his orchestral concerts he has set us thinking hard over such composers as Busoni, Schönberg, Bliss, and the notorious "Six" of Paris. Of the examples of these last Frenchmen (one of whom, however, is a gentle lady) which Mr. Clark brought to us, I find it impossible to write in measured terms; to me it seems incredible that they should be taken seriously (or, more accurately, should be considered) at all. Busoni's Concertino for clarinet and Schönberg's "Kammersinfonie" are another matter; here is deliberate, calculated music, whose essence it is extremely difficult on one hearing to appreciate. The Schönberg was particularly complex, with a preponderance in the wind instruments that was hard for ears accustomed to the prominence of what the modern school despises as "the caressing strings" to comprehend. The version of Bliss' "Rout," an hilariously spirited thing, which had been specially arranged for these concerts, was not so effective as the original version. We can now, after three concerts, estimate the value of Mr. Clark's conducting. It is obvious that he excels in the more modern and superficially complex works; his reading of Stravinsky's "Fire-Bird Suite," for instance, will not soon be forgotten. But in the older works, such as Mozart's "Haffner Serenade," he so lacks flexibility of rhythm that an undeserved monotony creeps into them. However, we are profoundly grateful to him and to his excellent body of musicians for infusing new spirit into our music.

Two Singers.

Not often do we find such promise in a singer's first song recital as was in that of Miss Ivy Philips at the Wigmore Hall on May 3. She has a very pure, rich voice, strong, yet well controlled. At present she is far better developed on the side of sustained tragedy than on the lighter, more graceful side, but there is little apparent reason why she should not become an all-round artist. Her choice of programme was neither ambitious nor too well chosen, her singing of four art ballads by her accompanist, Mr. Bryceson Treharne, being in particular a quite superfluous mistake. But there is no doubt of her musical sense, which, when it is united with a better judgment, should take her far.

Of Miss Calista Rogers, whose recital was at the Æolian Hall on May 4, there is not much to say that is new. Her songs were chosen with evidently sincere intention, but too many of them were cast in the grand, severe mould, and these needed the finest and subtlest gifts of treatment for the underlining of their differences. The attempt to do so of itself was creditable, but it cannot be said that Miss Rogers sustained a keen interest in her interpretations. It was, therefore, with all the more relief that we heard her turn from four serious Elizabethan songs and three dully honest settings by Winthrop Rogers of Walt Whitman to such delightful pictorial compositions as Pizzetti's music to the Greek folk-song "San Basilio." And how satisfying Miss Rogers can be when her voice is not unduly stretched was seen in Schubert's exquisite "Schlummerlied" and in Ireland's "I have twelve Oxen," both of which were full of dainty charm.

ANDANTE.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

May 12 (New Style).

April 29 (Old Style).

Ramadan 4, 1339 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.

Ayar 4, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord Colum Crichton-Stuart has returned to London.

Prince George Cantacuzène has arrived in Paris from Bucharest.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala, the Raja of Pudukota, and the Raja of Rajpipla are now in France.

Sir Rajendra and Lady Mookerjee have arrived from India, and are staying at Queen Anne's Mansions.

The anniversary meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society took place at 74, Grosvenor Street, W., on May 10.

Mrs. James Conchie and Miss Skerrett have returned from India, and have left for Castle Feddal, Perthshire.

The Maharani of Baroda has arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Paris with her son, Prince D. Gaekwar of Baroda.

M. Mavrocordato, the newly-appointed Roumanian Minister to Tokio, has arrived in London on his way to Japan.

Earl and Countess Curzon of Kedleston will entertain a house party for Whitsun, which will assemble to-morrow at Hackwood Park.

M. Vladimir Milanovitch, Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has returned to London from Paris.

The marriage arranged between Mr. R. E. H. Crosbie, Palestine Civil Service, and Miss E. S. C. Muller will take place at All Saints', Kenley, on May 28.

Sir John and Lady Barran have left Sawley Hall, Ripon, for Palestine, on a visit to the High Commissioner. They expect to be home about the middle of June.

General Sir Herbert Vaughan Cox had the honour of being received by the King on May 5 upon relinquishing his appointment as Military Secretary, India Office.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes (April 30):—Admiral Andrews, the American naval commandant at Spalato, has left in the cruiser Olympia. A farewell dinner was given in his honour before his departure.

Lord and Lady Plumer have arrived in England from Malta. The Governor is taking two months' leave, during which time the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. W. C. P. Robertson, will administer the Government.

The Hon. Srinavasa Sastu, the representative of British India at the Imperial Cabinet, has arrived from India. The Maharao of Cutch, the representative of the Indian States, will arrive at the end of the month.

M. Boeresco, Roumanian Minister Plenipotentiary, by command of the King of Roumania, visited Cardinal Bourne on May 5, and offered the good wishes of His Majesty on the occasion of the Cardinal's silver jubilee.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society, at the Royal Society's Lecture Room, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., on May 18, Mrs. Rosita Forbes will lecture on "The Senussi as a Factor in North African Development." The lecture will begin at 4.30 p.m.

A group of Jewish doctors in the United States, under the leadership of Dr. Nathan Ratnow, have decided to raise a fund of a million dollars for the purpose of setting up a medical faculty at the University of Jerusalem. The first fifty thousand dollars have already been collected.

The following official announcement, dated May 5, has been issued in Athens: Prince and Princess Christopher and the son of the Princess, Mr. Leeds, left to-day for Paris. The Crown Prince of Roumania and Princess Helen embarked on board the Carol on their return to Bucharest.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in June, between Charles Bertram Smales, Imperial Forest Service, Burma, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smales, of

Whitby, Yorkshire, and Dorothy Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. D. White, of Chartfield Avenue, Putney Hill, S.W.

The Calcutta dinner will be held at the Hotel Cecil on Tuesday, May 31. Mr. J. C. Shorrocks will preside, and the guest of the evening will be the Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley, G.C.S.I., etc. Applications for tickets (£1 1s.) should be made promptly to Mr. Walter Davies, "Downhurst," Castle Bar Road, Ealing.

Sir B. and Lady Mullick, Sir Stanley and Lady Reed, the Hon. Marion Best, from Bombay; Mr. R. H. Dun, Chief Justice of the Sudan, from Egypt; Sir B. and Lady Robertson, the Countess of Donoughmore, from Marseilles; Major-General Sir H. and Lady Guthrie Smith, and Mr. Yashida, of the Japanese Embassy, arrived at Plymouth last week by the P. and O. liner Kaiser-i-Hind.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Colonel Walter Lambert, D.S.O., 29th Lancers (Indian Cavalry), only son of the late Sir John Lambert, K.C.I.E., and of Lady Lambert, and Mabel Janetta, widow of Sir Montague A. R. Cholmeley, fourth Baronet, Easton, Grantham, and eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Montagu Waldo-Sibthorp, Canwick Hall, Lincoln.

On May 6, by command of the King, Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, called upon the Persian Minister at the Legation, 47, Braham Gardens, and offered the King's congratulations to the Shah of Persia on the twenty-fourth anniversary of his birth. The full text of his Majesty's message was immediately telegraphed to the Shah. During the day cards were left on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Lord Chamberlain, and Brigadier-General Sir Douglas F. R. Dawson, State Chamberlain. The Persian Minister in celebration of the event entertained at luncheon his Highness Nasserol-Mulk, ex-Regent, Mirza Hossein Khan Alai, Persian Minister in Madrid, Prince Mohamed Mirza, Prince Anowshiravan Mirza, Maghadam Khan (Counsellor of Legation), Fathollah Khan Noury, Mirza Issa Khan, Ebrakim Khan, and Gholam Hossein Khan.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes (April 30):— It will be remembered that Count Karolyi, first ruler of Hungary after the flight of the King, and a prominent Socialist, fled to Italy, whence he was abruptly expelled on the grounds of alleged Bolshevik intrigues, and that no country would have the poor Count. Although a Magyar, and therefore by heredity unsympathetic to the Yugoslavs, in his despair he appealed to them. Permission was promptly granted for him to come into Yugoslavia and settle at Dubrovnik. It is now reported that he has addressed a letter of thanks to the Government for their hospitality, in which he says how happy he is, after the persecution he has suffered in various lands, at last to find himself comfortable and at peace in free and democratic Yugoslavia, which has the same aims as himself, namely, the prevention of any conceivable return of the Hapsburgs. Coming from a Magyar magnate and owner of great estates in Hungary, this is indeed strange reading.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The Hon. W. Ormsby Gore has accepted an invitation to represent Great Britain on the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations.

Mr. C. C. Watson, I.C.S., C.I.C., Political Agent in Rajputana, has been appointed Acting Political A.D.C. to the Secretary of State for India, in succession to the late Lieut.-Colonel Sir James Dunlop-Smith.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced from Rome of Sir Henry Howard, who had served in the Diplomatic Service in Greece, and was formerly British Minister to the Holy See.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. T. M. Gibbon, C.I.E., which took place at Beddington, West Croydon, in his eighty-third year. Mr. Gibbon was a member of the Viceroy's Council in Lord Dufferin's viceroyalty, and was well known in tea and indigo circles in Eastern Bengal and Assam. He was also manager for many years of the Bettiah Raj.

Our Zagreb Correspondent writes (April 30):— I much regret to announce the unexpected and sudden death of

General Branko Yovanovitch, Minister of War. The late General commanded the cavalry division as far as Corfu, whence he went to France on sick leave. Since the union he has on three separate occasions been Minister of War, where he earned the respect of all who came into contact with him.

Colonel W. Carter Giffard, D.S.O., late of the 41st Welch Regiment, has died at Keswick. He served in Egypt in 1886, taking part in the Sudan-Suakim action at Gemerijah, being mentioned in despatches, and receiving the Egyptian medal with clasps, and the Medjidieh Khedive Star, 4th Class. He was wounded in the Karaga Expedition, 1897-99, and again mentioned in despatches, and received the medal with clasp and promoted to brevet rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel James A. Ezechiel, Royal Army Service Corps, died last week at the Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Ruskin Park. He first saw active service in the Afghan War of 1880, for which he was awarded the medal. He took part in the Burmese Expedition of 1886-8, was mentioned in despatches, and received the medal and two clasps. He also received the medal with clasp for the North-West Frontier Campaign of 1897-8, and was present at the actions of Sampaga and Arhanga and the operations in the Bara Valley in the Tirah Campaign of 1897, being again mentioned in despatches.

Major-General Sidney Mercer Renny, C.S.I., C.I.E., late Director-General of Ordnance, India, has died at Brighton, at the age of fifty-nine. Son of the late Major-General G. A. Renny, V.C., he had his first commission in July, 1880, and eight years later joined the Ordnance Department in India, serving first as Assistant-Superintendent of the gun-carriage factory, Fatehgarh, and afterwards at the foundry and shell factory at Cossipore. Subsequently, after a short engagement at the India Office, he became Inspector-General of Ordnance Factories in India, and was in 1906 appointed Director of Ordnance Factories, Woolwich. He became Director-General of Ordnance, India, in 1917. General Renny served in the Burmese Expedition of 1885-6.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is proposed to establish a Czecho-Slovak Legation in Athens. Sir Rabindranath Tagore has been invited to visit Czecho-Slovakia.

The new maritime code of Morocco was brought into force in the Commercial Court at Casablanca on May 7.

At a meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, held at Queen's Hall last week, it was stated that the revision of the Bulgarian Bible, begun before the war, had been completed, and that the printing had commenced.

According to a recent census the present population of Hungary, apart from the territory occupied by Yugoslavia, is 7,840,000. Budapest has a population of 1,184,000.

Our Yugoslavia Correspondent writes:—The former royal train of King Peter, which was commandeered by the enemy during the war and then reported discovered in Germany, appears to have been broken up. Parts of it have actually been found in different parts of Germany, in very bad condition, and one coach has just been identified in Bulgaria, where it has been employed as a movable lodging for General Zhekov.

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THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1921.

AN ECONOMIC BOOMERANG.

During the war enemy property in the Allied countries was sequestrated as a matter of course, and in the Treaties of Peace it was stipulated that pecuniary obligations existing between Allied nationals and enemy nationals should be settled through the intervention of clearing offices. In view, however, of the difference in the world status of the four enemy States, it seems to have occurred to the Supreme Council that an arrangement which might be advisable in the case of Germany and Austria would not necessarily be imperative for Bulgaria and Turkey. Accordingly, in the Treaty of Sèvres, no mention was made of a Clearing Office for the settlement of Turkish debts; but the Allies reserved to themselves the right to deal as they thought fit with all Turkish property, rights, and interests in their respective countries, and to hold these against amounts due to their own nationals from Turkish nationals. In the Treaty of Neuilly provision was made for a Clearing Office, and Sections III. and IV., with their annexes, elaborate the details connected with the system. Some misgiving, however, seized the Supreme Council at the last moment, as Clause (c) of Article 176 stipulated that "the provisions of this Article and of the Annexe hereto shall not apply as between Bulgaria on the one hand and any one of the Allied and Associated Powers . . . on the other hand, unless within a period of one month from the deposit of the ratification of the present Treaty by the Power in question . . . notice to that effect is given to Bulgaria by the Government of such Allied or Associated Power." There is reason to believe that shortly after the Armistice, when the Treasury came to consider the question of Bulgarian indebtedness as far as British nationals were concerned, it was decided that the amounts involved on each side were not sufficient to warrant official machinery for collection and payment, and for a period payments of pre-war indebtedness were made without official intervention between Bulgarian and British nationals. Other counsels prevailed in Paris; the Clearing Office was established by the terms of the Treaty, and the British Government instituted a single department to deal with Austrian and Bulgarian debts, thus effectively delaying the liquidation of both.

The establishment of a Clearing Office can be justified on two grounds: first, that the sum total of Bulgarian money and property in Great Britain is considerable enough to make it desirable that it should be held against payment of any indemnity to which Bulgaria has rendered herself liable; and secondly, that there might be a tendency on the part of Bulgarian debtors to evade the payment of their obligations. In view of the decision attributed to the Treasury at the beginning of 1919 the first ground would not seem to hold

good, and with regard to the second it can be said that the experience of British merchants and manufacturers is against the existence of any such tendency. But there could be little or no objection to the Clearing Office system, if it had been enforced uniformly by the "Allies." What would seem to have taken place at the Paris Conference is that the British representatives were persuaded to agree to the enforcement of the system against Bulgaria at a time when our Allies had already made up their minds not to enforce it themselves. Certainly both Italy and France hastened to inform Bulgaria before the month stipulated by the Treaty had expired that they had no intention of setting up Clearing Offices or of impounding Bulgarian moneys or properties in their respective countries. The Bulgarians, indeed, could have had no misgivings on the subject, inasmuch as long before the Treaty of Neuilly was signed or even drafted commercial relations had been resumed by French and Italians under the auspices of so-called military missions, which left no doubt in the Bulgarian mind that no obstacles to trade would be met with in France or Italy. The United States, it is understood, have followed the lead of our Allies, with certain restrictions regarding two Bulgarian insurance companies doing business in America, which have to prove that no German, Austrian, or Hungarian capital is involved. Great Britain alone of the Allied Great Powers has deliberately placed obstacles in the way of the resumption of trade by her nationals with Bulgaria, and advantage has been taken of her example by our Balkan Allies to refuse to release any Bulgarian property within their territories as a penal measure against the late enemy.

We do not raise the question of the Clearing Office in the interests of Bulgaria, but solely from the point of view of British interests. The most superficial acquaintance with the course of events in the Balkans since the Armistice must satisfy anyone that France, Italy, and the United States have benefited, and designedly, from according to Bulgaria the preferential treatment that has been denied her by Great Britain. It stands to reason that it should be so. The first people in Bulgaria anxious to trade with Great Britain would be those who had so traded before the war, and who would be the most likely to have sums of money in this country. That money, whether owed or not, is still locked up. If the same firms have money similarly placed in the other Allied countries it will have been liberated a year ago or more for trade purposes; naturally, these firms will do business with France, Italy, or the United States, as the case may be, rather than with Great Britain, when they cannot tell what fate is in store for the money they hold in the latter. The result is seen in the impetus given since the war to French, Italian, and American trade in Bulgaria; French banking groups have taken a financial interest in a number of Bulgarian banks and industrial companies; an Italo-Bulgarian bank has been established in Sofia; business between the United States and Bulgaria since the war has been, as far as can be gathered, on a larger scale than before 1915. It is not claimed that the isolated enforcement by Great Britain of the Clearing House system under the Treaty of Neuilly is solely responsible for this condition of things, or for the backwardness of British capital and trade in interesting itself in Bulgaria; but at least the system will have prevented a certain amount of Bulgarian money from being spent on British goods. There is clearly no reason why Great Britain alone should establish a Clearing House, when her Allies are able to cite the waiving of their right as a claim on Bulgarian goodwill.

WATCHING WILD ANIMALS.

By A. P. Davis.

Scent versus Sight.

Observing wild animals in their haunts, especially in the glorious autumn weather and amid the magnificent scenery of the Himalayas, is always interesting and delightful. In a forest glade at from 6,000 ft. to 10,000 ft. altitude you may sit comfortably at the foot of a thick oak or a rhododendron tree, and if your clothes match the surroundings, and a few twigs of green stuff are cunningly planted around, any forest denizen may pass within a few yards and not notice you. I have viewed a pair of kakur (muntjac, or barking deer), buck and doe, at about 300 yards, and watched them slowly approach and walk past my ambush within twenty yards, the doe leading. How daintily these deerlets tread the ground, grazing here, browsing there, heads and necks moving with peculiar jerky motions, and though their colour is a bright golden bay, when one of them is standing still in the shade it is often difficult to make out the animal until a flick of its tail, which is white underneath, betrays it.

As in the case of all deer, their noses are very keen, and many times I have seen a doe kakur on coming to my trail turn quickly and lead the buck away. Often I have pointed this out to a native shikari, who, though he had spent his life in the jungles and killed a good many head of game with his old muzzle-loading rifle, was unable to believe that animals could wind human beings, or dogs wind game-birds. This man, and others, have frequently, when my setter has turned and stood game-birds from a path at my heel, drawn attention to the fact by saying: "Sahib, your dog is looking at something!"

I have then crouched down level with the dog and bidden the man do the same, asking him what he could see.

"Only bushes, or grass and rocks," as the case might be, he would reply.

"And the dog cannot see anything either," I would say; "but the wonderful nose Nature has given him enables him to smell game-birds as easily as you can smell a dead cow."

A herd of tahr (wild goats) is interesting to watch. A full-grown male in his winter coat, grey mane almost sweeping the ground, is a grand, jungly-looking beast. He believes in a plurality of wives, the more the merrier, and is ready to fight for them.

Late one November evening I watched, through binoculars at about 400 yards, a very fine old buck tahr drive a younger one away across a frightful precipice, and on returning to his harem dash at another amorous youngster, sending him flying in an opposite direction. This fine old patriarch was stalked and shot the following morning. His horns measured over 14 ins., and he was an enormously fat and heavy beast.

One October evening, while watching a herd of tahr feeding about 100 yards distant, I was waiting for the old buck to show himself, when a bear passed just below the tahr and came along a sheep-path a few yards below the bushes where my shikari and I were concealed. Presently the bear got our wind, stood up for a second, then gave a grunt and scuttled off into a thicket. The tahr had taken no notice of the bear until it grunted, when they became alarmed, and an old terhny (female) led them away over a rocky spur into a dense brake of dwarf bamboos. I caught just a glimpse of the shaggy mane and black hindquarters of the old "boss-buck" as he dived into cover in rear of his large family—about twenty.

Bear and Boar.

One January evening, while waiting in ambush for a large bear whose tracks were visible in a patch of snow, a very fine old boar walked by within ten yards of us. We had plenty of meat in camp, or I should have shot this boar. I thought, too, that the big bear might appear later. The pig winded us from about twenty yards, lifted his wicked-looking old head, gave a few grunts, and ambled leisurely away. The bear did not appear after all.

A "sunder" of pig are not uninteresting. One November morning, when out looking for game-birds, accompanied by my spaniel, I heard a loud squealing in a ravine some distance below. I called "Nell" to heel, took out my shot cartridges, and reloaded with spherical bullets. Farther

down I saw a good place for watching from, and was soon concealed among some thin bushes. The squealing broke out again, quite near, and from my side of the ravine I watched seventeen pig walking slowly in single file along the steep pine-clad slope opposite. The leader was a huge boar, and just behind him was another, rather smaller, the one which was squealing so hideously. He had evidently been punished, but more was coming. The leading pig suddenly turned and charged the noisy one, catching him just amidships, and sending him rolling down the slope and very nearly into the stream. The cowed brute picked himself up, and struggled back to the rearmost place. Meanwhile the big leader and two or three others emerged from some scrub and boulders immediately opposite my ambush, and stood under an overhanging rock about forty yards from me. I shot the big boar, which toppled over, grunting fiercely, and fell with a loud splash into a deep pool, and with my left barrel hit another boar, which made off into some oak scrub. I waded the stream, followed the blood trail, and finished the beast off with a bullet in its shoulder. The big boar had meanwhile sunk in water five or six feet deep, from which my men had considerable difficulty in getting him out: a huge, heavy brute, with long tusks.

"Small Fry"—and Big.

One March evening while watching in open, park-like, forest for a big sambur stag, which I knew to be about, a hind, followed by a young stag, appeared within 50 yards. My shikari, intent on venison, tried to persuade me that this, a stag with horns about two feet long, was the fine animal I was expecting. I smiled, and proceeded to make tiger-like noises, as I wished to make the deer move away without stampeding them. The young stag stamped a fore foot, shook his head, and tried to look dignified, while the hind seemed much alarmed. After a few minutes the hind turned and walked away, followed by the young stag, much to the shikari's disappointment.

On an evening in November I sat on a log among some bushes to watch for a kakur buck, these small deer being excellent eating, when a sambur hind and calf, followed by a splendid stag, came ambling along almost in my direction. I waited till the stag was within about forty yards, and bagged him with an old "Henry".450, 4 drams of black powder, and a solid bullet of pure lead. His horns, which measured 38 ins., were massive, and with a good spread. I had often seen the tracks of this stag, and marks of where he had rubbed his horns on young conifer trees, but never expected to bag him so easily.

A herd of burrel (wild sheep) is always interesting to watch, and often you have to observe them for some hours until they move off to where they may be stalked. It may be bitterly cold, too, as these wideawake animals live on the open moors and crags well above the timber line. I bagged my first burrel in December, 1894, after a long watch and long stalk, at about 14,000 feet above sea level.

Ewes as Sentinels.

Usually a burrel ewe acts as sentinel, but in June, July and August several old rams often herd together, and at these times a ram is as reliable a sentinel as a ewe. Once, while stalking a herd of twenty rams, I saw one of them suddenly leave the others and hasten a hundred yards or so down a grassy slope to a rock, where he lay down, watchful, for over an hour. The old fellow sensed some danger, and remained on duty till it had passed. There was another danger, though, in the shape of a .360 double cordite express, and about two hours later the old sentinel and two other fine old rams became trophies of the chase. Their heads, with arching horns from 22 ins. to 25 ins. round the curve, look well mounted on shields.

I once watched a single ewe scouting in front of four rams. Fresh grass was sprouting luxuriantly after the rapidly melting snow, and until the ewe lay down the rams would advance no further up the nullah. When they grazed up level the ewe moved on slowly, the rams waiting till she lay down, evidently the "all clear" signal. My two shikaris and I were reclining among some rocks in full view of the wild sheep, and we kept almost as still as the rocks themselves. At last, after an exciting watch, the little herd arrived within 150 yards of us, across a small snow-fed stream; and with my .360 I took down the two best rams.



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Both tahr and burrel sentinels will usually, before moving on with the herd to the far side of a spur, return to have a final look, so it is unwise for the sahib and his shikari to advance across the open until the sentry disappears for the second time.

A herd of ten or more goral (so-called Himalayan chamois), perhaps as many as twenty, may frequently be viewed grazing on a slope where fresh grass has sprouted; but, on being alarmed, the herd will often split up into twos, threes, and singles, making off over precipitous ground in different directions. Sometimes a sharp whistle will cause one of them to halt and look around, giving time for a quick, well-aimed shot. At these times the preference for a well-balanced double-barrel rifle to a single, or magazine, is noticeable. Given a broad, shallow backsight, not too near one's eye, and a fairly large ivory-tipped foresight, my experience is that one can get on to an object more rapidly than along the narrow incline of a single. An accurate well-finished double rifle, of British make, is a beautiful weapon and usually worth the price charged for it.

The Maternal Instinct.

One October evening I noticed a goral behaving in a strange manner. My binoculars showed the animal to have a kid with her, and the two were standing on a narrow flat-topped rock, up and around which a pair of pine martens were manoeuvring. The mother goral kept turning round, stamping, and lowering her head, the kid keeping close behind her. I watched for a few minutes and then decided to try to stalk within gunshot of the martens. By taking advantage of trees, rocks, and scrub, old Ram Singh and I managed to approach within forty yards, and giving the shikari my rifle in exchange for my shotgun, I bagged the two martens, right and left, with No. 6 shot. The gorals jumped off the rock and fled. The pine martens would certainly have killed the kid, perhaps the mother, too.

It is curious to note how often an animal on being alarmed will run some distance, and, just as you think it is about to disappear round a spur, or into a thicket, will suddenly halt and look back. I have often bagged a fine beast when it has stopped for that last gaze.

To be able to imitate an animal's call, or alarm note, is useful on occasion. A kakur on being disturbed sometimes makes a curious "clicking" noise with its tongue, though the alarm note of both sexes is a hoarse bark. Early one morning in the forest above my bungalow I disturbed a kakur buck, and heard him bound away on my right, just catching a view as he topped a low spur. I followed, and peering over the spur imitated the clicking noise the little deer was making as he ambled away through the oak bushes. Suddenly he stopped, turned broadside on, and gazed in my direction, giving me a chance of putting a bullet through his heart at about sixty yards range.

I bled the deer with my hunting knife, carried it to the path, and left it lying head downwards on a slope. My house was only about 300 yards below, so I strolled down and sent a man up to fetch the kakur. Shortly afterwards the simple fellow returned and said he could only find a little pool of blood, and he thought the kakur must have run away! I at once suspected that a leopard must have taken the deer, and after a long search, guided by drops of blood, we found the buck about 500 yards from where I had left it. It was jammed between two pine saplings, the viscera torn out, and some of the flesh already eaten. I had an ambush made a few yards away from the carcass; and that evening shot a fine young male leopard through its brain, about five yards from my ambush.

Alarms and Love Calls.

The alarm noise of a goral is a peculiar sound, half sneeze, half cough, and not difficult to imitate. More than once after watching ground frequented by goral, and not seeing one, I have, by imitating this noise, caused one to spring up suddenly and show itself. The roar of a leopard, a succession of coughing grunts, sounding at a distance like a saw cutting hard timber, may be learnt with practice. I have often answered a leopard, and made one answer me. Once I obtained a quick shot at one by this means, the bullet striking the ground only an inch or two above "Spots" head. This "sawing roar" is the call of a leopard to its mate. When angry and charging, the roars sound very fierce, and with plenty of volume in them.

The mating roar of a tiger is a deep-throated moaning whine, uttered five or six times in succession at irregular intervals. I have heard a Himalayan tigress keep up these roars throughout the night, while she went for a prowl of several miles. Once she continued her loud "miaows" till nearly noon and another time till past 10 a.m. When angry at being disturbed, a tiger will often give a low murmuring growl, followed by a "haa-eh," a real cat-like noise. I have heard these horrid low growls from a distance of a few yards on two occasions. A wounded tiger will give a succession of quick, loud, terrific roars when charging and attacking. Often a leopard, also a tiger, will not utter a

sound when wounded, perhaps fatally. Bears, unless shot in the head, or neck, usually howl loudly on being hit by a bullet.

When sitting in ambush near a "kill," waiting for a tiger, or a panther, to keep its appointment, one frequently has opportunities of observing wild things. For foxes, jackals, hyenas, martens, and mongooses all have a turn; and should one of these poachers vanish suddenly it is almost a sure sign that the great cat who killed is not far away, though the artful brute may not show itself for some time.

Traps for Big Game.

Interesting as it is to observe big game, it is not wise to watch a tiger, or panther, for long while it is feeding. The brute is all greed, suspicion, jealousy, eyes and ears, and no chance of obtaining a clear shot should be lost. A friend of mine told me he once saw a leopard walk up to its kill and begin feeding. "W." said to himself: "Now, I will just let 'old Spots' have a good tuck in," but a minute later something frightened the leopard, and it suddenly left its kill never to return.

When, as often happens, one of the great cats has been driven away by a plucky native from goats, sheep, or cattle, the brute is sure to haunt the vicinity for another chance. Then is the time to tie a bait: a noisy goat for a panther, a young male buffalo for a tiger. The bait must be tied after the shooter is ambushed, or it will not call. A calling goat is almost a sure draw for a panther. On two occasions I have seen a panther spring on a goat. Once I shot "Spots" before it had time to do the goat any injury; on the other occasion the panther pulled the goat behind a bush, and by the time I was in position for a clear shot the victim had been seized by its neck.

An exciting moment was when watching over a young buffalo which had been tied up as bait for a tigress. The great striped cat appeared from behind some bushes, over sixty yards from the old oak where I was ambushed 12 feet above the ground. She stood gazing at the bait for a second or two, and then approached with fierce eyes and galloping bounds. I could not save the bait, as the tigress's movements were so quick and violent. She caught the poor beast round the shoulders with her terrible claws, and fixing her teeth in the back of its neck shook it savagely, then, as she was trying to drag it into the thicket beyond my tree her arched back was towards me, within twelve yards, and I dropped her dead with a soft-nose .450 bullet.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Bulgarian Bonds.

The negotiations with Bulgaria on the subject of the resumption of the debt service have not yet led to a final settlement of this important matter, but as the stage of concrete proposals has been reached, I imagine that British bondholders will shortly know where they stand. The position, as I understand it, is that while Bulgaria is willing to pay in French francs at once the whole of the arrears of coupons and drawn bonds of the loans of 1902 and 1907, which are mainly held in France, and to continue the service on these loans on the same lines up to April of next year, it is proposed, as regards the loans of 1892 and 1909, in which English holders are chiefly interested, that payment of the arrears should be spread over two years or thereabouts, the service in this case also to be made in French francs.

The Ter Meulen Scheme Explained.

I have just received a little booklet issued by the League of Nations, explaining in a clear and succinct form the details of the Ter Meulen scheme for international credits as approved by the League. The booklet, which will be noticed in these columns in due course, emphasises the flexibility of the Ter Meulen scheme, and it is pointed out that while objections may be made against it, it possesses the outstanding advantage "that it provides a means for effectively mobilising the whole credit of a country behind each of its individual traders in such a manner that traders in other countries who might shrink from the risk of dealing with individuals alone may be expected to enter freely upon business." Granted that the scheme would appear to offer a promising solution for the trade impasse that has come about as the result of war conditions, it would be surprising if British traders could be persuaded to take more than an academic interest in it as yet, seeing that a considerable time must elapse before it can be brought into operation. What they are concerned with is what is going to happen in the intervening period, and information on that point is still not forthcoming from the Government in the shape of their new export credit scheme. The difficulties of the time certainly provide excuses for the delay that has taken place, but it is many weeks now since the details of the scheme were revealed to a critical public. Surely they are not going to hesitate until the Ter Meulen scheme is in working order?

The Coal Strike and Oil.

It is certain that one effect of the long-drawn-out coal strike will be to give an immense impetus to the use of oil instead of coal by factories and public utility undertakings. Very many firms six months or even a year ago began to consider the possibility of oil as a fuel, but changes of so radical a nature take a very long time to come about in this country, unless, as in the present case, external events supply a very pressing reason for the alteration. Now the necessary investigations are being hurried on in all directions, as the business community has been made to realise very forcibly the advantage of having an alternative fuel supply, in order to safeguard itself against any recurrence of the present trouble. Of course, one can imagine a combination of circumstances which would temporarily cut us off from our oil supplies, but it is unlikely in the extreme that commerce would ever be deprived of both fuels at the same time.

The Outlook for Trade.

Unfortunately, the extent to which oil can help us in our present troubles is distinctly limited, and it is evident that, failing a speedy settlement—as to the chances of which there is little on which to base an opinion—we must be prepared to see the wheels of industry come almost to a standstill for a time. Obviously, the effect of this stoppage of industry must be immensely to retard our progress in regaining our pre-war trade position and to jeopardise our prospects of obtaining the hoped-for share in the commerce of the markets where our late enemies had formerly virtually a monopoly. The only cheerful aspect of the position is that the strike has chanced to take place at a time of world-wide "slump," when, with the best will in the world, our manufacturers could not have made any great headway even in the countries where the exchanges present no obstacle to commerce, as buying has for a long time

been reduced to the veriest minimum. At any other period the strike would have done incalculable and perhaps irretrievable harm; as it is, its external effects are to a large extent circumscribed, though they may yet prove serious enough should the impression gain ground abroad that our capacity to deliver goods to order must henceforth be in some doubt. The permanence of that view will depend entirely on Labour's attitude in the future.

Development of Albania.

The question of the development of Albania's resources is now, I understand, being taken seriously in hand by the Government. The nature of the task before the Valona authorities will be realised when it is borne in mind that in the most real sense of the term Albania has remained up to the present time a purely agricultural community. It possesses neither banks nor railways, and its articles of export are negligible. In short, it is a question of starting at the foundations. The plans of the authorities include the establishment of a bank and a trading company, while foreign assistance is being enlisted to ascertain the extent of the country's mineral resources, in particular as regards coal and oil. In the latter connection, it will be recalled that our Albanian Correspondent recorded in a recent letter the arrival of representatives of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

Roumanian Consul for Liverpool.

My readers will be interested to learn that the King of Roumania has appointed Mr. J. G. Evans, manager of the Mediterranean department of Messrs. Furness Withy and Co., Ltd., honorary consul for Roumania in Liverpool. This is the first time that Roumania has been represented at Liverpool, and the appointment may be taken as a welcome indication that Roumania expects to do a greatly increased trade with Great Britain in the future. Mr. Evans, it may be mentioned, has been associated with the Johnston Line for about thirty years, and was one of the directors of the line before it was taken over by Messrs. Furness Withy, and the close associations of the Johnston Line with Roumania naturally place Mr. Evans in a position of special advantage owing to his knowledge of Roumanian trade conditions.

Foreign Buyers and Exhibitions.

I am strongly of the opinion that the time has come when some definite steps should be taken to ensure the presence of foreign buyers at our exhibitions. They are invited, I know, to the British Industries Fair, but that event, important as it is, is far from covering the whole ground of British industrial potentialities, and, so far as I know, little organised effort is made to bring to their notice the specialised fairs, one or more of which are held every month in London. Of course, it may be argued that in the case of printing machinery, for instance, the foreigner will come here if he wants it, but until the merits of the latest exhibits have been brought more or less forcibly to his notice his need may have escaped his attention. It is of no use to hold exhibitions which are attended mainly by British people. The primary function of exhibitions is to accelerate the fruits of judicious advertising, and to accomplish that purpose the foreign buyer must be attracted.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, April 27.

Relations With Czechoslovakia.

M. Dvoracak, head of the Oriental Department of the Ministry of Commerce at Prague, and Captain Konecny, of the same department, arrived in Bucharest on Saturday as delegates of the Czechoslovak Government, for the purpose of signing a commercial treaty between their Government and Roumania. The text of the treaty had been previously drawn up, and it was signed on Saturday afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by M. Take Jonescu (who has not yet left on his short leave abroad), in the name of the Roumanian Government, and by the Czechoslovak Minister in Bucharest, as well as the above delegates. The treaty is for one year, but may be extended by common consent.

Czechoslovakia having inherited most of the industries of the former Austria-Hungary, Roumania hopes by this convention to arrange for an advantageous interchange of goods and to be in a position to obtain from a neighbour some of the material necessary for the reconstruction of her industries, such as locomotives, boring plant for the oil-fields, machinery for sugar factories, agricultural machinery, etc. Incidentally, it may be remarked that the chief handicap as regards the sugar factories would appear to be not so much the lack of machinery as of sugar beet. Under present conditions this crop does not offer sufficient inducements to cultivators, and how to ensure sufficient supplies for the factories has become a rather serious problem.

Miscellaneous.

The Government has decided to appoint a Commission to go to Warsaw, for the purpose of negotiating a commercial treaty with Poland on the same general lines as that just concluded with Czechoslovakia.

It is understood that good progress is being made by the Committee appointed to fix the exact frontier between Roumania and Czechoslovakia.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, April 27.

The Moratorium.

As the moratorium which has been in force since the outbreak of war in September, 1915, is to be raised shortly, a meeting of traders representing most of the principal manufacturers in Bulgaria was held at the Sofia Chamber of Commerce on the 25th inst., and after a good deal of discussion it was decided to form a combine with the object of alleviating financial distress amongst themselves as a result of the numerous debts that will have to be paid.

This step will not be to the liking of the general public, as, owing to the lack of competition, prices will speedily rise. The Government will, however, probably take steps to prevent the carrying out of this scheme.

It is probable that Bulgarians who have debts to other Bulgarians will be allowed to pay in banknotes equivalent to the same value in gold or silver as before the war; for instance, if 20,000 levas in gold was owed before September, 1915, it will be only necessary now to pay 20,000 levas in paper. If, however, the debt is from a Bulgarian

to a foreigner, the question of the value of the exchange will be one of arrangement, and it will probably be necessary for a Bulgarian to multiply the amount of his debt by nine, or even more. Most of the banks are adopting a very cautious policy in consequence, and money is scarce and dear.

The Reparations Commission.

The regrettable illness of M. Stambolisky has prevented the Commission of Reparations from making very much progress, but on May 2 the chiefs and their principal assistants are starting on a week's tour round the principal towns of Bulgaria.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, April 30.

A Universal Tax.

A bill will shortly come before the Ministerial Council which will affect not only all commercial people in the country, but also professional men, foreign commercial residents and even those who are only temporarily here. This is a new form of the unlamented tax on turnover. This time it will be worded so as to include the incomes of professional men such as lawyers and medical men. The only exemptions are in regard to the conveyance of real property and transactions with cheques and bills of exchange. The tax will be 1 per cent., but it is anticipated that only $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. will be levied at first. The tax will be payable every three months, and special books must be kept. Visitors to the country, who do not keep books here, will be obliged to report the results of their transactions. The penalties will be excessively heavy.

Relations With Italy.

Out of deference to public opinion, the Government has broken off negotiations for a commercial treaty with Italy, and the Italian members, after being entertained to a dinner at the *Srpski Kralj*, have returned to their homes. The reason is that the Italians are not loyally carrying out their engagements entered into in the Treaty of Rapallo. Telegrams from Split complain that the Italians have postponed the evacuation of Zones II. and III. in Dalmatia, apparently awaiting the results of the elections in Italy, for if the Nationalists get the upper hand they will tear up the Treaty of Rapallo. Troops and warships are again assembling at Shibenik (Sibenico). The new Italian Consul has arrived at Split, and the gunboat *Puglia* should therefore leave, but she still remains in the bay. Feelings are embittered, too, by the recent excesses of the Fascists in Istria, where they have been persecuting the unprotected Slavonic population. Events in Fiume, too, look ugly, and make Italy an uncomfortable neighbour, especially when her internal differences lead to a railway strike which holds up the Orient Express, cuts Belgrade and Zagreb off from her mails and from Trieste, the only seaport upon which Yugoslavia is dependent since Fiume is denied her.

General News.

Dr. Kumanudi, Minister of Finance, states that the Government is expending three million dinars a month on the support of Russian refugees. This is apart from the financial support received from England, which pays for the upkeep of 20,000, while France supports 18,000. Up to date, Yugoslavia has spent 33 million dinars on this relief work.

The Reparation Commission in Paris has allotted to Yugoslavia 52 per cent. of the total output of the Pechuy collieries for the first two years after the ratification of the peace treaty.

It is reported that the Reparation Commission in Paris has decided that the former Austro-Hungarian Consulate in Belgrade belongs to Yugoslavia, but that Austria can bring an action for recovery in the Serbian courts. This fine building, with its pretty garden, is now the Ministry of the Interior.

It is stated that the Government has resolved to spend 250 million dinars on railway construction, and that the programme will include the following new branch lines:—Kochevje-Ogulin, Prekomurje-Maribor, Nish-Knjazevatz, and Uzice-Vardishte.

According to a Sarajevo report, the Government has concluded a contract with a German group for the sale of 200,000 tons of iron ore from Bosnia at a good price, payment to be made partly in cash and partly in coke, which the country needs badly.

• The police have issued a new tariff of cab-fares in Zagreb.

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COTTON GROWING IN MESOPOTAMIA.*

III.—THE POLITICAL ASPECT.

(Concluded.)

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Maximum use is already made of the available water for the winter crops; but for the summer crops the Arab is often at a loss to know what use to make of his water. A specific case in point is that of the new Yusufiyah canal, dug as a military necessity during the war to increase the production of grain. On the lower reaches of this canal the cultivators grew the usual summer crops, and catered largely for the Baghdad vegetable market, whose demands had previously been met from the lift-irrigated gardens near the city. In consequence of this large and sudden increase in the supply of summer vegetables the market price fell to such an extent in 1920 as to render the cost of transport from the canal area to Baghdad greater than the market value of the produce. As a result hundreds of tons of melons and other vegetables were allowed to rot on the land.

It was on this canal that the Agricultural Department arranged with a local sheikh to grow on contract eighty acres of cotton of that variety which had shown greatest promise in the experiments conducted near Baghdad the previous two seasons. It was agreed that the cultivators should get 40 per cent. of the value of the crop, together with the cotton stalks, which had a high value as fuel; the Government took 30 per cent. as its revenue share, the Agricultural Department took 25 per cent. acting as capitalist, and the sheikh was given 5 per cent. (Arabic *backsheesh*) for his kindly interest.

The outcome of this effort to discover whether cotton cultivation is or is not a sound commercial proposition is not without interest. The work was started under the supervision of an Englishman (later replaced by an Indian) and two imported Egyptian cultivators, all three of whom lived under canvas on the estate. There were no buildings, as the cultivators, who were but recently mostly nomadic, still prefer their goat-hair tents to permanent buildings. Owing to the delay in the arrival of the supervising staff the sheikh changed his views on the bargain that had been concluded with him, and sowed a late crop of barley and wheat. After a little cajoling, coupled with gentle pressure, he was persuaded to plough in the germinated cereal crop in preparation for the cotton crop. He was compensated to the extent of the seed sown. The cotton (an American variety which has been given the commercial name of *Mesopot White*) was sown in season, and gave every promise of a very high yield. When it was about to come into bearing the disturbances broke out on the Euphrates, and life in the "blue" became somewhat unhealthy for exotics. The supervising staff was therefore recalled to Baghdad. The irrigation staff on this canal was also recalled, and as a result the distribution of water became irregular. Instead of being irrigated every ten days in August and September the cotton crop received its last irrigation in the middle of August.

All the cultivators on this canal had been outlawed as rebels without discrimination. Touch was maintained with the progress of the work by weekly visits to Baghdad of some of the cultivators, who exposed no more of their faces than was necessary to evade the traffic. On this being brought to the notice of Intelligence Branch, G.H.Q., a charge was brought against the Agricultural Officer of trading with the enemy! He was, of course, acquitted. On news being received by these cultivators that a neighbouring sheikh, who had given much trouble, was about to be bombed by aeroplane, they advanced the plea that they should not be bombed, as they were the only cultivators on this canal who at that time of year possessed immovable property. Or, to use their expression, "we have four hundred camel loads of cotton and we cannot go into the desert leaving this behind." By arrangement with the authorities concerned they were permitted to deliver their cotton at the ginners erected for the purpose in Baghdad by the British Cotton Growing Association.

On the occasion on which the neighbouring sheikh was bombed, one observer, whose powers of observation were

somewhat erratic, dropped a bomb amongst the cotton cultivators. On this being reported to the Agricultural Officer by an Arab, he was informed that the casualties were three donkeys, two cows, and a man. (The order of precedence is not the writer's.)

In settling the accounts of these cultivators, each family cultivating six acres was paid an average of Rs. 1,000, being 40 per cent. of the value of the crop based on Liverpool prices, less freight and insurance charges. The average yield of seed cotton per acre was 1,250 lb., despite the irregular treatment given to the crop subsequent to the outbreak of the disturbances. This yield compares favourably with the average yield of 1,200 lb. of seed cotton per acre in Egypt, 600 lb. in America, and 300 lb. in India.

The facts of special interest that have been revealed as the result of this first attempt to grow cotton in Mesopotamia on a commercial basis are: (a) by cultivating cotton the Arab is given full-time occupation throughout the summer months; (b) even with irregular and unkind treatment of the crop the yield of cotton can be equal to the average yield of the cotton crop in Egypt; (c) Arabs who but a few years previously were mostly pastoral in their habits can, and will, with suitable instruction, cultivate cotton in the intensive manner adopted in Egypt; and (d) at the price ruling in October, 1920, with Middling American cotton at 17d. per lb., the cultivation of cotton in the Irak can be highly profitable.

In the opinion of the writer, the cultivation of cotton on a comprehensive scale in Irak cannot but contribute to a large extent to the material welfare of the cultivating class, to the expansion of trade, to the prosperity and revenues of the country in general, and, indirectly, perhaps, to the maintenance of peace and order.

WAREHOUSING FACILITIES IN BELGRADE

We are indebted to the London office of the Banque Franco-Serbe for the following information, which they have received from their chief office in Belgrade, dated April 27. They write:—

"At the present moment our Belgrade office know of no warehouses available for the storing of further goods, as, owing to the accumulating stocks in Belgrade, all the usual accommodation is fully occupied, and their 'Merchandise Department' is constantly looking for public or private warehouses, where further space may be available, but they see no immediate prospect of obtaining space, except by private arrangement between importers there and foreign exporters. In view of this extreme shortage, our head office has authorised the immediate construction by this bank of two large warehouses on the banks of the River Save, which, it is hoped, will eventually accommodate about 800 truck loads, and for which railway facilities and sidings are being applied for from the State railways. It is hoped also that a part of the construction will be finished by September next, and the balance within the following few months.

"In the meantime our office in Belgrade instructs us to make it quite clear to exporters in this country that all instructions for warehousing goods will only be accepted by this bank without responsibility, and that all such consignments will be at the risk of the shipper, as should warehouse accommodation not be found, and as the customs insist on all goods being cleared within a limited period, the merchandise may have to be left in the open and may suffer considerable damage. We would therefore strongly advise exporters for the present to endeavour to arrange with their customers in Belgrade to guarantee that private warehouse accommodation will be found, and, if necessary, placed at the disposal of the bank handling the documents, should it be desired only to release goods against payment. We shall, of course, be pleased to answer inquiries to the best of our ability."

Roumania has reduced her export taxes on timber by about 50 per cent.

The duty on goods entering Mesopotamia has been raised to 15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

It is estimated that the production of beet sugar in Europe will amount to 74,000,000 cwt. in the current year, an increase of 21,000,000 cwt. on last year's figures.

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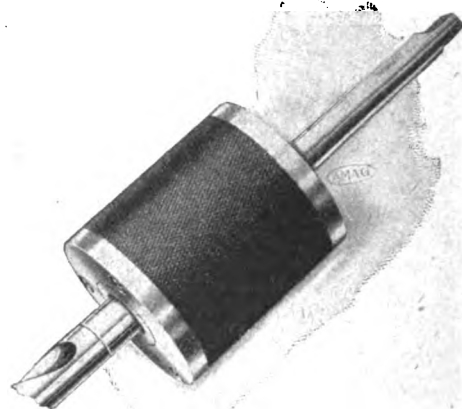
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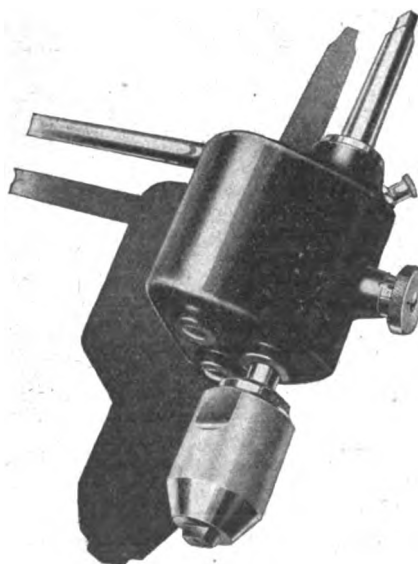
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PRINTING TRADES EXHIBITION**SOME NOTABLE EXHIBITS.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

If the Sixth International Printing, Stationery, and Allied Trades Exhibition at the Royal Agricultural Hall, which closes this week, is not the best exhibition London has seen this year, or indeed since 1914, it comes very near being so. I cannot call to mind another which so adequately fulfils the purpose of demonstrating the potentialities of a great industry.

It is not infrequently the case at these exhibitions that a mere tour of inspection is in itself no light ordeal. In the present instance it was far more so than usual, for there was scarcely a stand that did not merit the closest attention; and to appreciate all the various features of the exhibition would be an impossibility in one or even two visits.

Judging by the animated aspect of the gangways, the exhibition has made a very fair appeal to the general public, but if the interesting nature of the exhibits had been widely known, I think there is no doubt that there would have been a full house each day. The title of the exhibition is apt to be rather misleading to the uninitiated, conveying as it does the idea of an elaborate show of books, prints, and such-like things. Of course, these things were there, though they needed looking for; but the vast bulk of the exhibits consisted of machinery used in one or another of the many processes in connection with printing. Indeed, it might well have been called an exhibition of printing machinery.

Looking down from the galleries across the vast floor, there was practically nothing to be seen but machinery, most of it in motion. In a very large annexe and in a smaller one it was the same. Here were presses remorselessly dealing with sheet after sheet of paper, finally putting them into place with human intelligence and with inhuman accuracy. There was a machine turning paper into envelopes at an incredible rate per hour, and a little further on one came upon a most elaborate pressing machine for providing paper for accounts, which had to traverse a remarkable journey before finally appearing covered with lines of different colours. Then there were opportunities at several stands of watching the delicate processes of colour printing, and these, judging by the crowds in the vicinity, were evidently a great attraction.

I am not going to pretend to deal thoroughly with the exhibits. In the case of an exhibition of this size, and with the space at my disposal, that would be out of the question. I shall confine myself to referring to some of the more important firms for whose products there should be, in my opinion, a good market in the future in the regions with which this journal deals.

The Lanston Monotype Corporation, Ltd., had a very interesting stand, where were displayed examples of their monotype machines and various presses. A rotary offset press and a two-revolution press were on view at the stand of Messrs. Furnival and Co., Ltd., who also showed other machinery. Messrs. George Mann and Co., Ltd., exhibited among other things single-colour rotary offset machines, and two-colour and perfecting rotary offset machines.

I was particularly interested in the stand of the Dalziel Foundry, Ltd., showing numerous specimens of stereos for rotary and flat printing. Another notable exhibit was that of Messrs. Usher-Walker, Ltd., showing various presses, the "Crosland," Self-Clamp Guillotine, a machine for

extracting dust from type cases, and other machinery in operation.

Messrs. Hampson, Bettridge, and Co. had a large range of machinery on view, including wire-stitching machines, an index-printing machine for two colours, box-making machinery, and a cardboard-cutting machine. Another very interesting stand was that of Messrs. Hunters, Ltd., showing apparatus for photo-engraving and photo-lithography, etc.

Messrs. John Greig and Sons were showing their latest model of the "New Conqueror" self-clamp guillotine combined with an automatic paper-shaving apparatus. They also exhibited a 31-in. rotary perforating machine with a creasing and slitting attachment and a steam-power nipping machine. The Slogger Engineering Company, Ltd., exhibited their "Slogger" paper-feeding machine, which can be fitted to any sheet-fed machine. At the stand of the famous firm of James Spicer and Sons, Ltd., a wide range of writing, printing, enamelled and art papers, waxed papers and bags, were on view, also writing pads, compendiums, files, etc.

A large selection of printing machines and presses were shown by Messrs. John Ratcliff and Sons, Ltd. A direct rotary machine, a flat-bed offset machine, a flat-bed lithographic machine, and a flat-bed tinplate printing machine were among their exhibits, which also included a litho graining machine and a varnishing machine. The stand of Fry's Metal Foundry contained a most comprehensive range of printer's equipment. Various kinds of printing metals were shown, and many types of melting pots, driers, and foundry equipment were also on view.

The Marshall Engraving Company, Ltd., were exhibiting an extensive range of children's books, half-tone and fine art work. Mention must also be made of their embossing dies, which were a notable feature of their exhibit. Seven Linotype composing machines, three of which were of the multiple magazine type, were shown by Linotype and Machinery, Ltd., together with examples of linotype, stereotype, and other metals made by this firm. They also showed two letterpress printing machines equipped with pile delivery. Messrs. A. W. Penrose and Co., Ltd., were exhibiting their Universal engraving machines, lithographic, hand-proofing and reversing press, also a velogravure sheet-fed printing machine.

CANTACUZENE OIL LANDS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, April 27.

A concession for ninety-nine years has been acquired by the Societ  Sospiro for the exploitation of about 20,000 hectares of oil land in the Prahova district belonging to the Cantacuzene family. The company has the exclusive right of exploitation of these rich lands for the period mentioned, the owners receiving one-sixth of the share capital. The company will have a 50 per cent. interest in an affiliated company for the distribution and sale of its products. The Sospiro Company is composed exclusively of a Franco-Roumanian group, and its capital has recently been increased to 350 million lei. Preparatory work has already begun, and at the moment negotiations are going on for the purchase abroad of material and plant to the value of 125 million lei. Owing to the situation of the land in the midst of one of the most productive of the oil districts, this is likely to become one of the most important petroleum enterprises in Roumania, and it is a matter for congratulation that the riches of that land will no longer remain unutilised.

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ENGINEERING.

(BY OUR ENGINEERING REPRESENTATIVE.)

Motor Spirit Tax.

The Automobile Association has just obtained the views of the Rt. Hon. F. G. Kellaway, M.P., on certain questions of importance to the motoring community, and he has expressed the opinion, which is shared by all motorists, that a flat rate duty on motor spirit is the most equitable and practical method of obtaining the greater proportion of the contribution of motor traffic towards road expenses. He indicated that if it were administratively possible he would be prepared to support legislation for the reinstatement of taxation on motor fuel as an alternative to the present inequitable system.

Oil Engine Progress.

The position of the British internal combustion engine industry was referred to in very favourable terms the other day by Mr. J. L. Chaloner, at the first meeting this year of the Diesel Engine Users' Association, and his remarks gave rise to a great deal of favourable comment. He outlined the directions in which development might be looked forward to in relation to Continental and American competition, and showed that of the high-pressure oil engines in this country quite 25 per cent. were working on the mechanical injection principle, of which 50 per cent. were 2-stroke engines. In the case of medium pressure engines 96 per cent. worked on the mechanical injection principle, whilst 58 per cent. were 2-stroke engines. These data clearly showed the tendency towards 2-stroke design, and the position which the mechanical injection principle already holds in regard to the heavy oil engine. One of the chief points he made was as to the imperative necessity of further flexibility on the part of the engines in order that heavy grade oils might be used to a greater extent for internal combustion engines. The increased demand for petrol has necessitated the introduction of refining processes which will produce a higher percentage of volatile spirits, but, as every engineer is aware, this has been done at the expense of another constituent, which, in this case, is gas oil. To quote Mr. Chaloner's exact words, "Further flexibility on the part of these engines is therefore imperative in order that heavy grade oil may be used for internal combustion engines, and manufacturers will have to continue experiments with a view to making modifications which will enable internal combustion engines to deal with such grades as are to-day being recognised as the standard fuel for oil-fired furnaces and boilers." The efforts made in this country to simplify oil engine construction have met with greater success than on the Continent, as in Germany and Scandinavia, or in the United States. The main feature of the high compression oil engine in this country is that it does not use so high a degree of compression as the Diesel engine, and at the same time it dispenses with the air compressor and the attendant air service system.

In his paper Mr. Chaloner described and compared various methods of fuel atomisation and also of air, mechanical and gas pressure injection. He considered, and with his conclusions most engineers will be disposed to agree, that the gas pressure system might be discarded as a practical solution of the fuel injection method for internal combustion engines. The principle involved is now generally regarded as being only suitable for light fuels, and the mechanical difficulties in the way of a perfect result are many and not easy of solution. The greater portion of the charge, in this method, is in contact with burnt gases, and these render it a far from easy matter to bring the combustion air into contact with the fuel within the limited time of the combustion period.

It was pointed out that the part which turbulence plays in the combustion process has been fully realised, and it has been suggested that with mechanical injection only a very much lower degree of turbulence was possible. However, as he said, the rate of gasification of the oil could be utilised equally well, and owing to the absence of the cooling action of the expanding air the conditions were improved. The rate of vaporisation was proportional to the surface of each oil globule, and hence in the case of higher atomisation the degree of turbulence increased in proportion. The general tendency of introducing long

stroke designs for marine and other slow-running engines produced conditions favourable to the application of mechanical injection.

In his paper Mr. Chaloner did not suggest that the problem of mechanical injection had been solved, but the results obtained so far showed that satisfactory progress is being made. The prospects are certainly most promising, and the possibility of designing a satisfactory 2-stroke engine without any mechanically-controlled valves justifies the closest attention by engineers who are anxious to further the progress of oil engine development. There is no doubt, in this connection, that the two-stroke mechanical injection engine will assist materially in bringing the various types of internal combustion prime movers into a greater uniformity of design.

New Standards.

Of more than usual interest is the announcement that the British Engineering Standards Association have prepared, at the request of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, a standard specification for soldering sockets for electric cables of sizes ranging from 0.0018 to 1.0 square inch in cross sectional area. There has previously been a certain lack of uniformity, and this has been deplored by all who have had practical experience in the work of connecting up large installations, and carrying out switchboard and big dynamo and motor work.

The new specification includes all the necessary definitions and clauses relating to the material and dimensions of both cast and wrought lug sockets, and also of all types of clamps and clamp sockets, which at present are the only two patterns of sockets standardised. In the specification, attention is rightly drawn to the necessity for exercising care to see that the cable fits the socket fairly closely. A loose fit means that there will be an appreciable thickness of solder between the walls of the socket and the strands of the cable, and as the conductivity, etc., of solder is not the same as that of brass and copper trouble may result through heating. In the standard specification, a maximum diameter of hole is specified for each size of cast lug socket, and if smaller cables, for any reason, are used with large-sized lugs smaller holes should be provided. Of clamp sockets there are only nine sizes given, and the actual diameter of hole to be bored for each is specified. Copies of the new standard specification may be obtained from the offices of the Association at 28, Victoria Street, at a cost of 1s. 2d. post free.

Temperature Control.

Reference to the close automatic control of the temperature of electric furnaces has already been made in these columns. A new thermostat has been introduced by a British firm which can be set for temperatures up to 400 degs. Fahr. It appears that in this device the expansion of a volatile fluid contained in a small capsule is so arranged that it will operate an electric switch, so that as soon as the full temperature is reached the current will be cut down. Naturally this will cause the temperature to tend to fall, but as soon as that is the case the current is automatically switched on again, this operation continuing automatically and regularly so as to hold the oven or furnace at the required heat. A point worthy of notice is that the device acts outside the oven, so that there is no danger of any spark coming into contact with any inflammable gas given off by the product under treatment in the oven.

It is reported that the Roumanian Vulcan Company has recently been reorganised, with the support of the Société de Construction des Batignolles, Messrs. Schneider and Co., and Dyle and Bacalan.

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ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the forty-third ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Offices, Alexandria, on Wednesday, the 1st June, 1921, 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 20th May, 1921, or in Alexandria before the 28th May, 1921, until after the Meeting, at Messrs. Barclays Bank, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W.1. or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

Dated, Alexandria, Egypt, the 21st April, 1921.

By order of the Board,

J. E. CORNISH, Secretary General.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—Home refined is reduced 2s. all round. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 57s. to 60s., while American granulated at 62s. 6d. has lost 3s. White Java has been done at 30s. Futures are:—June, 26s.; July, 25s.; August, 22s.; September, 22s.; October, 19s. 9d.; November, 19s. 3d.; December, 19s.; October-December sold at 19s.

Coffee.—The market has been fairly steady. East Indian good bold colouring is quoted at 137s.; bold grey-greenish at 92s. 6d. and peaberry at 86s. to 148s. Nairobi bold to fine bold greenish is 115s. to 135s.; bold greyish, 80s. to 86s.; and peaberry from 80s. to 135s. Futures are:—May, 40s.; July, 39s. 9d.; September, 40s. 10½d.; December, 41s. 7½d.; March, 42s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—The market has been firm. Indian linseed is harder at 17s.—a gain of 6d. Rapeseed is higher, with Toria at 19s., bold Ferozepore at 18s., and brown Cawnpore at 16s. Cotton-seed is steady, with Bombay at 10s. 6d. and the Egyptian black variety at 12s. 9d., an increase of 3d.

Oils.—Linseed oil is quieter at 28s. Rape oil is firm, with crude at 46s. and refined at 54s. Refined cotton oil has come to business at 42s., and Egyptian crude at 35s.; deodorised at 47s. There has been a great demand for turpentine this week. The price has risen from 72s. to 105s.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 172s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 232s. cwt.; cheese, 150s. cwt.; chillies, 90s. cwt.; eggs, 17s. 6d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 73s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 110s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (East India bold), 115s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Mocha longberry), 92s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos superior), 54s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochín), 42s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 144s. cwt.; lard, 81s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 5½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 110s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 73s. 6d. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 145s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 65s. 7½d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 70s. 3d. cwt.; sugar (white Java), 62s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (West Indian crystallised), 60s. 6d. cwt.; sago (small pearl), 25s. 9d. cwt.; sago flour, 14s. 3d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 16s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), £5 15s. ton; tea (Indian), 6d. lb.; tea (Ceylon), 6½d. lb.; tea (Java), 4d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 81s. 4½d. qr.; wheat (English white), 88s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 74s. 3d. cwt.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 9½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 5d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 8½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £20 5s. 7½d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £47 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 11½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 10s. ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 137s. 6d. cwt.; Potassium: Bichromate, 10d. lb.; chlorate, 6½d. lb.; caustic, £47 10s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 10½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 4d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £27 10s. ton; Sodium: Crystals, 150s. ton; bicarbonate, £10 15s. ton; bichromate, 7d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 15s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 5s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 10s. ton; prussiate, 8½d. lb.; nitrate, £19 15s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £32 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 2d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 5½d. lb.; red lead, £38 10s. ton; white dry lead, £41 15s. ton; white ground lead, £52 ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English regulus), £39 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £70 5s. ton; copper (electro), £72 10s. ton; gold bars, 104s. 2½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 124s. 6d. ton; hematite (mixed number), 180s. ton; galvanised sheets, £23 ton; lead (soft foreign), £21 1s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 4½d. unit; molybdenite, 55s. unit; nickel, £195 ton; platinum, 340s. oz.; plumbago, £30 ton; quicksilver, £11 10s. bottle; silver bars, 35d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 ton; tin (standard), £172 15s. ton; tin plates, 26s. 6d. box; wolfram, 12s. 6d. unit; zinc sheets, £36 10s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 7½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 5½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 5½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 5½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 5½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 3½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 3½d. lb.; bulls (first), 3½d. lb.; bulls (second) 2½d. lb.; casualty hides, 2½d. lb.; kips (first), 4½d. lb.; kips (second), 3½d. lb.; kips (third), 3d. lb.; calf casualty (first), 6½d. lb.; calf casualty (second), 4d. lb. Calcutta market, prices in rupees per 20 lb.:—Arsenic hides (cows), Agras, 5 to 11; Durbhargas, 3.4 to 5.4; Patnas, 2.8 to 4; salted cows, 2.8 to 5; arsenic hides (buffalo), 2.8 to 7. Skins, calf, 6 to 8 per 20 lb.; goat, 185 to 205 per 100 pieces. Bombay hide and skin market dull.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 8.08d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £14 5s. ton; rape (Toria), £17 10s. ton; soya beans, £11 10s. ton; palm kernels, £19 7s. 6d. ton. Oils: Linseed, £25 10s. ton; soya, £31 ton; cotton (crude), £31 ton; olive, £32 10s. ton; ground nut, £35 ton; palm, £31 15s. ton; rape (crude), £44 ton; petroleum 2s. 3½d. gallon; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crêpe), 10½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 9½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 10½d. lb.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended May 5:—

The better inquiry experienced during the previous fortnight has not been maintained, unfortunately, and business during the past week has been conducted on a very limited scale. This state of affairs was only to be expected, however, in view of the very critical times through which the industry is passing, and we do not look for any marked increase of business until the coal question shows more signs of being settled. More mills must of necessity close down from lack of fuel as time goes on, and the spot inquiry is bound to feel the effect. What inquiry there has been has continued to centre chiefly round Sakel, fully good fair to good, and some fifty bales of Sudan cotton have been absorbed. Manchester reports continue to be encouraging in tone, particularly where piece goods are concerned, and there seems to be a fairly steady movement in this quarter, which, if continued, should prove of much value to the trade in general. C.i.f. business has been practically at a standstill. Quotations generally show a decline of 50 points, but good fair and fully good fair Sakellaridis are exceptionally 75 points lower. Sales, 600, which includes fifty bales Sudan. Fully good fair Sakellaridis 17.00d.

TENDERS INVITED.

[Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.]

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

Egypt.

Paper.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of squared paper. May 24.

Cardboard Portfolios.—The Central Stores Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance invites tenders for the supply of the following material:—900 portfolios cardboard, 70 by 70 by 7 cms.; 600 portfolios cardboard, 85 by 75 by 7 cms.; 500 portfolios cardboard, 60 by 60 by 7 cms.; 1,500 portfolios cardboard, with flap, 28 by 37 by 7 cms. Sealed samples in duplicate of the goods must be submitted with tenders. Delivery of the goods is to take place within ninety days of the acceptance of the tender. Only those firms with a representative resident in Egypt can tender for Egyptian Government contracts.—May 25.

General Stores and Clothing.—H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt reports that tenders will be received by the Director of Stores, Frontier Districts Administration, Alexandria, for the supply of general stores and clothing. The tenderer must have an agent resident in Egypt. June 14. (D.O.T.)

Yugoslavia.

Dredgers, etc.—The General Direction of Waterways, Department of the Yugoslavian Ministry of Agriculture and Waters, invites tenders for the supply of two chain bucket dredgers, one tug boat, and eight lighters provided with means for discharging contents downwards through hull. The successful tenderer must deposit, if a Yugoslavian subject 10 per cent., if a foreigner 20 per cent. of the total value of the tender. All tenders must bear a 10 dinar duty stamp, and should be addressed to the General Direction of Waterways, 81, Krunska ulica, Belgrade. June 6 (D.O.T.).

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THE ZAGREB MARKET.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ZAGREB, April 30.

It is interesting to note that the chief buyers in the Zagreb market are Italians. This year's spring fair has not been so busy as last year's, and most of the buyers have been foreigners, almost all Italians, who have been buying the best stock and putting up the prices. Thus oxen weighing over 500 kilos have risen from 24-30 to 28-32 kronen per kilo, round about which prices the Italians have bought three hundred head. Pigs were scarce, the price fluctuating between 32 and 34 kronen per kilo. Cows realised 18-20 kronen per kilo. There were any number of horses, but they met with a poor demand, only Italians buying, at prices between 30,000 and 36,000 kronen each.

The following were the market prices (in kronen) of food and vegetables on April 28: Young potatoes, 12 per kilo; onions, 14; peas, 32 per kilo; eggs, 2 apiece; milk, 6 per litre; best butter, 60 per kilo; spinach, 4-5 per kilo; leeks, 6 per kilo; chickens, 60-90 a pair; cocks, 80-140 per pair; turkeys, 100 each.

ADVANCE IN RAW FUR PRICES.

The report of the London Fur Trade Association on the April raw fur skin sales states:—The number of buyers attending the present series of sales was again very large and the buying well distributed. France bought more freely in fine furs, and there were buyers from America, Italy, and Austria, the latter taking some of the most expensive goods. Germany again was a considerable buyer of many articles, securing a very large proportion of Musquash. The home trade bought freely in various articles, taking quite a good proportion of the skunk offered. Chinese and Japanese goods met with poor demand, and, even though lower prices would have been accepted, comparatively little was actually sold. Australian goods being in short supply and in good demand for the United States of America sold at much higher prices. By far the larger part of the American furs offered were sold, mostly at or above last prices, very few articles suffering decline, thus showing that the trade generally was not overstocked. Had it not been for the labour troubles and the consequent depression of trade the home demands would have been greater still and the prices even higher. The quotations given show prices compared with the January sale.

Black bear, unaltered; brown bear, declined 25 per cent.; grizzly bear, sold at high prices; beaver has advanced 10 per cent.; advance principally in large skins; civet cat, unaltered; chinchilla, sold freely at high prices; ermine, advanced 20 per cent.; fisher, advanced 30 per cent.; fitch, unaltered; blue fox, advanced 25 per cent. to 30 per cent.; cross fox, advanced 10 per cent.; red fox, advanced 10 per cent.; silver fox, good silvery skins 15 per cent. higher, blacks unaltered; white fox, advanced 25 per cent. higher, blacks unaltered; American fox, unaltered; white hare, mostly withdrawn; kolinsky, unaltered; Persian lamb, unaltered; lynx, advanced 30 per cent.; American marten, advanced 20 per cent.; baum marten, advanced 25 per cent.; stone marten, unaltered; mink, advanced 30 per cent. on average; mole, advanced 40 per cent.; monkey, advanced 40 per cent.; black musquash, unaltered; brown musquash unaltered; southern musquash, sold at full January prices; nutria, advanced 20 per cent.; American opossum, few good lots last sale prices, low grades declined 10 per cent.; otter, advanced 25 per cent.; raccoon, unaltered; Russian sable, unaltered; skunk, somewhat higher, principally in seconds, long stripes and whites; squirrel, unaltered; wolf, advanced 15 per cent.; wolverine, advanced 20 per cent.; seals fur, sold well at reasonable prices.

Chinese and Japanese Furs.—Civet cat, not sold; red fox, poor collection, advanced 30 per cent.; goat rugs, improved demand at slightly lower prices; black and grey goat skins, declined 20 per cent.; white goat skins, January prices; kid skins and crosses, best goods sold rather higher, others neglected; kolinsky, not sold; lamb, slink, crosses, sold much better; Thibet lamb, Dahtung advanced 10 per cent., remainder unchanged; leopard, part sold at rather higher prices; marmot, unaltered, many unsold; mink or weasel, advanced 25 per cent.; pahmi, withdrawn; white rabbit, best skins declined 25 per cent., mostly withdrawn; raccoon, unaltered, only few sold; wolf, unsold but January prices offered; Japanese badger, none sold; Japanese fox, a good demand at steady prices; Japanese marten, in better request, best grades sold well; flying squirrel, advanced 10 per cent.

Travellers to the Near East

Can obtain all information as to the journey from the Manager, **Continental Enquiry Office, Victoria Station (S.E. & C.R.), S.W.1.**

YUGOSLAVIAN PLUMS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ZAGREB, April 30.

Promising reports are coming in regarding the plum trade. The chief markets for plums and pekmez, or plum jelly, are Switzerland, Germany, and Denmark, the last two absorbing large quantities of pekmez in barrels. The authorities are taking steps to encourage this trade, and propose to reduce the export tax.

IMPROVED BULGARIAN CROP OUTLOOK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, April 27.

The gloomy estimates of the effects of the continuance of the drought on the harvest have been put out of court in the last few days, as considerable rain has fallen. Provided a little more falls next month, it is believed now that there will be an excellent harvest.

DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co. report as follows for the fortnight ended May 3:—

Currants.—The month opened with a continuation of the improved demand referred to at the close of March, but during the past fortnight the market has been overshadowed by the grave industrial crisis, and it is most unfortunate for traders that this trouble has arisen upon the eve of Whitsuntide when there were distinct signs of business broadening. Buyers have now decided to suspend activities until the labour situation has cleared, the outlook being too uncertain for an increasing business to be done. The s.s. Certo arrived with 850 tons for disposal, and an active demand was expected owing to a large proportion of the cargo being packed in quarter cases, a welcome change after the unsatisfactory condition in which the fruit in bags has been arriving. With the settlement of the miners' strike a renewal of activities is looked for. Fresh landed Zante fruit was in excellent condition, and the best parcels met a ready sale. Bags, 75s. to 77s.; $\frac{1}{2}$ -cases, 75s. to 78s. and up to 82s. for choice Casalina smalls. Quotations are:—Pyrgos and Amalias, 60s. to 70s.; Patras, 68s. to 75s.; Zante, 72s. to 80s.; Gulf and Panariti, 72s. to 78s.; Vostizza, 82s. to 95s. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date, 20,000 tons. The Asturian has arrived with about 800 tons for sale.

Valencia Raisins.—Only a few parcels of seedless available, and selling at 85s. to 90s.

Sultanias.—Continue strong, and all varieties have advanced in price. Greeks selling at 137s. 6d., Smyrna at 135s. up to 150s. for fine. Afghans, owing to the scarcity of other growths, are more in request, and realised: red, 92s. 6d. to 97s. 6d.; yellow, 110s. to 120s.

Figs.—The higher prices have checked the demand. Latest quotations are 40s. to 50s.

It is reported that an exposition of Roumanian industry will be opened at Bucharest on August 14.

The receipts of the Suez Canal from April 15 to 21 amounted to 2,630,000 francs, as against 2,270,000 francs for the same period in 1920.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
Athens	Drachme to £	25 $\frac{22}{2}$	72 $\frac{50}{100}$ -73 $\frac{50}{100}$
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25 $\frac{22}{2}$	135-138
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bucharest	Lei to £	25 $\frac{22}{2}$	235-245
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	515-535
New York	Dollars to £	4 $\frac{86}{100}$	3 $\frac{98}{100}$ -3 $\frac{99}{100}$
Paris	Francs to £	25 $\frac{22}{2}$	49 $\frac{20}{100}$ -49 $\frac{40}{100}$
Prague	Kronen to £	24 $\frac{02}{100}$	280-290
Rome	Lire to £	25 $\frac{22}{2}$	79 $\frac{00}{100}$ -80 $\frac{50}{100}$
Sofia	Levas to £	25 $\frac{22}{2}$	326
Teheran	Krans to £	50	52
Vienna	Kronen to £	24 $\frac{02}{100}$	1,450-1,700
Warsaw	Marks to £	20 $\frac{43}{100}$	3,400-3,600

In some cases quotations are nominal.

Profits in Foreign Exchange Dealings.

An expert writer has compiled for us a series of Articles explaining Foreign Exchange transactions from the English Investors' point of view. The writer explains the Exchange value of the English £, shows an actual transaction resulting in 60 per cent profit, explains the profit possibilities of the French franc, the German mark, the Italian lire, &c. This Article will be sent free of charge by

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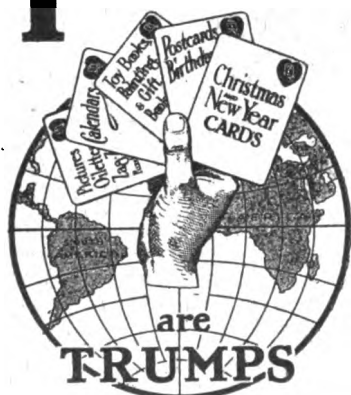
THE CRISIS IN THE TEA INDUSTRY.

An authoritative article on the production of tea in the Empire and its relation to the tea trade of the world is contained in the current number of the *Bulletin* of the Imperial Institute. It deals in an interesting way with the growth of tea drinking in various parts of the world, gives particulars of the industry in all tea-producing countries, and discusses the causes which have led to the present serious crisis in the industry.

India and Ceylon together produce more than two-thirds of all the tea which enters into the world's commerce, their most serious competitor at the present time being Java. At the beginning of 1919 prices in London for all grades of tea were good and stocks in the United Kingdom were not excessive, but apparently no account was taken of stocks held in producing countries. The tea trade had been disorganised by the war and by Government control, and as no danger signals pointing to over-production were raised, the plantations in the British and Dutch Indies in 1919 produced tea to their full capacity. The Russian market, which had been taking nearly 100,000,000 lb. of plantation tea yearly, was lost, and stocks began to accumulate, until in the middle of last year the actual situation was realised, and there was a break in prices for all the lower grades, which have since been selling below the economic value. There is no question regarding the soundness and ultimate prosperity of the tea industries of India and Ceylon, but the immediate outlook for many estates is very critical. The seriousness of the position is apparent from the fact that the plantation industry in the two countries supports at least 3,000,000 workers and their dependents.

It is thus to the common interest of both producer and consumer that the tea industry should be placed on a sound basis. The most serious obstacle, however, to the return of more healthy trade conditions is the great accumulation of stocks of common teas. In the absence of a demand from Russia there appears to be little prospect in the immediate future of reducing the volume of these stocks, but unless this is effected or the sales of tea regulated there can be no recovery in prices for a long time.

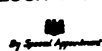
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ON 'CHANGE.**Business Restricted.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday night.

A very quiet tone has prevailed in most markets during the week, and to-day the tendency has been towards dullness, owing to the industrial outlook, business being further restricted by the unfavourable news from Poland.

Gilt-edged securities are closing on a steady note. Consols are 47½, while the Five per Cent. War Loan is 87 11-16 and Fundings are 71½. The Sudan Loan has been fairly firm at 92½, while the new Indian Loan is now at a premium of 3½. Foreign bonds have been firm in most cases; Argentines have, however, been rather dull.

Things have been very quiet in the Industrial group, and a dull tone developed this morning in the absence of buying. Shipping shares have been featureless for the most part. P. and O. Deferred are closing at 345. Eagles have provided the feature of the Oil market during the week, closing just under 7. Burmahs have been rather a weak spot. There is nothing of interest to report as regards Rubbers, except that in a number of instances shares have again moved downwards.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.**Calcutta Electric Supply.**

The profit of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation for 1920, including interest on deposits, was £270,160, plus £45,699 brought in, making £315,859, less debenture interest (accrued) £4,578, preference dividend £24,750, interim dividend of 4 per cent. (actual) on ordinary shares £16,775, income-tax and excess profits duty £32,749 and interest on consumers' deposits £1,385, leaving £235,621. The directors recommend writing off total costs of debenture issue in 1920 £24,793, reserve for taxation £63,000, transfer to reserve fund £5,000, to depreciation and renewals £43,760, to insurance £3,000, to retiring gratuity fund £2,000, final dividend on ordinary shares at 6 per cent. (actual), making 10 per cent., and in addition 1 per cent. bonus, carrying forward £42,386. It is proposed to grant to the staff in India bonus equivalent to 2 per cent. of net Indian profits in respect of 1920. Reserve for depreciation and renewals is increased to £348,719, and reserve fund will stand at £155,991. Expenditure on capital account amounted to £338,936, the total outlay to December 31 being £1,764,844.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 2:—During the week ending April 23 general crop prospects unchanged. Bombay cotton market firm; fine M.G. Oomra, May Rs.250, July Rs.268; piecegoods market unchanged. Local cloth market strong; demand continues. Calcutta jute and gunny markets very quiet. Rangoon paddy arrivals fair, with prices unchanged. White rice steady during past week, prices of specials finally firming up to Rs.432.8 per 100 baskets of 75 lbs. each. At tea sales on April 26 offerings consisted mostly in plain cup teas. Good prices for few teas with quality, but the rest weaker, particularly dust. 774,688 packages sold to date at an average price of five annas, three pies per lb. No change in bank rates.

A branch of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank has been opened at Nazareth.

Coupons due May 15 of the Imperial Government of Persia 5 per cent. Loan, 1911, will be paid at 25, Abchurch Lane, or at Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C., and must be left three clear days for verification.

TOBACCO TRADE EXHIBITION.**Cigarette Making Machinery.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

But for the exhibits of cigarette-making machinery, etc., the recent tobacco trade exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall would have been a somewhat commonplace affair. Cigars, cigarettes, and smokers' requisites do not lend themselves to display in the mass, however interesting the individual exhibits are made. There seemed to be rather too much of these things, and too little suggestion of the manufacturing side of the industry.

I have said that the machinery exhibits provided the redeeming feature, and these were well worth a visit. All the best-known makers of cigarette machinery were exhibiting, and the different machines were shown in operation at intervals, and unquestionably provided the outstanding attraction for visitors. The American Machine and Foundry Co., Ltd., manufacturers of the Standard Cigarette Machine, the Chico Cigarette Machine, tobacco cutters, cigar making machinery, etc., had a most interesting stand showing a large variety of their machines. At an adjacent stand Messrs. Carreras were showing their famous Baron "British Empire" Cigarette Machine. Then a little further off the United Cigarette Machine Company had a large stand where they were exhibiting their well-known "Universal" and "U.K." cigarette machines. This firm was also showing their latest automatic knife-grinding machine for circular cigarette knives. Finally, reference must be made to the interesting stand of Messrs. Jones Bros., of Tottenham, showing their "Handfiller" cigarette-making machines and packet-making machines, which have special claims on the attention of small manufacturers, and for which there should be an excellent market in many centres in the Near East.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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Prices on April 23 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4½; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 9-16; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £3; Associated Cotton Ginners, £½; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 69; Behera Ord., £E8½; Behera Priv., £3 7-32; Bonded Stores, £9 15-16; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 115; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16; Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 102 ex; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt. 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 7,700 ex; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 593; Credit Foncier 1888 Oblig., Fr. 327½; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 236; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 228; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 73½; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 99½; Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord., 27s. 7½d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4½; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £11; Gabbari Lands, £½; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. An. des., £5 1-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2½; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £4½; Kom Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £35; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turc, Fr. 44½; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 280 ex; Nungovich Hotels, £6 31-32; Ramleh Railway, £1½; Salt and Soda, 27s. 3d.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 40; Tram. d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 52; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2 7-16; Egypt Hotels, £2 1-16; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

During the nine months ended December, 1920, over 43,000 bicycles were imported into India, in addition to a large quantity of parts and accessories.

A Bill authorising the extension of the port of Algiers by the construction of an outer harbour and two basins has been signed by the French President.

Orchestral and band instruments may be imported into Roumania without special authorisation, upon compliance with the usual Customs formalities.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

GRAVOSA PORT TO BE DEVELOPED.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ZAGREB, April 30.

As Yugoslavia is deprived of its two natural ports of ingress, and can obtain access to them only subject to the precarious goodwill of two neighbouring nations, the Government has decided to make the best of its only national port, Gruz or Gravosa. Work will shortly be undertaken to render the port usable by ocean-going steamers and to convert it also into a base for the navy. As a port it is not so bad, but it is connected with the interior only by a narrow-gauge mountain railway of considerable length, with a change at Brod, on the Save, to standard gauge, involving a breaking of bulk.

CALCUTTA'S NEW DOCK.

The work is well in hand on the King George's Dock in Calcutta, says the *Journal of Commerce*. Owing to the nature of the soil, it is proposed to construct both entrances and the dock itself by sinking wells or monoliths. The first section of the work will consist of the entrance lock and dry docks and the northern portion, comprising altogether 11 berths, arrangements being made to use the first five of these as soon as they are ready, probably by 1927. It is estimated that each year's work will involve the utilisation of large quantities of bricks, lime, cement, steel, and stone, and that 13,250,000 cubic feet of excavating will be done, employing some 10,000 labourers. The dock system will consist of a basin and two long arms, each about 4,500 feet long by 650 feet wide. When complete the water area of the dock will be about 190 acres, the length of the quay wall about 25,000 feet, and the number of berths 35. The two dry docks will measure in all 1,190 by 80 feet. Thirty-three of the berths will be equipped as import or export berths, one will be for steamers waiting, and the other will be equipped for heavy lifts.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia, for Bombay (taking cargo for Karachi and coast ports), (Glasgow, May 18, and Liverpool, May 31).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Matheran, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 26); s.s. Masirah, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 28); s.s. Imani, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 11).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire, for Rangoon (London, in May); s.s. Leicestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 25).

Byron Steamship Line.—S.s. Maid of Delos will sail shortly from Liverpool to Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Clan Line.—S.s. Mactaggart, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 19); s.s. Clan MacKellar, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, May 23).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Tyria, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania (Liverpool, May 26; Manchester, May 26; and Swansea, May 31); s.s. Brescia, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna,

Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, June 1; Manchester, June 1; Glasgow, June 6; and Swansea, June 8).

Ellerman Line.—A steamer will sail for Gibraltar, Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople, on June 11 from Liverpool.

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Manchester, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 16); s.s. City of Exeter, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, May 27); s.s. City of Bristol, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 30).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. Rialto, for Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, in May); s.s. City of Baroda, for Bombay, Karachi and the Punjab (Liverpool, June 3).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt and Levant ports.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenshane, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, May 19); s.s. Glenamoy, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 2); s.s. Glenade, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 16); s.s. Glentara, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 30).

Glynn Line.—S.s. Riposto, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, in May).

Harrison Line.—A steamer will sail for Calcutta on May 19 from Liverpool.

Henderson Line.—S.s. Bhamo, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 18).

Holt Line.—S.s. Ixion, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 13); s.s. Lycan, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 13); s.s. Helenus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, May 13, and Birkenhead, May 20); s.s. Calchas, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 20).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 21); s.s. Venice, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, June 11).

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, middle of May); s.s. Maindy Transport, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, middle of June).

Moss Line.—S.s. Litra, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Alexandria (transhipping to Moroccan, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports) (Liverpool, May 28); s.s. Limoges, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 18).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. City of Palermo, for Malta and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Haifa, Mersina, Jaffa, Port Said, Cyprus, etc.) (Liverpool, May 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nyanza, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (also taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden) (London, May 20); *s.s. Kashgar, for Bombay (London, May 20); *s.s. Karmala, for Bombay (London, June 3). (*Taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said and Aden; also with transhipment at Bombay for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports.)

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Margha, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez and Aden) (London, May 13); s.s. Gambada, for Bombay and Karachi, calling at Port Sudan (taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar coast ports) (London, May 14); s.s. Mancla, for Bombay and Karachi (taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar coast ports) (London, May 28); s.s. Hatimura, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta, calling at Port Sudan (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden) (London, June 4); s.s. Machobra, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden) (London, June 24).

On May 1 a steamship service was inaugurated between Vienna, Pressburg, and Belgrade.

Samouprava states that the Yugoslav Government is considering a scheme for cutting off the bend on the Save at Koupinovo, which, in addition to shortening the course of the river by about 20 km., will permit of the draining of the neighbouring marshes, and will supply water power of some 20,000 h.p.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 523.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Arab and Jew in Palestine.

An inquiry is being held into the Jaffa riots, and until an official report on the subject has been issued most people will be content with a sweeping denunciation of the incident. Certainly there can be no question of revising British policy in Palestine or introducing new schemes on the strength of any deductions made in one quarter or another from the regrettable occurrences in Jaffa. For this reason we hold Mr. Jabotinsky's proposal, outlined in a letter to *The Times*, at least premature; he would make a British garrison, with one-half of its strength recruited locally from Jewish inhabitants, responsible for the maintenance of order in Palestine, and would refuse the Arabs the right to bear arms. Now, whatever degree of responsibility may be proved to attach to Arab policemen in connection with the deaths of Jews and Arabs at Jaffa, such a suggestion as that put forward by Mr. Jabotinsky offers no permanent arrangement for the country. Arabs and Jews will have to live side by side on equal terms, and the responsible people among both must get together to pave the way to that goal. Some outbursts may prove unavoidable, but the surest way to perpetuate unrest will be to appear to weight the scales in favour of the Jewish minority.

Keeping Touch with Angora.

It would be of interest to know to what extent touch is being maintained between the Allied Governments and the Angora authorities. In view of Mr. Montagu's declaration that the Allies are prepared to secure a special autonomous organisation for Adrianople, there would seem to be a distinct need for conveying this decision officially to Mustapha Kemal Pasha. Presumably the French are able to carry on their negotiations regarding Cilicia, and the statement of Bekir Sami Bey to the effect that a new Allied Conference in connection with the Treaty of Sevres will take place shortly in Italy suggests that information passes between Rome and Angora. But Bekir Sami Bey's assertion has been contradicted by the British Government. It is desirable, therefore, that, if the Allies as a whole have come to any new decision with regard to the Turkish settlement, the communication of that decision should be made in agreed terms which do not leave any loophole for misunderstanding. The report that the Turks are preparing trouble in Thrace with the object of preventing the movement of Greek troops from that province to Asia Minor may or may not be true; but it suggests the possi-

bility of the Allies' finding that the pitch in Thrace has been quered, and that their well-meaning endeavours to evolve peace in the Near East have been frustrated. Without doubt the Angora Government ought to have known all about the Allies' intentions regarding Adrianople as soon as, if not before, the Indian Moslem Delegation learned them from Mr. Montagu.

A Turkish Gendarmerie.

Brigands have for some time been active in the Constantinople-Ismid region, and it is now announced that General Harington, the G.O.C. of the British Army in Constantinople, is organising two companies of Turkish gendarmes and a squadron of Turkish cavalry, all under British officers, to put an end to the activities of these gentlemen. The arrangement is said to be made "without prejudice to future Allied decisions." That is, if we may say so, distinctly British; and—if we may say so again—the new force, therefore, starts off under very happy auspices. British officers have served in the Turkish Gendarmerie in the past, and the partnership has always had good results. Officers and men have usually become good friends very quickly, and we have the best of reasons for saying that the officers as a rule were enthusiastic believers in the good qualities of the Turk. Conditions in the Ismid region just now are not perhaps as favourable as could be desired for a renewal of the old good understanding. Nevertheless, if the right type of officer be chosen it will surely come about, and we therefore very heartily welcome the announcement made.

Great Britain and Hungary.

The vote of thanks passed by the Hungarian Parliament to those members of the House of Commons who spoke in favour of Hungary on the occasion of the ratification of the Treaty of Trianon may be taken as part of a definite Magyar policy to bring about closer relationship between the two countries. On April 29 the *Pester Lloyd* devoted two pages to a report of the House of Commons session on April 20 and an able article on Anglo-Magyar relations, both from the pen of M. Felix Valyi. The burden of the article was to prove that the Hungarian question is part and parcel of the problem of the Orient, closely linked with the future of Turkey and of Islam, as well as with the Russo-Polish question; that from the days of Cromwell the importance of Hungary to England had been acknowledged by English statesmen; and that only closer co-operation between Great Britain and Hungary would enable the former to prove equal to her destiny in Asia. Just as an understanding

with Turkey, its advance-guard in Europe, is necessary if the problem of Islam is to be solved, so, runs the argument, is an understanding with Hungary necessary if full advantage is to be taken of the opportunities offered by Turkey.

A Practical Policy.

All that M. Valyi says is interesting, and much of it is very true; but his line of argument forces him to separate Hungary from her geographical position and to arrogate for his country a rôle that strictly belongs to South-Eastern Europe as a whole. Indeed, he accomplishes the feat of discussing the relations of Europe and Asia, and the part that Great Britain can play in the latter continent on the strength of Magyar and Turkish co-operation, without mentioning Hungary's neighbours beyond a passing reference to what he calls the "egotistical Balkan peoples." But it is difficult to see how Hungary can look eastwards without a thought for the countries lying between her and Turkey-in-Asia. The mere fact that she has set her aspirations so high at this time will confirm her neighbours in their belief that she is still a menace to Europe. There is only one world policy feasible nowadays—the promotion of peace—and that sums up from A to Z Great Britain's mission in Asia or anywhere else. The British people would gladly welcome any co-operation that the Magyars can give them to this end, but the most practical contribution that Hungary can make is to improve her relations with her neighbours, to disarm their suspicions, and to see that nothing is done to revive international misgivings. Hungary has ample evidence of Great Britain's goodwill, but obviously there can be no real *rapprochement* so long as any such step might legitimately give offence to our Balkan Allies on the ground that Magyar policy is still prejudicial to the peace of South-Eastern Europe.

Tea and Politics.

"Tea and tattle" has long been recognised as a dangerous combination in other countries besides Great Britain, but it has been left to Egypt to discover the possibilities of the tea-party as a political weapon. Of late we have heard a good deal about tea-parties given in honour of this notable or of that; and one given quite recently in honour of Zaghloul Pasha has led to much heart-burning, and may well have far more serious consequences. The Cabinet, it seems, forbade certain Government officials to organise this entertainment, and on its prohibition being ignored very naturally suspended the offenders. At the party Zaghloul Pasha made an attack upon Adly Yeghen Pasha, which was of so virulent a character that the majority of the Legislative Assembly delegates present, who were the guests of honour, left the room. But this sign of disapproval of Zaghloul's present mood and methods did not deter a number of officials from discussing the advisability of striking, as a mark of sympathy with their disobedient fellows. Possibly because the Cabinet let it be known that any officials who struck would be summarily dismissed, the meeting decided against a strike. So far the Cabinet has shown commendable firmness, and the Zaghloulites have achieved nothing—unless it be an achievement to rival the Mad Hatter and the March Hare in the matter of tea-parties.

A Word to the Extremists.

It is much to be regretted that Zaghloul, having captured the fancy and won the favour of the Egyptians, should at this critical time fail to use his undoubted power in the right way. In allowing himself to be influenced by pique and personal ambition, as it can hardly be denied that he is doing at present, he is doing his country the worst turn possible. For, unless he is ready to admit that he demands the leadership of the Official Delegation from reasons of personal vanity, he says in effect that he does not believe that Egypt can produce any other man capable of representing it; and by their blind, but vociferous, support of his claims the Extremists seem to show that they share his belief. If he and they were right Egypt would indeed be bankrupt of statesmen. Fortunately for those who wish to see the Milner proposals put into practice, the Moderates appear to be gaining ground. But the Extremists would

do well to remember that the proposals are as yet only proposals, and that manœuvres such as those lately executed by the Zaghloulites will not help to convert them into accomplished facts.

Our Withdrawal from Persia.

The Persian ambition to see both the British and the Bolshevik forces leave the country is in a fair way towards realisation. The Teheran correspondent of *The Times* reports that the Bolshevik troops are now being withdrawn from the Menjil front, and that the evacuation of our own troops is proceeding rapidly. It is perhaps permissible to guess that the Persian Government would prefer that if there is to be any delay at all it should be on the part of the British. Indeed, there can be very little doubt that they would have been glad if we could have kept a force on the spot while they formed a working army of their own; and they are unlikely to have forgotten that, quite apart from other considerations, geographical facts make it certain that the Bolsheviks could undo their work of evacuation much more quickly than we could. It is all very well for Commissar Rothstein, the newly-arrived Bolshevik Minister, to pay roundabout compliments to the Shah and to proclaim that the independence of Persia is dear to the Soviet, but the Persians are not altogether simpletons, and however much the leopard may talk of having changed his spots they would probably prefer to see for themselves that he had shed his claws.

Lord Reading at Simla.

Lord Reading's speech to the Simla municipality, the text of which was promptly circulated in this country, was obviously intended for a wider audience, and it may fairly be described as the pronouncement of a diplomatist. Apart from the compliments inevitable on such an occasion, the bulk of it consisted of a declaration that the ordinary law—not special measures of repression—must be enforced against those agitators who have been inciting the people to violence, but incidentally there was a hint that men like Mr. Gandhi, who "have consistently denounced violence," might see their way to assist in the solution of conflicts of opinion by promoting mutual sympathy and understanding. Whether this hint has led to business is still uncertain. The cable has said that Mr. Gandhi had an interview with the Viceroy during the week-end, but up to the time of going to press no further information has been received. There have, however, been indications that Mr. Gandhi and some of his associates have been disquieted by recent developments of the propaganda initiated by them, and it is possible that some of them may be seeking an opportunity of rallying to the Constitution; in that case the clear duty of the Government is to make things easy, and the task is one for which Lord Reading's gifts are particularly suitable.

The Indian Census.

In spite of strikes and other obstacles, India was able to take the Census according to plan, and the provisional figures have been published with commendable promptitude. The results are not very different from what was expected; the population of Burma has continued to increase, but India proper has as a whole stagnated, and the effect of the terrible epidemic of influenza three years ago is plainly visible in the totals returned for many parts of the country. The final figures must be awaited before definite inferences can be drawn as to all the causes at work, but, causes apart, we do not think the stagnation is a matter for regret. The great need of India just now is an acceleration of that improvement in the standard of life which has proceeded so slowly that many Indians have failed to notice it. India as a whole is not over-populated, though congested areas unhappily exist, but the country needs quality rather than quantity, and a temporary slackening in the rate of increase at least gives time for the ameliorative influences to work; the extent of their operation depends mainly on the lead given by those Indians who have gained the people's ear, and it is particularly unfortunate at the present juncture that the gospel of grinding poverty should be preached so widely by Mr. Gandhi and his associates.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

Holidays at Home ?

It is a strange Whitsuntide. The coal stoppage continues; there is talk again of a partial railway and transport strike. The simple life is no longer a luxury of the idle rich—it is becoming so much a necessity that England will soon be a very nice country to live out of. Travelling by rail is getting impossible except for the pure-bred Londoner, who has got so used to strap-hanging and having his toes trodden on that he has almost forgotten how to sit down in public; but people are putting a brave face on it, and are holiday-making by road, in motors, motor-buses, and bicycles—anything rather than stop in that "home, sweet home" which we worship in the abstract and avoid in the concrete.

London is taking what the newspapers call "the creeping paralysis" of the coal crisis rather casually; and the countryman, in these days of revived agriculture, is too busy to think about such things. It is the Midlands and the North that are feeling the pinch—and the holiday resorts. At one famous spa, usually busy at this time of the year, there are hardly any visitors; the baths are deserted, the doctors and nurses are idle, and the Blue Transylvanian Band is playing in what used to be called the Kursaal to the waitresses and the programme-sellers. The South Coast seaside places are less unhappy, because the motor-charabancs bring them a good many people, but the East Coast, which is not so well served, is almost deserted, and several of the hotels which usually open on May 1 are shut, and show no signs of life.

On the actual coal question there has been no indication of compromise or agreement. Outside parties have proffered disinterested suggestions which have at least the appearance of being reasonable to the lay mind, but neither owners nor miners have given any sign. It is manifest that each side wants to break the power of the other, and when that temper exists, the struggle is likely to be a long one.

The State and the Struggle.

Unluckily the trouble shows every indication of spreading. In order to keep essential services going the Government has imported coal from abroad, and there has been a disposition among railwaymen to look on this as "tainted," and refuse to handle it. One sees their point of view, but I think it is logically untenable. Capital and Labour in the coalfields may fight till Doomsday, but the rest of us propose to go on living, and it is not yet a crime to burn logs in one's grate because coal cannot be obtained, nor is it a felony to get on a motor-bus because the railways are starved for fuel. Every man for himself, but the State for us all, and if coal is necessary for certain essential purposes, then it is up to the State to see that it can be obtained from abroad if it is not produced at home.

Englishmen, being a practical race, have never worked out a systematic theory of the State, but it looks as though they may have to do so one of these days. But we shall have to do it on ethical, not economic lines; for in the present economic struggle between Capital and Labour neither side is entirely right; both sides are pursuing ulterior motives which are entirely economic, and ethics seem forgotten. Yet in the long run the State must depend on ethics, not economics, and there is nothing non-ethical in protecting the common interest of every citizen while two sections of the community are engaged in starving each other out. The fact that they are incidentally starving the rest of us gives us not only an interest in their proceedings, but compels us to discover alternatives to their services.

Protection in Parliament.

The House of Commons has been engaged in discussing Protection—one hopes there will be some industries left to protect when the present industrial troubles are over. On the whole, the Government has so far had an easier passage than was expected. Sir Godfrey Collins, the publisher, has deserted them, but otherwise the Coalition shows no sign of splitting over fiscal questions. Undoubtedly this fair weather has been largely due to Sir Alfred Mond, a one-time Free Trader, who spoke from the Government side and

denounced his old allies. They took it in good part, although Mr. Wedgwood Benn could not resist quoting Browning's "Lost Leader." But they seemed unable to answer his arguments, and Mr. Asquith, who used to be the pillar of Free Trade, was as ineffective on this as on other controversial questions when he delivered his set speech.

The German Acceptance.

Amid the troubles at home, the German acceptance of the Allied terms has passed with little notice. At least one source of trouble has now been removed. A great many people were apprehensive of rather serious entanglements, but the Government appears to have gauged the situation accurately, and those who stood by France in determining to exact reparations have now been justified.

M.P.'s Salaries.

But the Government has been severely criticised for another decision. It announced that in future members would be given free travelling facilities and receive their salaries free of income-tax. There may be a case for franking them on the railways, for journeys to their constituencies in these days of dear travelling make a hole in the modest £400 a year; but there is no case whatever for exempting them from the payment of taxes. It is a vicious principle to have any privileged class free of taxation, but of all men who pay the tax surely the last man to be exempted is the man who decides its amount. There has been a universal outcry against the decision, and it will almost certainly be rescinded. It is already being suggested that the difficulty should be got over by allowing members £500 instead of £400 a year, which would work out apparently at very much the same thing as exempting them from income-tax, but at a time when wages are generally falling there really seems no reason why the nominal guardians of the public purse should vote themselves more.

Two Visitors.

London has been interested in watching the Japanese Crown Prince, who has made a round of public and ceremonial visits. He was not in the least what was expected, and looked far more like a serious medical student in uniform than the heir to a great military Empire. The new American Ambassador has also arrived, and his photograph has been in all the papers; but he was already fairly well known in London as a publisher and journalist. There has been some criticism of his appointment in America, but none here.

The Oil Age.

The nineteenth century was the age of coal; it seems probable that the twentieth will see the beginning of the end of its predominance. The constant upheavals in the coal trade and the continuous increase in the price (to say nothing of the deterioration of quality) have given oil its opportunity. The head of a great engineering firm told me a day or two ago that he could stand one coal strike, but not two in a year; he has work on hand and hundreds of men in regular employment, but had he relied on coal the contracts would have been cancelled and the works closed. The whole of the shops have now been converted to oil engines, with the exception of two, which, for technical reasons, must be worked with anthracite and coke. The price of oil has fallen, the supply is adequate, and even if coal were plentiful and cheap nothing would induce this firm to return to the older method.

The same tale is told everywhere. Locomotive engines are being converted to burn oil—the process of conversion is said to take only a few days—and the Underground Railways and County Council trams are seriously considering turning to oil for their power. Coal has held its own against oil so long because it was cheap, accessible, and easily obtained. Now that all these attributes have vanished the twilight of the coal age seems to have set in. Oil will at least make for a cleaner and less foggy civilisation.

Direct Action in Cricket.

It is said that the professional bull-fighters in Spain stopped in the middle of the fight the other day, and applied direct action to get shorter hours and higher wages. We have not quite come to that in England yet,

but we seem to be near it. The Australian cricketers are agitating for a shorter day—twelve to six—with a five-day week; and the usual lunch and tea interval, which will reduce cricket to about four hours a day, I suppose. The price of admission is also increased when they are playing. This sort of thing will kill cricket if it goes any further; possibly there will be a down-stumps movement and a demand for a national pool in the middle of the first Test match. But if the professional element once dominates first-class cricket, its doom is certain.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

Owing to the unsettled industrial position, the census has been put off for a few weeks. But the Registrar's figures, usually accurate enough, for the first quarter of 1921, contain some interesting information. Births have fallen very heavily, as compared with a year ago—that was, the most fertile year for a long time, the present is the least (with the exception of the war years). Even at that, however, there was an excess of births over deaths during the first quarter of 1921 of 80,000—the death-rate, which was the lowest on record last year, having again fallen. In spite of rates and taxes, strikes, lock-outs, and other incidental worries of existence, people show a tendency to live longer than ever—perhaps these troubles are good for us.

The Week's Books.

A new Ibañez novel has been published by Constable—"Woman Triumphant." The Spanish writer is now becoming one of the most popular in England, and the present work is well up to the level of "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" and "Mare Nostrum."

It is said that every young Oxford graduate writes a novel about Oxford—Cambridge men do not do just this sort of thing. Some of these books get published; many will remember, for example, Humphrey Dickinson's "Keddy" a few years ago, which raised high hopes that would have been fulfilled had not Dickinson died heroically in the war. But those who like this

kind of book will be well advised to get "A City in the Foreground" (Constable), by Gerald Hopkins, which describes university life at the present day.

"Meteorology" (Blackie), by A. E. M. Geddes, is, so far as I know, the first great work on the weather. As a matter of fact it is a good deal more than that, for it discusses the atmosphere, radiation, storms, snow, hail, the cause—not the cure—of fogs, and the various instruments which the modern meteorologist uses. Perhaps the most interesting section is the illustrated chapter on Clouds. This is likely to become a standard work.

Robert Moffat, the father-in-law of Livingstone, was one of the missionaries who made history. His son, "John Smith Moffat" (John Murray), was only second in distinction to his father; old South Africans will remember that he could not always see eye to eye with Cecil Rhodes. His life has now been written by his son, and it is something more than the usual biography of a missionary—it is a record of adventures, both physical and spiritual, undergone by a heroic man in the wilderness.

Mr. H. G. Wells bids fair to leave a hundred volumes when he dies, so rapidly does he produce books; indeed, he is showing more and more a tendency to sacrifice quality to quantity. "The Salvaging of Civilisation" (Cassell) is a plea for a United States of Europe. It strikes one as the hurried work of a tired man; even the style has less than the usual grace and spirit. One would like to compel Mr. Wells to take a holiday for two or three years—to cut the traces and camp the horses, as he put it in one of his earlier works—and then he would give us something really good.

In "The Acquisitive Society" (Bell), by R. H. Tawney, a plea is put up for the reconstruction of society on a more communistic basis; acquisition—that is to say, individualism and capital—has broken down, and a new motive must be set up, which can only be found, according to Mr. Tawney, in co-operation, not competition; he believes that the higher ethical concept will secure increased economic efficiency.

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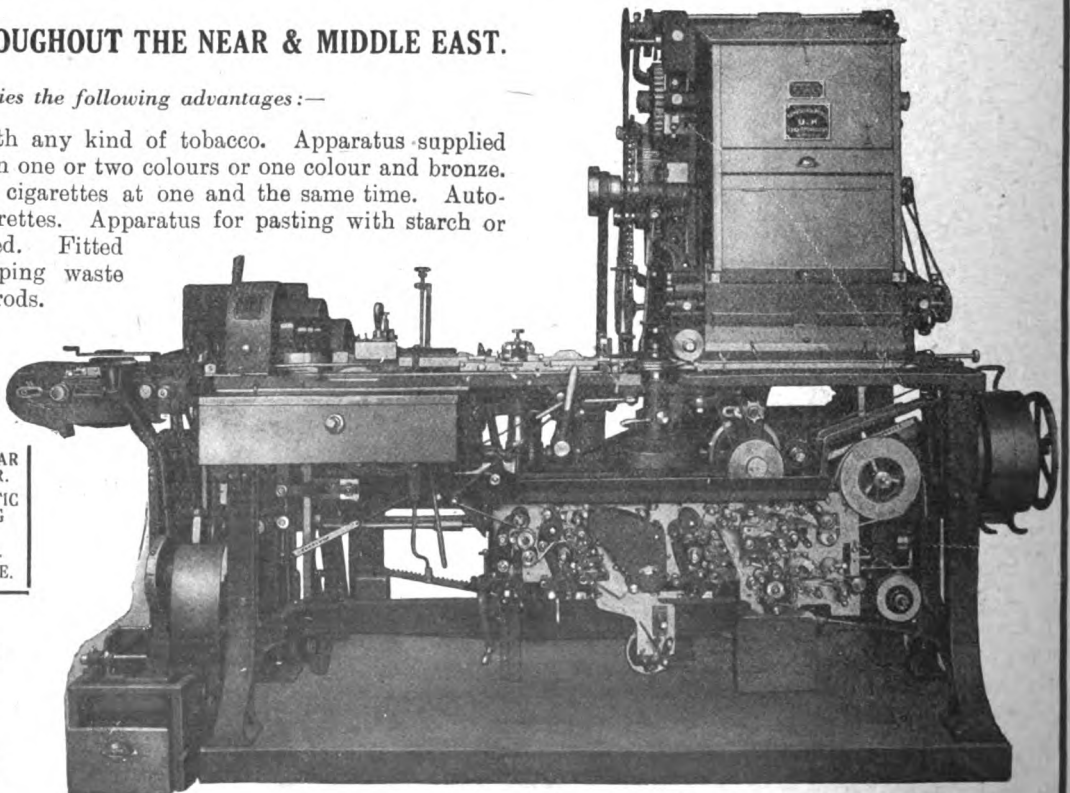
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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

YUGOSLAVIA

ZAGREB, May 5.

Attempt on M. Drashkovitch.

On grounds of health, M. Drashkovitch has been trying for some time to resign the portfolio of the Interior, and it was actually reported a little time ago that he had done so and that M. Pribitchevitch had taken over. Believing this report, I passed it on; but it was, after all, not true. Change in the Cabinet was very undesirable at the moment, and M. Drashkovitch consented to carry on a little longer. Then the lamentable and sudden death of General Yovanovitch, the Minister for War, created a vacancy, which must be filled without delay. M. Drashkovitch stepped into the breach and performed the duties of Minister of War over the Serbian Easter, when many of the members of the Government were away. They are now back in Belgrade, and the shuffling of the Cabinet is being discussed.

In this connection, the Democratic party was holding a meeting at the Kolarats on Tuesday, and Dr. Davidovitch, M. Drashkovitch, and two friends left the building about midnight. Suddenly a young man, about 20 years of age and well dressed, walked up to the party, levelled a revolver at M. Drashkovitch's head and fired. The weapon missed fire, and, startled by the two clicks, as he made a second attempt, the man lost his head and bolted towards the Pozorishna Ulica. M. Drashkovitch at once ran after him and endeavoured to catch him, armed only with an umbrella, with which he succeeded in hitting him once or twice but without knocking him over. Youth was on the miscreant's side, and he succeeded in making his escape through the deserted streets. The crime is attributed to revenge on the part of the Communists for the Minister's drastic action in suppressing their nefarious plots.

Yugoslavs in Rome.

In Rome there is an establishment called the "Istituto di San Girolamo degli Schiavoni," which has been, and is likely again to be, the subject of considerable diplomatic activity.

As long ago as the thirteenth century a considerable number of Croats performed pilgrimages to Rome, and set to work to provide themselves with a home. They bought a piece of neglected land between the Castello S. Angello and Ripette, put the ground into cultivation, and, of course, planted vineyards. Gradually the district became built over, and we find such street names as Ripetta, Schiavonia, and Vicolo degli Schiavoni. By a Bull of April 21, 1453, Pope Nicolas V. gave the Croats the little church of St. Marina, with permission to form a hospice there. They accepted the gift and rechristened the church after St. Geronimo, who was known to be a Yugoslav, either from Dalmatia or from Medjumurje. It remained an essentially Yugoslav institution, patronised by all Roman Catholic Croats and their kinsmen. In 1842, it was taken under the protection of Austria-Hungary, in consequence of which it was treated as enemy property during the war; and now the Yugoslavs claim it as their national property. This, of course, does not suit the Italians, and a deputy recently put a question in the House on the subject. The point is that the Italians are trying to maintain that it is Dalmatian or Illyrian, as opposed to Croat or Yugoslav, it being their policy that Dalmatia or the ancient Illyria is part of Italy. As the Italians have succeeded in getting Zadar (Zara), some of the islands, and virtually also Fiume for themselves, it is a matter of considerable importance to Yugoslavia.

The sentimental interest is great. Saints Cyril and Methodius, the apostles of Slavdom and inventors of the Slavonic alphabet, studied there, as well as plenty of Croatia's most distinguished scholars. But apart from this, the practical and mundane interest is strong. The institute contains a valuable collection of historical material, and has considerable property. Bishop Strossmayer, who was virtually the founder of the Yugoslav

movement, alone endowed it with 20,000 florins, and there were many others.

"As Others See Us."

The Croatian papers followed the crisis in England with very close attention, and welcomed the decision of the railway and transport worker as evidence of the good sense of the English, which is sure to prevail in the long run. Now that the matter is reduced to a pure mining strike, interest has fallen off. The papers continue, however, to give thumbnail sketches of the prominent men on both sides.

A Journalistic Resurrection.

The great Russian daily, the *Novoe Vremya*, has reappeared, and it is nice to see the familiar old title, with the same old type, once more. It is produced by the same brains, for M. A. Suvorin is a refugee in Belgrade, his great possessions and business having been destroyed or confiscated by the Bolsheviks. No. 1 appeared recently, and the price is one dinar. It is devoted, naturally, chiefly to Russian interests, and is produced in the former style, though on a more modest scale, and in a more democratic spirit, as befits the changed times.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, May 4.

The Orthodox Easter.

All official business has ceased for a week on account of the Easter Holiday. The feast is celebrated here in accordance with the usage in the Greek Orthodox Church, and after the old calendar; for even the Germans, during their short reign here, were unable to induce the Primate either by persuasion or coercion to adopt the calendar of Western Europe, though it has been adopted for all secular business. This often causes confusion, for religious societies are in the habit of sending out notices of their meetings giving the dates according to the old style, without saying so, whereas in all other matters the new style is used.

On Good Friday evening the King, attended by the Court, went to service at the Cathedral at 7.30. The Ministers and high functionaries of State, Foreign Military Attachés, and General Officers of the Army were also present, and the troops of the garrison were massed in the Cathedral Court. The service lasted about an hour. On Saturday night the King, accompanied by the Royal Guard, attended the midnight Resurrection Service at the Cathedral, during which, according to an old tradition, he signed his name in the Bible. All the high State officials were again present.

The theatres and places of amusement have been empty all the week, as Orthodox Christians have been absorbed in their devotions.

There have been one or two very good concerts, however, which drew large crowds. On Easter Monday Huberman played at the Athenée to a crowded and very appreciative audience, while on Tuesday the Philharmonic Society gave a symphony concert in the afternoon, with M. Georgescu conducting. In the course of the next week Madame Cella Delavrancea (who has recently married M. Aristide Blank, of the well-known bank of Marmorosch Blank and Co.) will give a series

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TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 4.

Imperial Princes Need Not Apply.

The sudden and clandestine departure of the son of the Heir Apparent last week caused a sensation only equalled by his equally sudden return. Prince Omar Faruk is a really fine young man of about twenty-three or four years of age, and has had a thorough military training in Germany, which he considered would be of some value to his country in its struggle against the Greeks. Hence his sudden excursion to Ineboli. Such have been the bitterness and intensity of Nationalist propaganda against the Sultan that it was pardonable to conclude at the time that the young Prince had come to an arrangement with the Nationalist Administration whereby he would be proclaimed Regent upon his arrival in Angora. As it happened, however, he was not even permitted to land, and it is, therefore, clear that he must have been acting entirely on his own account so far as the Nationalists were concerned. There was a time when the Nationalists were exceedingly eager to attract an Imperial Prince to Anatolia, and it is clear that some change has occurred in the meantime. There is not the slightest doubt that the Angora Administration is resolved to take certain steps against the present Sultan when the right moment comes. Why, therefore, have they refused to allow Prince Omar Faruk to enter Anatolia? It may be that their plans are not yet sufficiently advanced, and the presence of the Prince might be a source of embarrassment. On the other hand, it is possible that their plans are much more advanced than most people suppose, and that those plans concern not only the present Sultan personally, but the entire Imperial Family. As long ago as last August, when Jelaeddin Arif Bey went to Moscow and a Bolshevik

delegate arrived in Angora, it was ascertained that the Khalifate question had been discussed between the Angora and Moscow Governments. Obviously the combination of theocratic and political powers in the hands of a monarch is contrary to the elementary principles of democracy, apart from the doctrines of Bolshevism, and as the Nationalists are nothing if not democratic, like their predecessors, the Young Turks and the Committee of Union and Progress, the only solution is the separation of the Khalifate from the Sultanate. This is probably the clue to the refusal of the Nationalist authorities to allow Prince Omar Faruk to land at Ineboli.

Current of Nationalist Policy.

The dynastic question may be regarded as the dominant factor in the interior policy of the Nationalist programme to-day. The Great National Assembly has ratified a new constitutional law, which supersedes the old Constitutional Charter, and deprives the Sultan of all his administrative prerogatives with the exception of the power to pardon criminals. The theory is, of course, sound enough from the democratic point of view; but democratic principles cannot be applied to Turkey in their entirety. The truth of the matter is that the changes made by the Nationalists in the Constitution are based upon considerations other than those connected with democratic principles. In the first place, it is clearly realised that the present Sultan is an inveterate foe of what may be termed the Janissary rule, inaugurated by the Young Turks and emulated by the Nationalists. The only way of obviating reprisals upon the part of the Sultan against the leaders of the Nationalist movement as soon as peace is concluded is to clip his wings.

The other reason is of more importance, and is bound up with Nationalist foreign policy, the keystone of which is militant Pan-Islamism with the support of the Bolsheviks.

The foreign policy of the Angora Government is to-day perfectly apparent. Treaties have been signed with the Russians and the Afghans, who are also bound together by a complementary treaty. Thus Angora and Kabul are the basic angles of a triangle, of which the apex is Moscow.

It is not surprising in these circumstances that there should be good grounds for believing that deep-laid plans have been made for stirring up trouble in Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Arabia, and Persia, to say nothing of Egypt and India.

The Moral Effects of the Greek Reverse.

As was to be expected, the effects of the Nationalist victory at In Eunu have not made the political situation any easier. The moral of the Nationalists has improved considerably, and they are quite persuaded that in time the Greeks can and will be driven out of Anatolia entirely. The result has been that the agreement concluded with the French by Bekir Sami Bey in London has not been endorsed by the Great National Assembly, which requires certain drastic modifications of the most important clauses before it will consent to a permanent peace. Even towards their good friends the Italians the Nationalists have been rather rude recently. The Angora Press has been publishing articles in which Italian military history is reviewed from the perspective of Adis Abeba and Tripoli, which is unkind at least; and all apparently because an over-zealous Italian official had the effrontery to meddle with a Nationalist postal courier. So far as the British are concerned, the Anatolian Press is more bitterly hostile than ever, and refuses to believe for an instant in British professions of neutrality in the recent fighting. This means that to the Nationalists Greek failure is equivalent to British failure, and the situation is thereby further complicated.

British Policy.

Certainly, British policy in Turkey has not been more successful since the Armistice than it was prior to the Great War. For some time it was difficult to tell whether we had any policy towards Turkey or not, but it became clear in time that we favoured "the substitution for a decadent and hostile Turkey of a resurgent and

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progressive Power that will ensure peace and prosperity in the Near East." Even so, outstanding mistakes have been made by the British Government. The most important mistake seems to have been a complete inability to appreciate the Turkish situation in particular and the Near Eastern situation in general. The next most important mistake was the complete failure to give the Greeks the moral support they required against the Angora insurgents at a time when it might have been possible for them to fulfil the task assigned to them. That would have meant insisting with the utmost firmness that sticks were not to be thrust by others between the legs of the Greek army whenever it began to advance, and that assistance should not be given to the enemy. There were, doubtless, good reasons why this step could not be taken, but, then, our policy should not have been based upon an undertaking which we ourselves were powerless to assist or save from failure. The final mistakes have been misplaced faith in the power of Greece, and the ignoring of the fact that the total population of Greater Greece is barely that of London, whilst the conquest of Anatolia would be an undertaking more arduous than that of South Africa.

The present position is that the Power we have backed is unable to advance and dare not retreat. We are unable to afford any assistance, and, on the other hand, we have practically destroyed all hope of a reconciliation with the Turks. Such is the position to-day, and if the back numbers of THE NEAR EAST are re-examined it will be found that no more and no less was expected.

ALBANIA.

TIRANA, April 28.

Opening of Parliament.

Contrary to expectation, Parliament was opened on April 21, with all due ceremony. The Deputies for Scutari had been elected already, but had not arrived, and the Deputies for Dibra, Lumi, and Hassi were not present; but the Government did not wish to postpone the opening any longer. Of a total of eighty-six Deputies, seventy-one were present. Thus, on Thursday, the three members of the Supreme Council—Akif Elbasani, Dr. Michael Turtuli, and Abdi Toptani, Monseigneur Bumci being detained at Scutari by reasons of health—inaugurated the first Albanian Chamber elected by the universal (but indirect) suffrage of the nation. Mr. Eyres, the British Consul; M. Castoldi, Italian Minister; M. Gobi, Italian Consul at Durazzo; the entire Mission of the American Red Cross; and many Albanian notables had been invited to the ceremony.

Dr. Turtuli read the Inaugural Speech. It dwelt upon the firm intention of Albania to maintain good relations with all the Powers and especially with its neighbours. It touched on the entry of Albania into the League of Nations, as a guarantee of the political life of the country. Then it expressed the hope that the pourparlers opened up at Rome with the Consulta will lead to good results, and that Serbia, responding to the goodwill of Albania, will herself give proof of her good intentions by evacuating the Serbian territory which she has occupied without justification.

From its opening until yesterday the Parliament has been occupied in examining the credentials of all the Deputies. M. Pandeli Evangjeli, of Koritza, and a former delegate of Albania in Paris, has been provisionally elected President of the Chamber, on the strength of his seniority.

It is thought probable that as soon as the absent deputies from Scutari and elsewhere arrive, the present Prime Minister, M. Ilias Vrioni, will resign, in order that a new Cabinet may be formed.

Mission to Belgrade.

Colonel Ali Riza has left for Belgrade on a mission to the Yugoslav Government. This is the third attempt made by the Albanian Government to bring about an understanding with Yugoslavia, in the hope of securing the withdrawal of the Yugoslav troops from those Albanian regions which they have occupied since the beginning of 1918.

M. Justin Godart, Deputy for Lyons, has been in Albania for the past six weeks. He has visited Valona, Argyrokastro, Koritza, and Scutari, and is leaving Albania in a couple of days. He has been accorded a very warm welcome by all the Albanians, official and unofficial; for, though the reason for his visit has not been made public, it is generally believed that he has an official mission of some kind. Some say that he has been sent by the Carnegie

Endowment, which wishes to assist the Albanians in their educational development. In any case, his visit has given much satisfaction here, and it is understood that he, too, has found it very enjoyable.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, April 25.

The Greek Archbishop and the Government.

The High Commissioner has replied, through the Chief Secretary, to the protest made by the Archbishop, Kyrillos, as to being called to the Commissioner's office, in connection with the proposed processions on the occasion of the Centenary celebrations. His Eminence claimed that all communications from the Government or the Law Courts should be conveyed to him at his palace. The reply stated that this claim cannot in any way be recognised. The Archbishop thereupon wrote again at some length, stating that the regrettable scenes which occurred on April 7 were due to the "unjustifiable" orders of the authorities and to the arbitrary manner in which the orders were carried out. He invites the attention of the High Commissioner to the conduct of the police, and states that his protest will be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Chief Secretary, in reply, has merely acknowledged receipt of the letter, and states that he has nothing to add to the previous communication. The Archbishop and the Greek Members of Council have drawn up a long statement regarding the events of April 7, to be despatched to the Secretary of State.

As regards the Prelate's assertions respecting the police intervention—during which, by the way, a member of the force was badly injured—they are quite incorrect. It is easy to understand how it came about that some basis for the claim he has made should exist. Under Turkish rule the Archbishop and bishops came to occupy positions of much power and importance. The former, as Ethnarch of his people, became almost a greater power than the actual Governor. The Moslem ruler, indeed, administered largely through the bishops. The Government aided them to collect their dues (and often to fleece their flocks) by the aid of Zaptiehs, while the Bishops co-operated with the Governor in both his legal collections and his exactions. They enjoyed many exemptions and privileges, and it was the withdrawal of these privileges—quite incompatible with British rule—which caused no little friction and ill-feeling for some years after the occupation.

The court-martial has sentenced a villager of Strovolo, near Nicosia, to five years' imprisonment, another to one year, and two others to two months, in connection with the disturbances. There have been further communications respecting the arrangements to be observed during the coming Pan-Cypriot sports, which are to last four days.

Government Hospital for Limassol.

The High Commissioner has visited Limassol to lay the foundation stone of a Government hospital, which is being built there. He was received by the Commissioner, Major Bolton, O.B.E., Dr. E. Corsellis, D.M.O., and the Mayor. The High Commissioner, in a speech, commended the efforts of the Commissioner, and of the late Mayor, Mr. Spyros Araousos.

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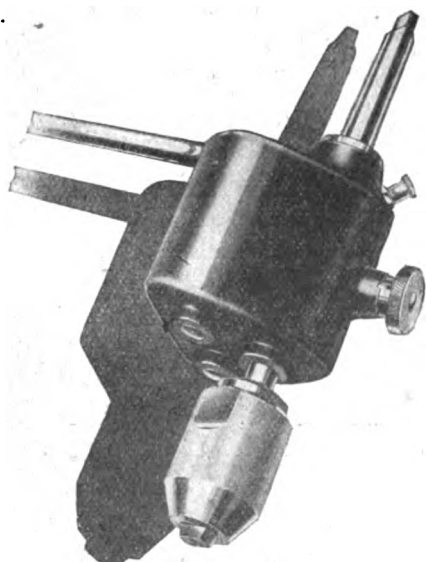
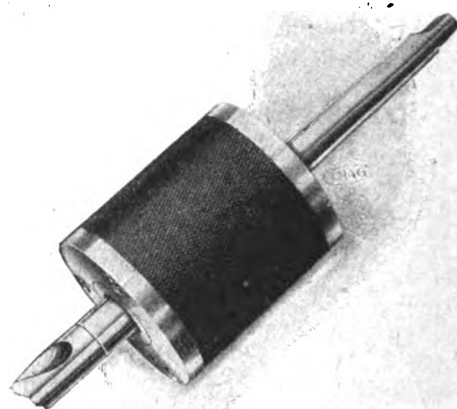
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CORRESPONDENCE.

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

"THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BALKANS."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The review of my article, "The Truth About the Balkans" (published in the current number of the *Quarterly Review*), which appears in your issue of May 5, is so important and—I am sure, accidentally—so misleading in its references to my remarks about Roumania as to require brief comment.

It says "that the foreigner from a land where politics are run under different rules is apt to imagine that Roumania, like Sodom of old, is likely to perish for want of five righteous men. It remains to be seen whether the inferences which the writer has drawn obviously from the speeches of ardent politicians will be borne out by the course of actual events." The answer to these remarks is that the reader of the article in question or of any of my books or other publications must be the judge as to whether I am a "foreigner" likely to be possessed of such misconceptions in regard to the Balkans, and that I drew my "inferences" not from the "speeches of ardent politicians," but from a careful study of the situation on the spot and from information acquired from diplomatic and other authorities whose identities it would be unjustifiable to disclose.

Further, you state that "one is forced to wonder how many personal experiences have gone to make up the winter of the artist's discontent," and you go on to infer that such "discontent" is or was connected with some supposed difficulty of mine in securing hotel accommodation. I do not propose here and now to give chapter or verse for my experiences, and this because to do so might result in the taking of reprisals against certain Roumanian officials, who are no better and no worse than many of their compatriots. As the question of hotels has been mentioned, it may, however, interest your readers to know that, thanks to the good offices of the Roumanian authorities, who secured me a room and to whom I am most grateful, I was not even called upon to pay a penny for what you call the "privilege of admission"—a privilege which, I understand, is indeed costly of purchase to those compelled to resort to such means.

Whilst, after due consideration and re-consideration, I am perfectly prepared to adhere to all that I have said about Roumania, and whilst there are many points in your notice upon which I might comment, the principal purpose of this letter is to refer to two distinct features of your review.

(1) The inferred and I imagine unintentional comparison between the Irish American and myself I hope means that the writer of the notice in question has not really read or does not understand the true sense of an article which must be perused as a whole. Thus, in the course of what might be read as an attempt to establish my bias against a particular country, I notice no references whatever are made to my explanation that the territorial acquisitions secured by Roumania are justified upon the basis of nationality and to my explicit suggestion that, perhaps without allowing sufficiently for the fact that conditions are universally worse than before the war, the populations of the new territories compare the present state of things with those which previously existed.

(2) Naturally, owing to lack of space, you are unable to publish extensive quotations from articles under review. Nevertheless, surely it would do greater justice to all concerned were you to print a whole, even if only a single passage, rather than to select disjointed sentences in such a manner that those sentences are divorced from the context of which they form an integral part. For example, you have omitted my declarations that "something has been done to solve the Agrarian and Jewish Questions," and that "the Chamber is now composed of members elected—nominally without interference—by the direct vote of the population." The omission of such remarks, which should have been included either immediately between or as actual parts of the passages which you have printed at some length—an omission which I suppose occurred by an oversight—alters the meaning of criticisms which (like those made in the same article and in regard to other Balkan countries) are intended in a friendly spirit, and for the purpose of showing that the dawn of a new era can only take place in the Balkans when real reforms are instituted, when recriminations are at an end, and when tolerance is practised by all concerned.

I am, etc.,

May 9, 1921.

H. CHARLES WOODS.

A MOSLEM STORY FROM JERUSALEM.

THE WISDOM OF AGE AND THE WISDOM OF YOUTH.

The palace of the Sultan was all in a turmoil; servants, guards, ministers, were rushing hither and thither in a state of the greatest agitation which no one could calm. In the harem the Sultana and her ladies were fluttering to and fro like a crowd of frightened doves. Full cause was there for all this perturbation and unrest, even during the quiet hours of night, when the hand of Allah lays sleep upon the eyelids of His children, for the Sultan had waked in terror from a dream of ill-omen. In his dream he had beheld all the teeth fall suddenly from his mouth and lie scattered before him. Oh, dream of horrid portent! Oh, woe to the Sultan and his land! The Sultan beat his breast and cried aloud in his despair: "Now woe is me, for if but one tooth had fallen from my mouth in my dream, it had foreshadowed evil; but what shall come upon me now, since all dropped in one moment of time!"

Through the darkness of night the Sultan's attendants sped on their ways, here and there in the silent city, summoning to the palace the members of the Sultan's Council, and all those who had any claim to be considered wise or learned men.

The Sultan sat upon his bed, wrapped in a robe of richest silk from the looms of Damascus, and he shivered, not with cold but with fear. The Councillors and wise men, thus hastily summoned from their quiet beds, shivered also, for the Sultan's brow was dark and his eye stormy; nor was he likely to welcome any interpretation of his dream that was not comforting to his agitated soul.

The Sultan related his dream, and silence fell upon the room. All present knew the meaning to be evil, and each waited for his neighbour to speak first.

At length a young man, but newly come with honour from the Schools at Damascus, stepped forward, eager to show forth his learning and to win the Sultan's favour.

"O Sultan, Master of the World and Glory of the Ages," he said, "your dream is of an evil colour for you and for those who serve you. Sad and dire is the meaning thereof. For, behold, it foretells the destruction of all your kindred in one day and in your sight!"

Wrath filled the Sultan as these dismal words fell upon his ear, and he called aloud to his guards: "Take this fellow to prison, and let him have one hundred strokes upon the soles of his feet ere the sun be risen! Let him remain in the darkness for a year and a day, and let him be fed only on bread and water! Thus shall he learn not to trifle with his Sultan."

The wretched youth was led away, lamenting his sad fate; and silence fell upon those who were left, for they feared to tempt their fortune by interpreting the Sultan's dream. But the Sultan addressed them angrily, and swore that if they did not tell him the true meaning of his dream, and that instantly, they all should follow the presumptuous youth to prison and remain there until their wisdom returned to them.

At that the oldest of the Councillors stepped forward and spoke in quiet tones.

"O Commander of the Faithful and Admiration of the Universe," he said, "greatly has your Majesty been favoured by Heaven! Has there not been revealed to you in a dream the thing which shall gladden your royal heart in the day when it comes to pass? Know then, O most noble Sultan, that Allah, out of mercy to your subjects, has vouchsafed to tell you that you shall outlive all your kindred, and this your own eyes shall see between the rising and the setting of a sun."

"Lo, here is wisdom!" cried the Sultan. "Blessed be my ears on which such words of honey and of truth have fallen this day! Fill his mouth with pearls, for has it not spoken golden words? Hang upon his neck a double chain of gold, and clothe him in the richest robe of honour that my treasury affords. And get you all hence to your homes in peace!"

The Councillors and wise men willingly departed, the last to leave the royal palace being the Grand Vizier and his young son. As they passed through the iron gates into the peaceful moonlit streets the boy whispered to his father: "O, my father, explain to me out of your wisdom the difference between those two interpretations of the Sultan's dream, for to me they seemed the same."

"My son," replied the Vizier, speaking low, "as you go through life you will learn that what counts is not what a man says, but the way in which he says it!"

ESTELLE BLYTH.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Problem of Anatolia.

The Special Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, who has been writing on the Greek retreat, gives in the issue for May 13 some impressions derived from that event. For the moment, he says, military operations are at a standstill. In the first bout the Kemalists have prevented the Greek army from attaining its objective, and he doubts whether Greece has the resources for making the attempt again.

On the other hand, I am equally sceptical about the ability of the Kemalists to drive the Greek army from its former strong positions to which it has now successfully retired. The campaign may end in stalemate, leaving the political problems that have occasioned it to be settled, after all, by inter-Allied arbitration. And, in anticipation of this, I want to plead with the diplomatists to put the values at stake in their true proportion—that is, to think first and foremost of the tormented civil population. I do not confine my plea to the Greeks and Armenians who have been uprooted during the last few days. Many Turkish houses, too, have been burnt, and many Turkish families made homeless during the recent military operations. The best settlement will be the one which makes for the least unhappiness of the greatest number of civilians in Anatolia, irrespective of religion or race.

I should like to rule out two solutions to begin with. One is the maintenance of Greek administration in the great regions of Western Anatolia now occupied by the Greek Army. The other is the replacement of Greek administration over the same area and population by that of the Kemalists. I do not think that the Kemalists will lay down their arms so long as Greece holds any part of Anatolia, and I do not think that the Greek army will retreat—or can be expelled from—the part it occupies so long as that means leaving the Greek minorities here to the mercy of the Kemalists. Along these two lines I see no possibility of peace or of a tolerable existence for the civil population. Under the conditions produced by eight or nine years of war, Greeks can really no longer live under Turkish rule nor Turks under Greek rule. Therefore, ruling out these, I think there are two feasible solutions, one of which is much better than the other. The parts of Western Anatolia where there is a considerable non-Turkish minority, or, in other words, a mixed population, should be separated from both Turkey and Greece and formed into an independent administrative unit. The natural area would be the old Aidin vilayet plus the Greek town of Aivali, and Thrace might either be included in the area or administered separately on the same lines. The personnel of the administration should be drawn from the local nationalities in a fixed proportion, from the gendarmerie right up to the local Parliament and Cabinet, and there should be an inter-Allied control, not to do the administration itself, but to see that the mixed administration recruited from the local nationalities is fairly worked. This system would be the same in essentials as that which worked so successfully in the Lebanon vilayet during the half-century before the war, and I believe that it would bring peace, not only to Greece and Turkey, but to the unhappy population of the area concerned.

The success of his scheme would, however, depend absolutely on the completely united action of England, France, and Italy—a condition which, he admits, is not easy to realise. In the event of the existing jealousy surviving—

I see no alternative to an interchange of populations. There are some hundreds of thousands of Christians in Anatolia and some hundreds of thousands of Moslems in Thrace and Macedonia. Leave the Asiatic territories under Turkish sovereignty, the European under Greek, and interchange the minorities so as to have only Christians under Greek and only Moslems under Turkish government. It may come to this, but if Allied diplomatists decide upon it through failure to find a more constructive settlement, they ought to realise beforehand what a last desperate resort it is. To begin with, it would not be economically sound, for the Greeks and Turks are not merely different nationalities, but different social classes, and the operation would be not unlike concentrating all the tradespeople of England in one set of counties and all the working people in another. It would also be a vast surgical operation inflicted on two nationalities or classes under such unfavourable conditions that it might kill rather than cure. Even in pre-war days, when there was some margin of money, food, clothing, housing and transport in the world, the transplantation of such large populations would have been a difficult undertaking. Under present conditions it is hard to see how it could be accomplished without immense suffering and mortality. But if it is eventually decreed, there is one factor of capital importance, and that is time. If such an interchange of population were spread over a period of six months, with the military *status quo* stabilised during this period under Allied supervision, it would have some chance of success. If, on the other hand, the same thing were attempted within the space of one month or a fortnight or a few days, and during the course of military operations, it might well be the most terrible chapter in the history of human suffering in Anatolia.

Armenia.

In the *New Armenia* of March-April, Mr. W. G. Smith writes an article called "History Repeats Itself." He says:—

It has been repeated so often that it is now a commonplace that the Turk has been maintained in his political power by the mutual jealousies of the leading countries of Europe. It

was hoped and believed that whatever might be the outcome of the recent great war, his downfall was assured. He had been false to Great Britain, to France, and to Italy, the three Powers to whom he owed his salvation after the Crimean War and after the Russian advance to Adrianople. The population of these countries is professedly Christian. Their cabinets exist in the long run because they respond to popular sentiment. After they have borne with patience the outbreaks of Turkish malevolence in the massacres of 1876, 1896, and of 1906, and, finally, the well-nigh successful effort to wipe out the entire Armenian people in Turkey in 1914-15, one can find no words to express the emotions that are aroused by the present statesmanship of these three Powers, as shown in their attitude towards this same unchanged and unchangeable Turk.

Very openly, leading French and Italian public men, moved no doubt by the hidden hand of international financiers, are seeking to resuscitate the Turkish Empire, returning to the same old discreditable policy of the past. Knowing that the Turks are incapable of governing themselves, let alone subject peoples, and chargeable with knowledge, if they do not know, that they are sowing the seeds of future massacres, persecutions, and wars, they seem about to condone the relentless massacre of a million of their fellow Christians and to set up assassins as the rulers of a reorganised Turkey.

No such humiliation has happened in many a day to these proud governments as that to which they are submitting now, when they bow before the demands of Mustapha Kemal. If they were right when they forced the unwilling hands of the Sultan's representatives to sign the Treaty of Sévres, what can they think of themselves now when they invite his rebellious subject, who represents the same policy that has made the names of Enver and Djemal and Talaat infamous, to meet them in consultation as to the future of conquered Turkey? Could there be a greater example of political cynicism than is shown by the Council of Premiers which has so lately adjourned in London, giving with difficulty a grudging opportunity to the Armenians to present their case and then ignoring it, and awaiting the final decision of the Turkish insurgent as to how much he will yield as a condition of peace?

He suggests that, had it not been for the services of the Armenians in the late war, the story of the conquest of Asia Minor by the Allied armies under Allenby might have been very different. It is indeed impossible to withhold sympathy from the Armenians, but to say that Allenby was in Asia Minor and that the Armenians vitally influenced his successes elsewhere is surely wide of the truth. The writer ends his appeal for the unhappy country by saying that the "common-sense justice of mankind," and "rightly directed public opinion," will ultimately prevail in Armenia's favour.

THE PRINCE AND ASIATIC RESEARCH.

The Prince of Wales has been invited to become a Vice-Patron of the Royal Asiatic Society, a position filled both by his grandfather and his father before, on accession, they successively became Patron. Lord Reading has been invited to be a Vice-Patron, and it is proposed that all succeeding Viceroy should hold the position. At the anniversary meeting of the society on May 10 Lord Meston said it was unfortunately true that the traditions of scholarship which used to attach to the public services in India had in recent years become a little thin. Increased pressure of life and the strain of work gave scanty leisure for the pleasant communion with the older school of cultured Indians. But he believed there would be a revival of civilian scholarship. Meanwhile there had arisen a new school of young Indian investigators, many of them belonging to the society, versed in modern ideas of criticism, exploring the field with honesty and sincerity. He regarded this as one of the best fruits of the new Nationalist movement.

SOMALILAND MEDAL.

It is officially announced that the King has approved of the Africa General Service Medal, instituted in 1916, with clasp "Somaliland, 1920," being granted to personnel of the Imperial, Indian, and Colonial Forces who, under the general directions of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Protectorate, and under the command of Major (temporary Colonel) G. H. Summers, Officer Commanding Troops, Somaliland, took part in the military operations in Somaliland between January 21, 1920, and February 12, 1920. Officers, soldiers, and others already awarded the medal, or who are in possession of the Africa General Service Medal instituted by King Edward VII., will receive the clasp only.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"WHEN TURKEY WAS TURKEY." By Mary A. Poynter. (London: George Routledge and Sons. 12s. 6d. net.)
 II.—"THE TOUR." By Louis Couperus. Translated from the Dutch by Alexander Teixeira de Mattos. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 8s. net.)
 III.—"THE BACKBONE OF AFRICA." By Sir Alfred Sharpe, K.C.M.G., C.B. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby. 16s. net.)

I.—AN ENGLISHWOMAN'S IMPRESSIONS OF TURKISH LIFE.

Lovers of Thackeray will recollect that one of the most telling episodes in "Vanity Fair" takes place at Brussels, within hearing of the cannon of Waterloo. Mrs. Poynter displays the same aloofness from a great drama which passed before her eyes. Constantinople was her headquarters during the Revolution of 1908, the Italian aggression in Tripoli, and the commencement of Turkey's struggle with Great Britain. Yet a good deal of her time was spent in touring through the Near East during years which were pregnant with evil for Turkey and the world. Many of her experiences have already delighted readers of this paper, while others were contributed to the *Spectator*, *Athenæum*, and *Harper's Magazine*. These sketches now appear in book form, with an introduction by the late Sir Edwin Pears, who writes:—

The descriptions are those of a well-educated Englishwoman who has read and seen much and travelled far afield, and yet could never be called a bluestocking. They are always pleasant reading. There are touches of pathos and of sympathy with people suffering under misgovernment. There are many passages which unconsciously stimulate the reader to consult authorities on the subject of which she is speaking, and to learn more of it.

Sir Edwin's opinion will be shared by all who feel the charm of unregenerate Turkey, although many will wish that Mrs. Poynter's remarkable powers of description had been given to more important themes.

A discerning eye is shown in her references to the politics of that troublous time; but at the outset of the Revolution which hurled Abdul Hamid from his throne she shared the common belief that a golden age had dawned for Turkey. On August 3, 1908, she wrote:—

All the people of the country—Moslems and Christians—wear a badge with "Liberty, Justice, Fraternity" upon it. Turkish Hodjas and Christian priests embracing and cheering each other is a new sight in Constantinople; and if this fraternal spirit endures, what far-reaching good may not be born of the movement?

Its subsequent phases, alas! have proved the truth of Mr. Barry Pain's witty dictum, "Some things begin well and end badly, such as kittens, revolutions, and platonic love." But 1908 was the psychological moment for a renewal of the ancient friendship between Great Britain and Turkey. On August 12 Mrs. Poynter recorded an enthusiastic reception given to Sir Gerard Lowther, when he was officially received as Ambassador, and added:—

It is extraordinary how the Turks are turning to Great Britain, partly, we think, because she has not exploited their country as Germany and other countries have. The Committee of Union and Progress seem to be doing their work wonderfully well so far. We know a number of Young Turks, like "Filosof" Riza Tewfik, who tell us many interesting things, and seem to be very keen on putting the administration of the country on a thoroughly good footing.

Who can doubt that, if our Foreign Office had shown active sympathy with the new régime, and if our interests had been worthily represented at Constantinople, the world-war would have ended far sooner—perhaps would never have begun? Finding no response from Turkey's ancient ally, the Committee of Union and Progress hearkened to the wiles of Wilhelmstrasse; and its leaders, suborned by German gold, brought their luckless country into collision with a Power which had been its fast friend for more than a century. F. H. S.

II.—SIGHTSEEING IN THE FIRST CENTURY.

This is a description of a tour made by a young Roman patrician in the reign of Tiberius. Lucius travels with a gorgeous retinue, including his greedy old uncle, the freedman who had been his tutor, and the beautiful Greek slave whom he eventually marries. He is travelling to seek distraction from his overwhelming sorrow at the disappearance of his favourite slave, Ilia, and also with a secret hope that he may discover her whereabouts from the soothsayers and priests of Egypt. It is at the Temple of Ammon-Râ that he finally learns the truth, long since guessed by all his followers, and knows that she had eloped with a common sailor. In the first chapter we find Lucius, plunged in gloom, nearing Alexandria in his beautiful ship, and we leave him sailing for Babylon, with his bride and his former tutor, reduced indeed to poverty by the news that Tiberius has seized all his estates, but having

found in the ancient land of Egypt a calm, philosophical happiness. The whole book is rather weighed down with the load of the author's knowledge of the Egypt of the period. The descriptions of scenes and customs with which every page is crowded are given with a lavishness of coloured detail that suggests something of the nature of "Chu Chin Chow" on an advanced scale; it is therefore surprising that of all faults we should be aware of that of dullness, but the dry bones of study are too apparent through the gorgeous covering of romantic phrases. The most successful character is Caleb, who acts as guide to the party in their sightseeing, and through whom the author rather subtly indicates that the light in which a tourist was regarded nearly two thousand years ago was much the same as it is to-day. The story is a creation in a lighter vein than that which his admirers expect from this great Dutch author, and it is a pity that it should prove, on the whole, a little wearisome.

III.—BRITAIN'S EAST AFRICAN EMPIRE.

This is a record of travel before and during the Great War by a former governor of Nyassaland. It is at once very interesting, informative, and defective. Governors of Crown Colonies, although, as in this case, "mighty hunters before the Lord," very often make indifferent authors. Long subjection to the mandarinic tendencies of Colonial Under-Secretaries, preternatural dignity and reserve, adopted to secure Gubernatorial dignity in a backward land flowing with whiskies and sodas and pestilential rivers; an ever-present fear of doing or saying, like James I. and Steenie Buckingham, or the other way round, the wrong thing—are some of the considerations which support our theory. Sir Alfred Sharpe's book is a definite Imperial treatise, compiled in a fairly unconventional style, and certainly worthy of a place on every political and geographical bookshelf throughout the Empire, for it deals with two-sevenths of the continent of Africa, and contains suggestions of moment to the Empire. But the full blast of censure must fall upon the irritating meanness of the maps. Almost every page necessitates a reference to cartography, for the book is in the main a comprehensive, although not very detailed, survey of Eastern Africa from Northern Rhodesia to the Bahr-el-Gazal, and three mean little maps are an unfair handicap to the author. When a second edition of this book is required—which, we trust, will be soon—we recommend this criticism to Messrs. Witherby, who, we understand, intend to embark largely on the publication of books of travel. The illustrations are very fair, and the amount of elephant hunting is simply "scrumptious." The schoolboy, however, will kick at this part of the story because Sir Alfred omits all the thrills—perhaps in his less histrionic anxiety to weigh the tusks.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"A Grammatical Guide and Numerous Idioms and Phrases for Beginners in the Ewe Dialect." By Professor D. Westermann, and translated from the German by C. D. Trotter, Esq., District Commissioner, Gold Coast Colony. (London: Harrison and Sons, Ltd.)

"A Painter in Palestine." By Donald Maxwell. With an Introduction by the Dean of Rochester. (London: The Bodley Head. 6s. 6d. net.)

"The Post Office of India and Its Story." By Geoffrey Clarke. With 16 illustrations. (London: The Bodley Head. 16s. net.)

"Gujarati Self-Taught." By N. M. Dhruva. (London: E. Marlborough and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

The current issue of the Palestine Exploration Fund's *Quarterly Statement* contains some further particulars of the excavations at Askalon and a "History of Askalon," the latter being a paper read by Mr. W. J. Phythian-Adams before the British School of Archaeology last November. Dr. E. W. G. Masterman contributes an interesting paper, "The Pool of Bethesda," and the other features are as usual. An appeal for funds to continue the good work at Askalon is made in the "Notes and News," and we hope it will meet with a satisfactory response.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

Mr. Victor Benham.

Continental reputations are strangely made, and there is none more puzzling than that of Mr. Victor Benham, an English pianist, who abroad and especially in Germany is described as the "greatest living English pianist." He is nothing of the kind. It is true that his conceptions are sometimes large, but his technique is limited, to say the least of it. At his recital at the Wigmore Hall on April 25 he began with Beethoven's last Sonata, Op. III., a sufficiently severe test for any pianist. In the Adagio and the Allegro-Maestoso we forgave him a good deal of bad tone, an unequal balance between the hands, and plenty of wrong notes for the spaciousness and the even nobility of his idea; but the dull placidity of the divine Arietta and the variations we could not forgive—the pedal devices, in particular, of this lovely part the pianist either scorned or did not understand. I listened further to three Chopin preludes, vulgarly linked together by banal chords; and after that I left the hall.

Moiseiwitsch.

This famous pianist gave an orchestral concert at the Queen's Hall on May 3, the concertos he played with Sir Henry Wood's orchestra being Beethoven's "Emperor," Schumann's in A minor, and Ernest Schelling's "Suite Fantastique." His technique is as humanly perfect as is possible, and he has carried the refinement of tone to the utmost limits. Nothing could have been more dazzling than his brilliance in Schelling's rather superficial suite. But with all this pianism, he lacks imaginative greatness, for of the architectural greatness of the "Emperor" he gave little suggestion, and we had to wait until well into the second movement of Schumann's most romantic concerto to feel its poetry. Further, Moiseiwitsch has an inexplicable habit of emphasising melody at the expense of the harmonies, a quite unwarrantable method, particularly in the classics. His technical capacities are as great as those of Heifetz, but he shares with the violinist an inability to move us.

Violin Arrangements.

At Miss Murray Lambert's recital at the Wigmore Hall on May 2 we had some rather surprising examples of what may happen to music when it is arranged for the violin. For we not only had an "Allegro giocoso" of Handel-Harty sounding as Irish as might be, but we had also a proof that negro spirituals are simply impossible when performed by anything but the human voice. The sentimentality of "Nobody knows de trouble I've seen" became absurd in Clarence Cameron White's arrangement of it; and his "Negro Dance" ("Sometimes I feel like a motherless child") was a hybrid affair. That sincerity which always characterises Miss Lambert's playing was here in abundance; but for larger works like Pizzetti's Sonata in A major her technique and intonation are not sufficiently impeccable to make the pleasure of listening to them unalloyed—the less so when the pianoforte part is played by so crushingly individual a pianist as Mr. Norman Wilks.

Mr. Hugh Marleyn.

Mr. Marleyn is making a bold bid for distinction in his leadership of the Langham Choral-Orchestral Society, and there was stuff in his operatic concert at the Queen's Hall on May 10 to test the greatest of conductors. Unfortunately, I could stay to hear only the "Tannhäuser" overture, a duet scena (inartistically enough sung by Miss Beatrice Miranda and Mr. William Boland) from "Aida," and "Introduction and Wedding Procession" from Rimsky-Korsakoff's "Le Coq d'Or." From these things it was evident how heavily Mr. Marleyn leans to the dramatic and dynamic sides of conducting; he has more vivid intensity than some of our more developed conductors. But something went wrong with the rhythm of the brass in the overture, which instruments, moreover, were more than a match for the strings. And in the Rimsky-Korsakoff it was not until the Wedding March that we could hear the impulse of the thing, though there the brightness of the colours was dazzlingly portrayed.

ANDANTE.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

May 19 (New Style).

May 6 (Old Style).

Ramadan 11, 1339 of the Moslem Calendar.

Ayar 11, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan left London on May 13 for Paris.

Sir Davison Dalziel has left 18, Grosvenor Place, for Paris.

M. Stambolisky, Prime Minister of Bulgaria, has recovered from his illness and has taken up his duties.

Lord and Lady Inchcape, who are at Glenapp Castle, will return to London towards the end of this week.

Sir Alexander and Lady Roger left for Constantinople on May 15, and they are not expected to return until June 7.

Viscount Chelmsford will be entertained to dinner by the members of the India Office on May 27 at Claridge's Hotel.

Sir Rennell and Lady Rodd, who arrived in Nice from Rome last week, will return to London towards the end of this week.

Messrs. Blackwood and Sons announce that on May 26 they are publishing a new novel by Mrs. Maud Diver, entitled "Far to Seek," which deals with recent events in India.

Mr. Henry Staveley Lawrence has been appointed member of the Governor of Bombay's Executive Council in place of Sir George Seymour Curtis, whose term of office has expired.

Prince George, with other officers from the Iron Duke, has been paying a flying visit to Cairo incognito, staying at Shepherd's. On May 11 he visited the Pyramids and the Citadel, and the following day he lunched at the Residency, returning to his ship, the Iron Duke, at night.

The King of the Hejaz has conferred the First Class of the Order of the Nahde on General Haddad Pasha, in recognition of his valuable services rendered in Europe on behalf of the Arabs.

The marriage arranged between Captain John Le Clerc Fowle, 15th Lancers, I.A., and Adelaide Kathleen, elder daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Chichester, 28th Punjabis, I.A., and Mrs. Chichester, will take place on June 1 at Srinagar, India.

The marriage arranged between Captain Ronald James Allan, M.C., Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army, and Miss Dorothy May Wilson, only daughter of W. Wilson, Bearsden, Argyllshire, will take place on June 6, at St. Enoch Station Hotel, Glasgow.

The *London Gazette* announces that letters patent have passed the Great Seal conferring the dignity of a baronet of the United Kingdom upon General Sir Charles Carmichael Monro, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., of Bearcrofts, in the shire of Stirling, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten.

The Central Council of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League will entertain Mrs. Rosita Forbes at luncheon at the Hyde Park Hotel on Friday, May 20. Mrs. Forbes recently travelled through the Libyan Desert, and penetrated to Kufra, the headquarters of the Senussi. The chair will be taken by Lord Charnwood.

The marriage was celebrated on May 2, at St. Thomas's Cathedral, Bombay, between Captain Clifford F. Scott-Ruffe, M.C., C.V.O., 2nd Sappers and Miners, Indian Army, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fellingham Ruffe, India, and Kitty, second daughter of the late Mr. Lewis Utton and Mrs. Utton, of Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

It is stated in a Reuter message from Cairo that a delegation composed of Adly Pasha (Prime Minister), Rushdy Pasha (Vice-Premier), Talaat Pasha, Ismail Sidky Pasha, Minister of Finance; Mohammed Chafik Pasha, and Youssef Suleiman Pasha, is expected to leave for London at the end of this month to conduct official negotiations with the British Government. A number of experts will accompany the delegation.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Varatassi has been appointed Greek Diplomatic Agent of Greece in Cairo.

M. Dimitroff, formerly Bulgarian Minister of the Interior, has been appointed Minister at Washington.

Vice-Admiral Salaun has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Mediterranean Squadron of the French Navy.

Mr. A. E. Robinson, Inspector of Accounts, Sudan Customs Department, has been appointed Controller, Press Section, Intelligence Department.

Major J. Carey Evans (son-in-law of Mr. Lloyd George), who has been staff surgeon of the Bangalore Brigade and Residency surgeon for some time, has been appointed surgeon on the staff of the Viceroy of India.

The King recently received at Buckingham Palace Colonel Sir Malcolm Murray, Comptroller of the Household of the Duke of Connaught (who accompanied his Royal Highness to India), and invested him with the insignia of a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire.

The Secretary of State for India in Council has been pleased to make the following appointments to the Indian Educational Service:—(1) To be Professor of History in the University of Rangoon—Daniel George Edward Hall, M.A. (Lond.). (2) To be Professor of Physics in Presidency College, Madras—Shankar Rao Ullal Savor, D.Sc. (Lond.), B.A. (Cantab), F.R.A.S. (3) To be Professor of Biology in the University of Rangoon—James Brontë Gatenby, B.A., B.Sc., D.Phil. (Oxon). (4) To be Assistant Lecturer in Education in the University of Rangoon—Una Helen Stuart Tilley. (5) To be Vice-Principal of the Government High School for Indian Girls, Lucknow—Margaret Lloyd Harvey.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred, as the result of an accident, of General Sir George Wolseley. The General was the son of a soldier and a brother of the distinguished Field-Marshal Viscount Wolseley, and during his fifty years in the Army had borne his full share of active service. Born in July, 1839, he was gazetted an ensign in the Cheshire Regiment in 1857, and afterwards exchanged into the 84th Regiment, with which he served in the Indian Mutiny campaign, receiving the medal. In the Afghan War of 1878-9 he served as Assistant Adjutant-General with the Kandahar Field Force, was mentioned in despatches, and for his services received the medal and the brevet of lieutenant-colonel. Then followed the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, and here again he gave a good account of himself. Colonel Wolseley had the post of Assistant Adjutant-General, and was present at the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir, where his brother was in supreme command. His services again earned him a "mention," and he received the medal with clasp, the Bronze Star, the 3rd Class of the Medjidie, and was appointed an A.D.C. to Queen Victoria. In the Nile Campaign of 1884-5 he again had the post of Assistant Adjutant-General, and afterwards served as colonel on the Staff, commanding the troops at Abu Gus. The Burmese Expedition two years later saw him in command of a brigade, and he commanded the force which annexed Wuntho. The Indian Government thanked him for his services in this affair, and he was subsequently given the K.C.B. Sir

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George had command of the forces in the Punjab (with the rank of Lieutenant-General) in 1897-8, and of the Madras forces from the latter year until 1903. He retired with the rank of General in 1906, and in the following year was awarded the Grand Cross of the Bath.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

General Gouraud was entertained at a banquet at Beyrout on May 8 by 300 prominent citizens.

It is stated that M. Jonnart has accepted temporarily the mission to represent France at the Vatican.

Two passenger trains were in collision at Rutlam Station on the Bombay-Baroda Railway, one person being killed and three injured.

The Maharajah of Indore, dressed in an Indian general's uniform, laid a wreath on the grave of the Unknown Soldier in Paris on May 13.

Allegations brought against Greek troops by the Indian Moslem Delegation are to be laid before the Greek Government by H.M. Minister at Athens.

A division of the French Mediterranean Fleet commanded by Vice-Admiral Charlier arrived at Gibraltar on May 10 from Casablanca on a visit.

Fevzi Pasha, the Nationalist Grand Vizier and Minister of War at Angora, has assumed the rank of general, and taken command of an army corps.

Baron Ushida, Japanese High Commissioner, has been received in audience by the Sultan of Turkey. This marks the inception of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Japan.

According to the latest information, twelve persons were killed and thirty injured in the collision which occurred on May 11 on the Hansi-Manikpur section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

In heavy fighting during an advance in Morocco, in which Handa, Harcha, and Gaylet were secured, the Spaniards had a captain and sixteen privates killed and seventy-four other casualties.

The new Swedish motor-ship *Elmaren*, bound for Europe from Australia, has run aground on a reef 1,000 miles south-west of Colombo, says a Reuter telegram from Colombo. The damage is believed to be serious.

As a result of the Note of the Porte complaining that excesses had been committed by Greek irregulars in Anatolia, two inter-Allied military missions, headed by British officers, have left Constantinople to conduct inquiries.

The converted "mystery" ship *Haim Mazza*, which recently left for the Mediterranean, was reconditioned and fitted out for its new duties as a passenger carrier in the service of a Greek firm by Messrs. Vosper and Co., of Portsmouth.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (May 4): A party of Roumanian students, accompanied by some of their professors, have gone on an excursion to Italy. They arrived in Rome on April 27 and were received at the station by representatives of various scholastic institutions who gave them a very warm welcome.

British subjects resident in Turkey having claims on the Turkish Government for losses and damages before and during the war have decided to make urgent representations to the British Government with a view to obtaining an early settlement of these claims, the non-payment of which in many cases is bearing hardly on British subjects who have lost their all owing to forcible requisitioning by the Turkish authorities or wilful destruction.

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THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1921.

POLITICS AND POVERTY.

We have recorded from time to time the evidence which has accumulated to demonstrate the obvious initial success of the new Indian legislatures; to-day we invite our readers to look a little below the surface and take note of what seems to us the most significant result so far achieved in those institutions, the awakening of Indian politicians to the great fundamental problem of the national poverty of their motherland. Unfortunately, it is impossible to question the statement that India, though increasing in wealth, is still poor, in the sense that the national income is insufficient to meet the ever-growing needs of the people, and outside observers have often wondered at the way in which Indians have been content to ignore this obvious fact. The explanation is, however, really simple. Even in England one can still trace the effects of the old idea that the Government is an entity distinct from the nation, and that it commands a mysterious stock of wealth which it is apt to divert from the national good to its own sinister purposes. The same idea has hitherto dominated the Indian outlook, and while it would have been repudiated by experienced politicians, it has remained lying at the back of their minds, and its influence has been impressed on every discussion of finance. Its practical importance became manifest when the reforms initiated by Lord Morley forced Indian politicians into a solid opposition to the Government. Ardent opponents inevitably condemned the existing scale of taxation, while they were insistent in their demands for heavy expenditure; confronted with a meagre budget, they reconciled their criticisms with their aspirations by the doctrine that the national resources, in theory adequate, were being squandered by an extravagant bureaucracy, and that a rearrangement of grants would suffice to meet all national needs. The doctrine was ludicrous to any one who knew by experience the meticulous and penurious habits of the Indian Treasury, but among politicians it held the field, and the result was seen when the new legislatures were given a large measure of control over the budget. In every province enthusiastic economists set to work to scrutinise the estimates head by head, and item by item, seeking to find the channels by which the national resources were dissipated, and they have been quick to recognise the failure of their search. Some changes in the estimates have, indeed, been made and relatively small sums have been economised, chiefly by the postponement of expenditure recognised to be desirable, but taken as a whole the various budgets stand, and a few weeks' contact with hard facts has sufficed to demonstrate the untenability of a cherished doctrine. The national needs are now seen to be even greater than had been supposed; the money to meet them is available neither in the Treasury nor in the pockets of the people; and by this route Indian politicians are rapidly reaching the unpleasant but indisputable conclusion that the nation cannot pay for what it wants, and that it must earn before it can spend. In India, as in so many other countries, political and social progress is retarded by the hard fact of poverty.

The rapid acceptance of this conclusion will be obvious to any student of the Indian Press, but as a single

example we may cite a speech delivered last month by Mr. P. C. Mitter, the Minister for Education in Bengal. Education is one of the most urgent, and most costly, needs, and we find the Minister in charge of it insisting that the most pressing problem of the moment is to improve the economic condition of the country; schools, like everything else, must depend on an increase in income, and while mines and factories may make important contributions, the bulk of that increase must be extracted from the soil. That is in our opinion a just appreciation of the position: India is waiting on the peasant, and until the peasants realise a larger income the country as a whole cannot go forward. How then is the essential change to be brought about? The answer must allow for the fact that the question has two sides: there is much which the Government can do, but the response is at least as important as the stimulus. The Government is, on the whole, playing its part: the diagnosis of the material needs of agriculture is complete, and much has already been done to facilitate the supply of capital, to bring water to the thirsty land, to supplement traditional skill by the resources of science, and to put the peasant in a better position than he has ever occupied before; the stimulus has been provided from above, and India is anxiously awaiting the response from below. Those who best know the country assure us that the response is already visible, but that the pace is still too slow. The real economic weakness of India lies in the lack of what may be called productive energy. If we look at a progressive community of the new world we find everywhere men busily engaged in anticipating their neighbours' needs, offering facilities in advance of the immediate demand, pressing their schemes in season and out, hustling forward on the productive road. In India the scene is very different. Demand is slow to find expression, but supply lags far behind demand; obvious needs remain unsatisfied, and men look wistfully towards the State, hoping to receive as a boon what their own energy could supply. The problem is, in fact, now almost wholly psychological; India stands waiting for the increased supplies of food and materials which the peasant alone can furnish; the peasant is moving, but far too slowly; what measures can be taken to accelerate the pace?

That is the great fundamental question confronting Ministers and politicians in every Indian province, and the authorities of nearly every Indian State. It is not our purpose to offer a solution, which must be sought in India, and by Indians, but something may be said with advantage regarding the conditions of the search. Too much stress cannot be laid on the fact that it is a question of leading, and not of driving. The indigenous traditions of administration point directly to the application of compulsion in such a case, but it can be asserted with confidence that any attempt at compulsion would fail to achieve its object, while it would probably wreck the new Constitution, just as compulsion wrecked the Empire of Aurangzeb. If, then, the peasant is to be led, those who would lead must be quick to lay aside a large mass of pre-conceived ideas and set to work to acquire accurate knowledge of the peasant's mentality. Judging by the speeches reported in the Indian Press, such knowledge is lacking among many Indian politicians, who offer to the peasant not what he wants but what they think he ought to accept. It was all very well in the old days to talk glibly of compulsory education, or the enforcement of a high standard of sanitation, or similar boons, but very little study will suffice to bring conviction of the futility of such offers at the present juncture; to the peasant as he is, a good road or bridge means much more than a school, a free market has greater attraction than a scientific system of drainage, and if he is to be led forward the appeal must be made to him as he is and not as others think he ought to be. The recent changes in India have in their essence constituted an approach towards reality, and that is the road which has still to be pursued. The task of Indian Ministers is to awaken the peasant's imagination, to break the bonds forged during the centuries of oppressive rule, and to liberate the productive energy which is now latent; until they succeed in that task their ambitious schemes of national advance will fall short of accomplishment.

SOME NOTES ON DALMATIA.

(BY OUR ZAGREB CORRESPONDENT.)

ZAGREB, May 5.

In the gulf between the rocky promontory of Istria and the Croatian coast, nearly opposite Fiume, there is an irregular island which has been referred to often enough in the Press recently, for it has been occupied by Italian troops since the break-up of Austria. Its Italian name, by which it is best known in Europe, is Veglia, but the real name is Krk. For it is a purely Croatian island, and all the inhabitants are Yugoslavs. This picturesque place has an area of about 450 square kilometres, and its rocky coasts are indented, to afford useful harbours to its sea-faring population. It is, however, less rocky and mountainous than its neighbour, Cres, or Cherso, which has remained under Italian domination. Its rolling hills are covered with woods, meadows and vineyards. There are about 25,000 inhabitants, without exception Croats: only in the chief town Krk, from which the island takes its name, is Italian spoken, an inheritance from the days of Venetian possession.

In the days of ancient Rome this town was called Curicta, which the Slav colonists converted into Krk. In the village of Bashka, on the eastern coast, there is preserved an ancient inscription in the Glagolitic characters, which is one of the oldest of Croatian antiquities. It relates how in the year 1100 King Zvonimir visited the island. Years later the island fell under the sway of Venice, but as the Venetian power fluctuated the family of Frankopani became all-powerful. Their ancient castle is still to be seen at Vrbnik. But in 1480 Matthias Corvin, King of Hungary, sent an expedition to overthrow the Frankopani, who appealed to Venice for protection. The artful Venetians advised him to come to them for refuge, and took care not to let him return. Thereafter, Venice held the island until the fall of the republic in 1797. From that date it has belonged not to Hungary-Croatia, but to Austria, and was treated for administrative purposes together with Istria.

The island is very rich in antiquities, especially in the old Croatian Glagolitic literature, and has preserved so many ancient customs and dialects, that it is a veritable gold mine, and almost virgin ground, too, for the antiquary and the folk-lore student. For four and a-half centuries the natives have been cut off from their fellow Slavs, and only last week were they restored to the fold, when the Yugoslav civil and military authorities formally took possession of Krk, amid the rejoicings of the inhabitants.

The quaint and picturesque old towns of Dalmatia, and the pretty islands are mostly known to Europe through their Italian names, since most of them were held for many years by Venice. But the people are essentially Slav, and Italian is known in the towns only. Zadar or Zara is the most Italianised of all, and the farther south one goes, the fainter is Italian influence. The beautiful city of Dubrovnik, or Ragusa, was never under Venice, but a haughty rival, as an independent republic of patricians, those trading vessels, known as Ragosies, whence, by metathesis, Argosies, penetrated to London, with silks and spices from the East.

With the exception of a few, the islands and coast are once more joined to their Slavonic mainland, and henceforward will be known by their correct names, so the following vocabulary is offered for the benefit of the bewildered reader:—

First, Fiume, which, of course means river, is known in Slav by the native word Rijeka. The big island facing it is Veglia in Italian, but Krk in Slav. Its neighbour Cherso is Cres, and Arbe is Rab. Only Pago is the same in both tongues. Pretty Loshinj is better known as Lussin in Italian. Opposite Zadar or Zara is the long slender island of Dugi Otok, or Long Island, which is known in Italian as Lunga. Spalato, from Diocletian's old palatium, is corrupted in Slav into Split or Splijet (pronounced Spleejet). The Italian Lesina in Slav is Hvar; Curzola is Korčula; Busi is Bishevo. Meleda is Mljet and Lagosta is Lastovo, that is, the Crayfish turned to the Swallow Island. The long, straggling peninsula of Sabioncello, where the jackal is said to survive, is Pelješats. Ragusa, the lovely, is already well known as Dubrovnik, the grove of oaks; that is to say, while its port Gravosa is Gruz, the hamlet of Ragusa Vecchia, the original mother-colony, is Cavtat (Tsavtat). In the Boke Kotorske or Bocche di Cattaro, Castel Nuovo is Erceg Novi, and Cattaro is Kotor. Further south, where foreigners rarely penetrate, Budua is little altered to Budva, a quaint little walled city well worth a visit. On the Montenegrin coast, the two Albanian villages of Bar and Ulcinj are better known under their Venetian names of Antivari and Dulcigno. Beyond that point are the mouths of the Boyana, and the wilds of Albania, with its own special problems.

A hundred years ago there were French troops in Yugoslavia—not as mission, nor as allies, but as enemies.

although they politically espoused the national cause even in those early days. It is not generally known that at the battle of Arcola, on November 15, 1790, it was Croat and Serbian troops that opposed Napoleon and compelled the French to make a flanking movement. Bernadotte tried to stir up the Slovenes against Vienna, and issued proclamations to them in their own language, which the Austrian Government had never recognised. On April 2, 1797, Napoleon himself came to Celovats, Klagenfurt, and called upon the Slovenes to rise under his protection. But they were all war-weary, and Napoleon came to terms with the Austrians at Leoben on April 19, by which Austria acquired Istria and Dalmatia. At the end of the month Napoleon left Liubliana for Italy, and Bernadotte handed over to Austria the Slovene districts of Krain, Korushka and Goritz, most of which is Italian to-day.

By the Treaty of Pressburg of 1805, Austria handed over to France Dalmatia, the Bocche di Cattaro, Istria without Trieste and a part of Croatia; so Serbs, Croats and Slovenes fell under the French sceptre. But this brought the French into conflict with other enemies. The natives offered a fair amount of resistance, but they reached Zadar late in January. This caused great uneasiness at Dubrovnik, where the patricians were divided into two parties—those who were in favour of maintaining their immemorial neutrality and the pro-French party. They fortified the town, however, while further south the Montenegrins, assisted by a detachment of Russians, got ready to oppose the French advance. General Lauriston arrived before the gates of Dubrovnik on May 27, and promised to respect the liberties and traditions of the republic. Resistance was useless, and the French troops quietly took possession, in the name of Napoleon, Emperor of France and King of Italy. This caused great stir in the Bocche; and a Russo-Montenegrin army, under Prince Viazemsky and Vladika Peter II., the great poet and soldier, marched to avenge the breach of the neutrality of Dubrovnik. The force consisted of 3,500 Montenegrins and 1,200 Russians. On June 3 they beat the French at Tsavtat, compelling them to withdraw behind the fortifications of Dubrovnik. The Montenegrins occupied the heights round the town, and the Russian fleet blockaded from the sea. The French were 7,000 strong, but were in an uncomfortable position, and it looked as though they must surrender the town, when reinforcements arrived and attacked the Montenegrins in the rear. Vladika Peter had a narrow escape of being captured, and was compelled to retire with his men to Gruz, where the Russians re-embarked and the Montenegrins withdrew to the heights of Kanavle. The Russians destroyed the shipbuilding yard where the Ragusans for centuries had built their famous "argosies," and all the villages around were in flames. Thus Dubrovnik lost its immemorial freedom, which it had defended successfully against Turks and Venetians alike, and became a French possession, and Marmont became Duc de Raguse.

Late in August news came through to Cettigne that the Tsar had not ratified the Peace concluded at Paris, and hostilities were resumed. The Vladika collected a force of about 6,000 Montenegrins, and Bokelj and Admiral Senjanin had about 3,000 Russians. Fierce fighting took place round Erceg Novi and up the coast, and the French were obliged to withdraw to Tsavtat (Ragusa Vecchia), where they fortified themselves. After some delay, both sides received reinforcements, and a fearful battle took place near Novi. It was a desperate hand-to-hand struggle, and the French, in spite of their bravery, could not hold out against the fury of the stalwart mountaineers. The battle raged till midnight, and at dawn the French withdrew to Tsavtat, pursued and harassed by the Slavs. Thus the Montenegrins defended the Bocche successfully against the might of Napoleon.

There was another diminutive statelet, Poljica, which fell a victim like its bigger brother, Dubrovnik. Its freedom had been granted by the old Croatian kings, and respected

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even by the Venetians and Austrians, but not by the French. The natives rose. Admiral Senjanin landed 500 Russian marines to help, but to no avail. The French suppressed this revolt savagely, and Poljica lost its independence.

In 1806 there was plenty of fighting between the French and Turks on one side, and Russians and Montenegrins on the other, in Montenegro and Herzegovina. There was fighting at Nikshitch, which was then Turkish, for it was not incorporated into Montenegro till the Berlin Treaty, at Trebinje. At last, in 1807, peace between France and Russia was concluded, by which the Tsar gave the Bocche to the French, and withdrew his fleet from the Adriatic. The news came like a thunderbolt to the sturdy Montenegrins and Bokelji, who had fought so hard for their freedom, only to be betrayed by the Tsar. The former withdrew to their mountain fastnesses, and on August 10, Marmont entered the Bocche and proclaimed it French territory.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

—OMAR KHAYYAM.

My recent reference to quaint epitaphs at home and abroad has brought me some more samples, and I cannot resist the temptation to quote a couple. The first comes (I am told) from a tomb in Winchcombe Church, Worcestershire, and is as follows:—

Beneath this stone securely fixed
Lies Mary, third wife of Samuel Dann.
She's gone to Heav'n inextricably mixed
With pieces of Jane and Mary Ann.

The other specimen I regard as "doubtful," even though it reaches me through a channel that should be above suspicion; for my informant is unable to say what part of the country it hails from, though he is sure it is genuine. Judge for yourselves:—

Here reposes Sarah Bowder,
Who died while taking a seidlitz powder.
If she had been more self-possessed,
She'd have waited until it effervesced.

It is almost as bad as the one about the lady and her three daughters who lie in some sort of vaults as a result of taking certain waters instead of Epsom salts; and though it may be regarded as instructive, it has not the fine human note that I seem to detect about the one composed (I feel sure) by Samuel Dann himself.

The animals of the Near East have been much in the public eye of late. The Zoo has had some notable additions, in the pair of gazelles sent home by Sir Percy Cox; and the papers have given us details about them and their past which for my part I have found at least as interesting as the particulars of footlight favourites and "cinema stars," which take up so much space these days. And now, I see, the dear old Chu Chin Chow camel has achieved fame by the none-too-easy method of frightening a coal-cart horse. Horses are nervous things, no doubt, but it seems to me that dragging a ton or so of coal about the slippery London streets generally knocks all the spirit of "shy" out of any horse. Yet, when the Chu Chin Chow's camel appeared suddenly in Charles Street, Regent Street, a horse drawing a coal cart shied at it, and to such effect as to cause damage to the extent of over £30 to a passing taxi. The matter went to the courts, and the judge found that there was no negligence on the part of the humped-one's owner, and therefore there were no damages. "Everyone," said the learned judge, "knew that horses did not like the smell or the sight of camels"; and though the statement was perhaps rather too sweeping, it was doubtless right in the main. The judge added that horses probably objected to the smell more than the sight. Are not these personal remarks just a trifle unkind? As to their truth, I certainly shall not dispute that.

CORSAIR.

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL WORK IN AFRICA.

Doctor J. B. Christopherson, C.B.E., writing in the May issue of *Central Africa*, the journal of the Universities Mission to Central Africa, on the medical work at Magila, a mission station in the northern part of Tanganyika territory (late G.E.A.), states that 200 out-patients are daily seen at this hospital, consisting chiefly of ankylostoma (hook-worm), bilharzia, yaws, malaria, dysentery, relapsing fever, and he urges that such work should be supported by Government funds, as the mission requires assistance for its medical work, in view of the fact that the Government is not able to provide sufficient doctors to cope with the disease amongst the native population of Central Africa. In support of his demand for Government help, he says that

most tropical diseases are curable—many could be stamped out—that tropical countries will not prosper until they are made habitable for everyone—black and white—and that in this respect the doctor is the only modern "pioneer of civilisation," and only he can pave the way for trade and commerce. The labour question—the pressing problem all over the African continent—will have to be solved by Africa itself owing to racial difficulties. At present natives cannot be moved about from one place to another without transferring their maladies and infecting new places. The natives must be made mobile by being made healthy. Medical science, in fact, offers the only adequate means of solving the great African "labour question." Therefore, public health work should be the first charge on Government funds in tropical Africa.

Although governments only can attack disease in the tropics on a scale sufficiently large to meet with success, not a single government in Africa attacked the health problem with thoroughness, and so none get the great results they might.

He advocates the free issue by the Government of quinine and paraffin to all persons suffering from malaria in all malarious districts in the tropics, the free distribution of quinine and paraffin to the Universities Mission for its public health work; also the stocking at the hospital at Magila of standard remedies for the treatment of yaws, ankylostoma, bilharzia, dysentery, smallpox, and other prevalent and disabling maladies, for use in the interests of the natives on the Government behalf; all such diseases should receive free and compulsory treatment in Africa. He says that Government doctors in Tropical Africa are engaged chiefly to look after the health of Government officials, whereas the natives should receive more attention—if the real interests of the country were adequately considered. Governments should make use of all resources in their power, including any help the missionaries can give, to improve the health of the native, if any impression is to be made on the frightful diseases of Tropical Africa.

The above recommendations appear to be fitting and timely, for we have heard of Governments who will not permit persons not having recognised professional qualifications from dispensing and dealing with remedies. This is unfortunate for some of the U.M.C.A. stations in Central Africa, whose nurses have been doing useful medical work, and who, from the nature of things, are often unsupervised by a doctor. An exception should be made in the case of this regulation, no doubt intended to stop the work of the charlatan and the quack, in order that it may not stop also really useful medical work being done by mission nurses and other intelligentsia.

During the war nurses were authorised in the surgical units at the front to give chloroform, and there is no reason whatever why experienced nurses should not dispense well-known and routine remedies when doctors are not available in Central Africa.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Conditions in Bulgaria.

In the speech recently made by M. Bouroff, a former Minister of Finance, a report of which appears on another page, one seems to detect a new note in Bulgarian political criticism. Principles and policies are more emphasised than personalities. In a small country with nine political parties it is difficult for leaders to get away from the Codlin-Short form of controversy. M. Bouroff urged that there should be no political parties in Bulgaria to-day, but that the whole nation should combine on democratic lines and stand for freedom of individuality, of work, and of personal rights. M. Bouroff is exercised in mind over the Consortium, which has certainly a considerable amount of criticism to answer, as it is credited by its opponents with having lost the country anything up to two milliards of levas, what with loss of price and the spoiling of the grain. But as the subject is being investigated by the Reparations Commission, we may expect shortly to know the facts of the matter.

Oil Coming into its Own.

Developments during the last week or so leave no doubt that the strike has indelibly impressed upon the business community the necessity of having another fuel at its disposal, and the result is that one principal consequence of the miners' movement will have been to precipitate the oil age. It was inevitable, but without industrial troubles coal would probably have reigned supreme for a number of years yet. It is not now in danger of absolute dethronement, since for household purposes people will have no choice but to continue looking to the mines for their supplies, but very soon it will be a dual kingship, with oil as the predominant partner, if, as will probably be the case, seeing that this fuel is cheaper and easier to use, it is adopted for practically all commercial purposes. We can only hope in the circumstances that Great Britain's good fortune in the past will continue, and that the opening of the oil age will be heralded by the discovery of really important oilfields in this country, since the prospect that in the years to come the demand for coal abroad will dwindle as oil comes into its own is serious enough, without the added handicap of having to obtain our oil supplies from overseas.

Meaning to Oil Industry.

To the oil industry the dawn of the age means, of course, everything. It seems strange now that only last year the question of finding markets for the ever-increasing output of oil was raised. To-day the boot is on the other leg, and instead of the fear that supply is outpacing demand there seems valid ground for apprehension that in the immediate future demand may temporarily outstrip supply. One imagines that the great change in the outlook will give a great stimulus to the development of the oil resources of Roumania, Bulgaria, and other Near-Eastern centres. Transport has been, and still is, unfortunately, a retarding influence in Roumania, but it is improving steadily, if not so rapidly as might have been hoped, and it should not be long now before Roumania again takes her place among the great oil exporting countries of the world. As I have had occasion to remark before, the Near Eastern exchanges afford a most unreliable index of the economic positions of the various countries, and Roumania's, with her great oil resources, but with the leu at about 215 for sterling, is surely the most absurd illustration of all.

A Possible Consequence.

Great changes usually leave their mark on a country, and it may be anticipated that the substitution of oil for coal in industry will have some interesting social consequences. There will almost certainly be a change in the distribution of the industrial population of the country, perhaps not pronounced for some years, but the tendency will be there all the same for those who look for these things. The industrial revolution of the last century swept the workers into factories in the Midlands and the North in close proximity to the minefields. As oil has to be brought by sea, is it not probable, unless we develop unsuspected resources here, that the trend of industry will be to the south and south-west coasts, or to centres elsewhere in close proximity to ports, with a view to reducing transport costs? One does not care to think of thriving industrial centres

in the south, but, of course, there is this to be remembered, that the oil city to come will not be the smoky place that the mind instinctively pictures when the word "industry" is mentioned.

The Falling Drachma.

The movements of the Greek exchange provided the outstanding feature of the foreign exchange market last week. Ever since the changed régime in Greece, Greek exchange has steadily depreciated, but last week a sharp fall took place, the rate going out to 86 drachmæ. Subsequently, there was a sharp reaction, presumably the result of the control that has been introduced with the object, it is stated, of checking speculation in exchange. No doubt speculation has had much to do with the fluctuations in the drachmæ, but the main cause is to be found in recent political developments, and the depreciation may be taken to indicate the disquiet felt at the country's general financial and economic position.

The Ter Meulen Scheme—

From the details of the Ter Meulen scheme for the restoration of trade with impoverished countries, which are set out in another column, it will be seen that it is well suited to achieve its object. There is, however, the very serious drawback that its utilisation depends entirely on whether or not the countries it is designed to help will make use of it. It is not probable that the Governments concerned will take action unless they are convinced that there is an internal demand for the scheme, and we are therefore, faced with the prospect that it may be shelved indefinitely pending a strong movement on the part of the national traders. That is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs, because world commerce cannot go on in its present state for long without there being a great danger of very serious consequences; and emphatically the need of the moment is that an export credits scheme should be put into immediate operation. Traders are simply not in a position to wait while Governments are making up their minds to sacrifice temporarily a part of their revenues in order to obtain an issue of bonds.

—And the League.

As pointed out in the review of the scheme, British business men can contribute to insuring its adoption by impressing on importers in foreign countries, who are unable to obtain the credits they desire by other means, that the scheme offers the best prospect of the required facilities. Admittedly, any pressure of that kind would be useful, but such a campaign is likely to take some time to mature. It is now many months since the League of Nations officially sponsored the scheme, and I assume that efforts have been made by that body to insure the co-operation of the countries concerned. It is, or should be, able to speak with peculiar authority on this matter, and if it has not been able to arrange for the utilisation of the scheme, then all that can be said is that it would have been better to have left the matter alone. But, as I have said, I take it for granted that the necessary steps have been taken, and that it will not be long before bonds have been allotted to a number of countries.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, April 27.

Price of Bread.

The price of bread and flour is still fixed by the State, and new rates have just been issued which, however, represent a very slight modification of those ruling up till now. The price of white flour is to be 4.50 per kilo, and of brown flour 2.50 per kilo. The price of the brown bread usually eaten by the working classes is to be 2.25 per kilo, as against 25 bani before the war. The new price of the fine white loaf, known as "franzela," and resembling a Vienna roll, is 2.50 lei, as against 20 bani before the war, i.e., twelve and a-half times the pre-war price.

BUCHAREST, May 4.

Roumanian Industries Fair.

The Council of Ministers has approved a proposal put forward by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce that a fair should be organised for the exhibition of samples of Roumanian industrial products. The fair is to be held in the Carol Park, and will be opened on August 14. Foreign goods will not be exhibited. M. Manoilescu, Director-General of Industry, has been appointed "Commissaire Général" of the fair, which it is proposed to make an annual event.

Treasury Bonds.

The Government have approved the decision of M. Titulescu, Minister of Finance, that no more Treasury Bonds should be issued except in Roumanian lei. One appreciates the wisdom of this measure on reading that on March 1 there were Treasury Bonds in circulation issued in various currencies which at the present rate of exchange amount to 18,255.4 million lei.

Exports in 1920.

The export figures for 1920, which have now been published by the Bureau of Statistics, show that Roumania's exports amounted in value to over two and a-half milliards of lei. The total grain exports of rather under 930,000 tons (metric) represent less than half the grain exports in pre-war years, which ranged from two to three million tons. The total petroleum exports amounted to about 246 thousand tons, which is a great improvement upon the 1919 figure, but still far below the normal. The petroleum production in 1920 was over one million tons, as against an average of nearly two million in the three years 1913-1915. Less than half of that was used for home consumption, so there would appear to be a certain surplus left for exportation; but the very imperfect transport arrangements are still a great handicap, and production has to be limited for lack of storage room.

General News.

The Roumanian delegation to the conference at Revel leaves Bucharest to-day. It is headed by M. Filalitty.

It is stated that during the first fortnight in April the sales of the factories of the State Monopolies situated in Moldavia, Bucovina and Bessarabia amounted in value to 38 million lei. The monopolies include tobacco, salt and matches.

A company has just been founded in Arad for the manufacture of locomotives, railway carriages, dynamos, motors,

etc., with a capital of 75 million lei, of which M. Camille Costagliani, of Vienna, has subscribed 50 millions.

An agreement has been made by the Roumanian Government Commissioner for private railways with the representatives of Budapest societies possessing private lines in Transylvania. It has been decided that all these societies shall be registered with the Roumanian authorities, and that their contracts with the Hungarian Railways will be renewed with the *Căile Ferate Române*. A Roumanian Railway Commission has been established at Cluj.

It is announced that the bauxite deposits of the Bihor district are about to be bought by a group of Roumanian financiers for 40 million lei.

The Government has been informed by the Roumanian representative with the Inter-Allied Commission at Wiesbaden that several locomotives have been discovered which were removed from Roumania by the Germans during their occupation of Wallachia, and it is hoped that they will soon be restored to Roumania. In spite of the various contracts placed abroad for locomotives very few have yet been delivered, and still fewer have been put into working order. All the same, the transport situation has slightly improved during the last few months.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, April 30.

M. Bourroff on the Outlook.

M. Bourroff, ex-Minister of Finance, made an important speech at the Renaissance Theatre, Sofia, on April 17, in the course of which he reviewed the present political and economic situation of Bulgaria. He commenced by referring to the attitude of the Allies towards Bulgaria. "Whatever we do," he declared, "is wrong, though the Agrarian Government has done its best to demonstrate to the Allies its loyal intentions and its wishes to fulfil the obligations imposed upon the country by the Peace Treaty." Until now, the speaker went on, these efforts had been fruitless, and even the visits of M. Stambolisky and other Ministers to Europe had not achieved any success.

He took a very gloomy view of the economic situation, pointing out one by one the downfall of the various industries caused by the policy of the Government. Taking first the "flour industry" he said that until two years ago Constantinople was the Bulgarian market; but now it was the United States that sent flour there. Twice as much alcohol as was required for local needs was produced in Bulgaria, but owing to the export having been forbidden, factories were stopping production. The same applied to eggs, and the tax of 10-12 levas a kilo on tobacco, which was ruling last year, caused the foreign market to be lost with resulting damage brought upon a great national industry. Then again, as regards raw leather, which Bulgaria had in plenty, prices in Europe were high, but the export was stopped, and now when the restrictions have been removed prices in Europe had fallen, and by this alone 150 million levas were lost to the country.

The speaker then proceeded to deal with the Consortium, which he described as the worst of all the evils. It was first created in order to supersede the Government monopoly of wheat, which existed during the war, and it was also intended to increase the value of the leva. It was successful at the outset, with the assistance of the wheat merchants, but after a time it began to be a burden on the country, and up to April 15, 1921, the Consortium had only been able to obtain 54 million kilograms of wheat from two harvests, which represented about a third of the amount collected before. Then the price of wheat during the past seven or eight months had fallen as much as 60 per cent., and the leva also had fallen heavily. From this Bulgaria and the producers of wheat were losing milliards, but the Government said that the nation would bear the losses, but here, said M. Bourroff, came the point: "Who are the nation? Are they not the very same producers?"

"I am asked," M. Bourroff went on, "when the cost of living in Bulgaria will fall; this can only happen when there is more production, less consumption, and large and well-organised exportation. If these three things come to pass the leva will rise and there will be a corresponding fall in the cost of living. It is not important how many levas you get for your production or your work, but it is important what international value the paper currency will have."

Speaking of the Budget, M. Bourroff said that the deficit of this and last year's Budget, together with the different

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credits, amounted to two milliards of levas, and it would be noticed that not a leva had been put aside for the paying of the indemnity. This deficit was equal to the whole capital of the country, and they could not raise themselves from the mire that they were in if the Government continued their present policy, which did not allow of a safe guarantee for capital. The citizens knew that the burden was heavy, and realised that while the country was becoming poor they were also individually becoming poor. "They recognise that they must pay," he continued, "but the payment must be righteously made; the measure which was brought forward to tax the whole population according to their incomes and their belongings should have been passed. The country is dissatisfied, and the fact that at the last election 180,000 votes were cast for communism is a proof of this dissatisfaction."

Turning to the political situation, M. Bouroff said that there were only two possible policies—firstly, the policy of personal property, which ensured the surety of the person, the work, and the capital, while the Government kept the control for national solidarity and justice; secondly, there was the policy of communism, by which the Government took all means of production into its own hands and everyone had to work for the whole in order to gain a bare living. The first policy would create progress, the second would create nothing. They had only to regard the tragic plight of Russia to see the truth of the latter statement. "But what is the policy of the Agrarian Government? It is neither the one nor the other; it is aimless, and only destroys without creating." In conclusion, M. Bouroff said that there must be no political parties in Bulgaria today, and that the only hope of prosperity lay in the alliance of democracy and the bourgeois, and by the word "bourgeois" he understood every Bulgarian who was for the freedom of individuality, of work, and of personal rights.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, May 5.

General News.

The repairs of the Save bridge at Belgrade are at last finished, and the familiar old structure has again resumed its pre-war aspect, after having been blown up and repaired nearly half-a-dozen times during the past seven years.

The Ministry of Trade and Commerce has decided to take active steps to encourage industry in the country. The

Government will promote the foundation of works for handling the various raw materials of which the country possesses such large supplies, and will grant credits for this purpose. A scheme is being worked out in detail by the Ministry for the approval of the Cabinet.

It has been decided to place substantial orders for heavy locomotives in America, and for trucks in France and Belgium.

Immigrants into Yugoslavia will in future be able to bring in their personal and household property free of duty. There will, of course, be the necessary formalities to complete, as well as the necessary permission to immigrate.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, April 25.

Crop Prospects.

The barley harvest, regarding which there had been great anxiety, has begun in all the most forward parts of the island. Fortunately, the late good rains came just in time to save the crops. Wheat, some of which is backward, is also doing well in consequence, but more rain is required. The cereal harvest in general, including oats and vetches, should be on the whole satisfactory. Prices for carobs remain at 20s. to 21s. the kantar (£4 9s. to £4 13s. the ton). Wine fetches 20s. to 25s. the "load" (about 8d. to 10d. the gallon), oil, 22 piastres (2s. 5d. the litre), barley, 3s. a bushel. The general outlook is now favourable for all produce.

The Roumanian Ministry of Finance has announced its decision to reduce the export taxes on the oil industry. The new taxes, which only await the sanction of the Cabinet, are to be as follows:—Light benzine, 6,000, plus 1,000 lei commission per car; heavy benzine, 5,200, plus 800 lei commission; lamp oil, 2,000, plus 300 lei commission; gasoline, 2,800, plus 500 lei commission; heavy oil, 7,000, plus 1,000 lei commission.

The Sudan Government Railways has issued a leaflet describing the route between Egypt, the Sudan, and Uganda and British East Africa. The route is from Cairo to Khartoum by rail, from Khartoum to Rejaf by steamer, from Rejaf to Nimule by road, and thence on via Butiaba, Masindi, Masindi Port, Namasagali to Jinja, whence the journey is performed by steamers of the Uganda Marine and by the Uganda Railways to Nairobi and Mombasa.

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TRADE AND THE EXCHANGES.

THE TER MEULEN SCHEME.

"International Credits," a little brochure just issued by the International Credits Office of the League of Nations, gives a practical exposition of the Ter Meulen export credits scheme, which has been approved by the League as providing a satisfactory remedy for the handicap to trade created by the present position of the foreign exchanges.

It needs no demonstration that the use of artificial expedients for the restoration of trade and industry lays itself open to serious objections. Unfortunately, the circumstances of the times leave no option in this respect. At the end of the war the world was left in the position of a patient rallying into convalescence after a terrible fever. Since November, 1918, thirty months have passed, and while the patient has improved the progress has been far too slow, and it is clear that more drastic treatment is required if the process of recuperation is to be hastened, and the danger of serious complications avoided. This was clearly recognised by the Brussels Financial Conference, and the special Credits Committee appointed by this body to consider the problem of international credits unanimously recommended to the Conference the scheme of M Ter Meulen, of Messrs. Hope and Co., Amsterdam. Following its approval it was decided to appoint an organiser to:—

1. Prepare a constitution for the international Commission;
2. Work out the details of the scheme in all its bearings, including the preparation, with legal advice where necessary, of forms of bonds, pledges, etc.;
3. Consider how far the scheme can be worked in conjunction with services existing in various countries (e.g., Export Credits scheme in the United Kingdom; Edge Act in U.S.A.);
4. Make inquiries as to how far borrowing countries are likely to avail themselves of the scheme; and
5. Advise the executive organisations likely to be required, with an estimate of the cost thereof, which, if the scheme eventually becomes effective, should be covered out of the proceeds of reasonable charges for commission.

The Scheme Explained.

The "Ter Meulen" scheme, it is emphasised, is not a panacea for all the troubles of the time, but is, in brief, an attempt to assist traders in impoverished countries to import on credit, so as to re-establish industry and revive trade. It is proposed to do this by the provision of a special form of security to reinforce the credit of importers. The Government of an impoverished country will give particulars to the International Financial Commission, which is to be formed by the League, of the national assets which it is willing to pledge as security for credits granted to its traders. It will be the duty of the Commission to decide the gold value of these assets, and then to authorize the country concerned to issue Government bonds up to that value. The Government can then lend these bonds to its traders for use as security in order to obtain credit from traders in other countries.

From the above it will be seen that the scheme is in no way a complicated affair; on the contrary, it is simplicity personified, and is so framed as to serve the needs of the most impoverished country. Every State has at its disposal some revenue-producing assets, such, for instance, as customs duties or monopolies, which can be given a gold value. The amount of the bonds to be issued will, of course, not exceed that value, and the revenues arising from the pledged securities will be paid to the Commission. There is, therefore, every justification for the hope that traders will recognise the bonds, which will probably be redeemable in from five to ten years, as valuable security and grant credits on them.

Stress is laid on the point that the utilisation of the scheme will not involve any real alteration in the normal course of business. Terms will be arranged between the importer and the exporter in the usual way, and the importer will then borrow from his Government, for whatever term for which he has obtained credit, the requisite amount of bonds that he has to deposit as security. On the completion of the transaction, that is, when the importer has made payment in full on the expiry of the credit period, the bonds will be returned to him, and he will hand them back to his Government for cancellation, when the security which stood behind them will be available for further issues of bonds to the same amount. Should there be default, however, the exporter detains the bonds, and has the choice of either keeping them as an investment or selling them and paying himself out of the proceeds of the sale. In the event of his deciding to sell the bonds must be offered first to the issuing Government for redemption by meeting in full the exporter's claim. Should the Government decline to do this then the bonds can be sold in the open market, any balance accruing above the claim going to the issuing Government, while should the bonds realise less than the

required amount the exporter will have a claim for the deficiency against the importer.

Such, in short, is the method by which the scheme will operate. It may not be perfect, but it would, at any rate, appear to provide a suitable method of getting over the difficulty of the exchanges, and the result of its adoption, it is justly pointed out, should be "a process of gradually increasing improvement, which will soon bring a return of conditions in which industry and commerce will be possible without any abnormal assistance." There will be, therefore, it may be hoped, no unnecessary delay in bringing it into operation. Unfortunately, unlike the new export credits scheme which our Government are proposing to introduce, the Ter Meulen scheme cannot be made available at a moment's notice, for the very good reason that it is not a matter for a single authority. The League of Nations has sponsored it, but its utilisation depends entirely on the willingness of the Governments of the countries concerned to apply for an issue of bonds. Pending this action, nothing can be done. The most effective way of bringing the scheme into effect will be by the development of a demand in importing countries for an issue of bonds, and exporters here can play their part in stimulating such a demand by impressing upon their would-be customers that the scheme provides the best method of obtaining the desired facilities on reasonable terms.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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Prices on April 28 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4½; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 9-16; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £3; Associated Cotton Ginners, £4; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 59; Behera Ord., £E8; Behera Priv., £3 3-16; Bonded Stores, £9 15-16; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 115; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16; Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 102 ex; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt. 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 7,700 ex; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 589; Credit Foncier 1885 Oblig., Fr. 328; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 235½; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 229; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 75; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 100; Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord., 27s. 7½d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4½; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £11; Gabbari Lands, £½; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5 1-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2½; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £4 17-32; Kom Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £35; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turc, Fr. 43; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 274 ex; Nungovich Hotels, £6 15-16; Ramlah Railway, £1½; Salt and Soda, 27s. 4½d.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 40; Tram. d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 52; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2½; Egypt Hotels, £2 3-64; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachma to £	25-22½	65-00-75-00
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25-22½	133-138
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1-3-½-1-3-½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25-22½	225-235
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1-3-½-1-3-½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	503-523
New York	Dollars to £	4-86½	3-99-4-00
Paris	Francs to £	25-22½	47-50-48-00
Prague	Kronen to £	24-02	275-290
Rome	Lire to £	25-22½	73-50-76-00
Sofia	Levas to £	25-22½	318
Teheran	Krans to £	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £	24-02	1,700-1,800
Warsaw	Marks to £	20-43	3,200-3,400

In some cases quotations are nominal.

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THE BULGARIAN EXCHANGE IN 1920.

INCUBUS OF THE CONSORTIUM.

The Sofia Stock Exchange has recently published a small brochure on the foreign exchange situation in Bulgaria during 1920, of which the following is a *résumé* of the more significant passages.

The State Budget was voted with a deficit of 340 million leva, which probably will be twice as large in reality in spite of economies effected in expenditure. The regulation of imports and exports seems to have been carried out without any organised system, as it is reported that the export of various goods was not permitted at the proper time when export could have been organised, but was allowed only when markets and prices abroad had become unfavourable. On the other hand, imports were under a vacillating régime, which had an unfavourable effect until free imports were allowed, with the exception of those goods mentioned in the law of 1918. The number of exportable goods from which currency could have been obtained for the payment of increased imports was not, however, increased.

While matters were considerably quieter in Bulgaria during 1920 than in the previous year, yet internal, fiscal, social, and economic measures increased the paralysis in production, exchange, and credit, and caused a greater demand for foreign currency, etc., which reacted unfavourably on the exchange rates. In conjunction with this, the increased fiduciary circulation also had its disadvantageous effect.

The Sofia exchange market was especially under the influence of the law for the Centrale des Devises and the Consortium for the export of cereals. This law was partly abolished on May 15, 1920, but the regulation requiring one-third of exchange on exports remains in force. While this was a necessary measure at that time, it now seems to be desirable that the whole of the exchange from exports should be freed.

The Consortium has had, and still has, a very important effect on the state of the exchange. Created originally for one year, it was prolonged, although it had apparently failed to justify the great expectations entertained with regard to it. At the end of June, and especially during July, of last year it became obvious that this method was impractical, that it was hampering export at a time when a large surplus of various kinds of cereals remained unexported and an abundant harvest had still to be gathered.

In anticipation of the eventual freeing of the export of cereals—a freedom which would cause the maximum amount of cereals to be exported in the least time—the value of the leva rapidly improved during July. In a few days very favourable changes took place. For instance, the Sofia Bourse quoted exchange on London as follows:—June 3, 263; June 15, 257; July 8, 190; July 15, 178; August 3, 189; December 30, 324. Notwithstanding this, the export of cereals was and is still controlled by the Consortium. Cereals represent 75 per cent. of the country's normal exports, and without this export equilibrium is impossible. Withdrawn from the international commercial balance, no improvement in the currency could be expected, and the exchange rate once more took the upward path and still continues to do so.

The opinion held in Bulgarian commercial circles is that the Consortium method of export as at present organised cannot improve the currency, as the cereals are bought from the producers at fixed prices, and by the time they are reaped, sorted, stored, and loaded they are burdened with expenses which are essentially inflexible. If the international price of cereals falls, it is necessary, in order to cover the first (purchase) price and subsequent expenses, to increase the exchange rate—i.e., for the same or reduced prices in foreign currency more Bulgarian leva must be obtained by exchanging them at a higher rate. Owing to the fact that the Consortium holds three-quarters of the country's exportable commodities, it is in a position to dictate the exchange rates on account of its privileged position.

The creation of the Consortium, together with the results given, go to show that the grouping of any part of economic life in an artificial manner reflects unfavourably on the economic life. It is unnecessary to point out how such an organised export paralyses exports in general, discourages production, decreases consumption, hampers internal and external trade, affects the budget and credit system, and introduces into the complex economic system unknown factors which kill all enterprise.

The need for foreign currency is growing in Bulgaria. The course of exchange was especially noticeable during July last, due to the reasons already explained, and also during the month of November, when a tendency was observed towards fresh correlation of all currencies abroad. During the whole time, however, bourse transactions only took place on a cash basis.

PAPER-PULP SUPPLIES FROM INDIA.

An interesting paper was read before the Royal Society of Arts recently on this subject by Mr. William Raitt, F.C.S., cellulose expert to the Government of India.

In 1913 the world's consumption of paper was estimated, said Mr. Raitt, at ten million tons annually, increasing at the rate of 25 per cent. every ten years. It must be now nearly twelve millions, or would be if the supplies were available. Of this about 80 per cent. was produced from wood—coniferous wood and preferably spruce. In 1913, although there had been a slow but gradual appreciation of values during the previous ten years, it was still possible to deliver chemically prepared pulp in this country at £9 to £10, and mechanically prepared, or ground wood pulp, at £5 10s. to £6 per dry ton, and newsprint paper could be produced for a penny per pound. Now values were four to five times these figures. The causes stated in order of their importance from lesser to greater were these:—(a) The slow but gradual rise of values in pulp and all that it depended upon dating from the period of lowest prices about fifteen years ago. During the war this was, by reason of controls, restrictions and reduced consumption, more or less in suspense, but had now fallen on the industry with five years' cumulative effect. (b) The universal appreciation in value of timber for constructional purposes. The sawmill was now a better market than the pulp factory. (c) Effects of the war in permanently increased costs for labour, freights, fuel, and machinery and equipment. (d) The total cessation for six years past of manufacturing expansion. (e) The demand for wood had outrun the supply. The trees would not grow as fast as they were cut.

The last of these was the root cause of the trouble, and was a constantly increasing menace. It did not necessarily imply that the world's stock of timber has been seriously depleted, but it did mean that the forests most favourably situated for exploitation—the areas which produced the penny per pound newsprint—had been largely reduced in productiveness and in many instances destroyed for ever. Expansion in wood-pulp production must seek its supplies at greater distance and increased cost. Notwithstanding this, the new values of pulp, making all allowances for temporary inflation, rendered such expansion abundantly justified. How much greater, therefore, was the justification for the introduction of a material which was one of nature's waste products, which reproduced itself naturally and rapidly, for which no sawmill competed and which offered itself at nature's valuation, which was next door to nothing!

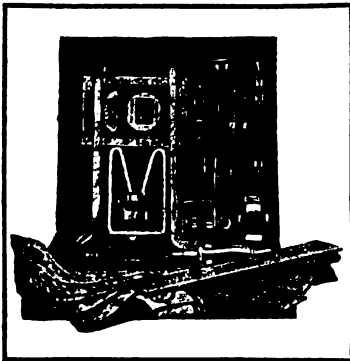
So they asked themselves the question, What could India do to fill the gap which had been created? The answer was, a great deal, though not so much, perhaps, as he sometimes heard assumed. When the threatened shortage of paper supplies began to be agitated, some fifteen years ago, he remembered an eminent scientist issuing what was intended to be a reassuring statement to the effect that "a paper famine was unthinkable, because paper could be made from any vegetable substance, and the world teemed with that." The dictum was seized upon by the Press and circulated round the world, and no doubt brought comfort to many anxious consumers. But, like many other assertions of many other eminent scientists, it was, considered as cold fact, perfectly true, and at the same time, considered as a practical contribution to a difficult problem, perfectly misleading and fallacious. Paper *could* be made from any vegetable substance, but money could not, and the paper-maker had a quite natural reluctance to make paper unless he could transform it into banknotes. But the eminent scientist's utterance gave rise to a whole crop of wild-cat

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proposals to make paper from everything, anything, and sometimes bordering on nothing. Nature, however, was not so fantastically generous as that. He whom she would favour must delve into her secrets slowly, deeply, carefully; hoping all things, proving all things, until finally he could hold fast to that which was good. This had been in essence the principle upon which the investigations of the Indian Forest Research Institute had been carried on. They had thought it more important in the early stages of their proceedings to save people's money than teach them how to make it, for nothing was more fatal to a promising industry than a disastrous failure at its start. At the same time, while paying considerable attention to the how-not-to-do-it programme, they had met with an encouraging success on the positive side. The net result was that so far they had found only two small groups, both belonging to the Gramineae, which were economically sound as regards the quantity and quality of their cellulose and the manufacturing conditions under which they could be exploited. These were bamboos and a few Savannah grasses. But, though few in number, in the aggregate they meant something considerable. It was he thought, a modest estimate to say that from bamboo, taking only that which was available under possible manufacturing conditions, Burma, Bengal, and South-West India could produce ten million tons of pulp per annum, and Assam, from Savannah grasses, three million. India could, therefore, produce pulp for the whole world. Let them consider also the growth conditions under which this was obtainable. To grow a spruce or fir tree to pulp wood size took from forty to sixty years, with the result that a factory which might at its start have its supplies at its back door found these year by year receding into the distance with constantly increasing transport costs. Bamboos and grasses came to maturity as yearly or eighteen monthly growths, and all they had to be careful of was not to reduce the reproductive vigour of the plant by too frequent cropping. With bamboo this might mean a three to five year rotation of cropping, and with grasses two to three years. They must therefore have a sufficient area to exploit to allow of those rest periods; but that only meant that for a ten thousand ton pulp output per annum with average figures for yield and rotation, a 20,000-acre reserve would keep a factory going in perpetuance—a vastly different condition of affairs from those governing a wood pulp insulation which lived on its capital from the start or must adopt a re-afforesting policy, which reacted badly upon costs.

ENGINEERING.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

An Improved Car

Though retaining much the same appearance as its immediate predecessor, the new 1921 Humber differs in one or two respects, and, whilst the general design and arrangement remain much the same, the alterations which have been incorporated are such as will lift the Humber out of the "high average" well into the front rank of British productions.

The new model, for one thing, is of increased power. The engine has now a bore of 68 m.m., with 120 m.m. stroke which gives a cubic capacity of 1,743 cubic c.m., and entitles it to a Treasury rating of 11.4 horse-power. The engine is of the monobloc, single unit type, with clutch and gear, is now fitted with a detachable cylinder head, whilst the valve mechanism and springs are covered with large-sized inspection covers. All this has greatly simplified the work of clearing away carbon deposit and of grinding-in and adjusting valves, and the owner-driver who likes to carry out all his own adjustments and repairs will appreciate the alteration in design. The inlet and exhaust manifolds have been arranged on one side with the carburettor and its attachments, thus giving a good clear space for the fitting of the Lucas single-unit dynamotor and high-tension magneto.

An innovation which will also be appreciated is the use of a new type of silent chain for the magneto drive and for operating the dynamotor, etc. The chain is of larger size than heretofore, thus obviating any risk of stretching, and ensuring long life. All these chains are, of course, completely enclosed.

A point worthy of notice is that aluminium pistons are now used, and the adoption of these, together with the increased bore of the cylinders, has given an added liveliness to the engine and a quickness of acceleration which was never a striking feature of the majority of British light cars. From an engineer's point of view, interest attaches to these aluminium pistons in that they are made with a split skirt which causes the piston to cling to the cylinder walls and at the same time prevents slapping. For some reason unknown to me, the usual arrangement of gudgeon pin and small end appears to be reversed. The gudgeon pin seems

now to be fixed in the little end of the connecting rod to oscillate in bearings machined in the bosses in the piston. I am not clear as to the advantage of this, and shall be glad to hear further concerning it from the firm in order that I may pass the information on to my readers.

The cylinders are thermo-syphon cooled, and the radiator has been raised somewhat, an alteration which certainly adds to the smart appearance of the car. Lubrication is by a gear-driven pump, bolted to the crank-case in a readily accessible position. Oil is drawn from a sump and delivered to troughs, into which the big ends of the connecting rods dip, and, being provided with spoons, throw the oil up to the big end bearings and cylinder walls. The sump has a removable filter, and contains an oil-level gauge which shows at a glance how much oil is in the crank-case.

Transmission is by a propeller shaft with two universal joints, the first of which is of the flexible disc and the second of the enclosed box type. Half elliptic springs, specially long, take the torque, these being anchored at the forward ends inside hollow brackets riveted to the chassis frame and hung on shackles at the ends of a cross member which spans the rear ends of the frame. The side members of this are arched over the back axle, so as to allow of the rise and fall of the chassis and axle.

The body work strikes a very high note, and the four-seater touring body in particular is one of the smartest bodies on the road. The mudguards are well moulded, and the top edges of the body are slightly curved over. A good stream line effect is also obtained. The upholstery is in hand-buffed leather, and the fastenings of the doors are internal, so as not to break the harmonious lines of the body.

Spun Glass Filters.

In connection with the oil industry considerable trouble has been experienced by reason of the quantity of fine sand held in suspension. This is not present, of course, in every oil yield, but where it is it rapidly destroys the working barrels and also the tubings by its pronounced cutting action.

The value of spun glass as a filtering medium has recently been demonstrated by a remarkable series of experiments in which a strainer was constructed in the somewhat rough, but nevertheless highly efficient, manner of taking two pieces of pipe of different diameters and loosely packing the intervening space with spun glass. It is said that the tests were made on the roughest of brown oil and sludges that could be obtained from an oil refinery, and it was found that even the finest portions of sand, and other foreign matters, were eliminated. From a description it seems that the process increased the most minute water globules to the size of a pea, thus making the complete removal of the water a comparatively easy matter.

Glass, of course, is not only extremely hard, its hardness being practically the same as that of sand, but it is also non-corrosive and non-corrodible. Even the finest threads of spun glass possess sufficient strength to span openings of about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, and to clean them all that is required is to sluice the threads with a little petrol or benzene; in fact, any light oil product can be used for the purpose. The experiments have not yet been completed, and details of further results will be awaited with interest.

Austin Output.

In spite of the coal strike, and all other difficulties, this company is turning out more cars than at any previous period in the year. May sales have gone up with a bound, and the call of the motoring public for the "Austin Twenty" is keen and continuous.

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GENERAL
MERCHANDISE

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar.—Home refined is steady. West Indian Crystallised has come to business at 55s. to 58s., but American granulated at 61s. 6d. has lost 1s. Czechoslovakian sold at 32s. Futures are:—June, 25s.; July, 24s. 6d.; August, 20s.; September, 21s. 6d.; October, 19s. 9d.; November, 19s. 3d.; October-December, 19s. 4½d.; December, 18s. 9d.

Coffee.—The market has been unsettled. East Indian good bold colouring is quoted at 108s.; bold grey-greenish at 85s. 6d.; and peaberry at 93s. 6d. to 99s. 6d. Costa Rica, bold to good bold greenish, has come to business at 108s. 6d. to 117s. 6d., and peaberry at 130s. to 145s. Nairobi ordinary bold to good bold greyish is 86s. to 102s. 6d.; medium, 74s. to 80s.; and peaberry, 80s. to 90s. Futures are:—May, 39s. 6d.; July, 39s. 6d.; September, 41s.; December, 41s. 6d.; March, 42s.

Oilseeds.—A firm tone has characterised the market. Indian linseed is unchanged at 17s. Rapeseed has risen, with Toria at 19s. 6d.; bold Ferozepore at 18s. 6d.; and brown Cawnpore at 16s. 6d., a rise of 6d. in each case. Cottonseed is steady, with Bombay unchanged at 10s. 6d., and the Egyptian black variety 3d. lower at 12s. 6d.

Oils.—Unsteadiness has prevailed. Linseed oil has gained 1s. at 29s. Rape oil is higher, with crude at 49s. and refined at 57s.; increases of 3s. in both cases. Refined cotton oil has come to business at 42s. Egyptian crude at 34s. has shed 1s., but deodorised is unaltered at 47s. The price of turpentine has been very irregular during the week, and is now quoted at 90s., which is lower by 15s. than last week.

ROUMANIAN CROPS IN 1920.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 4.

The Statistical Bureau has just published the following figures regarding some of the principal crops in 1920:—

Wheat was sown on an area of 838,536 hectares, as against 1,199,758 in 1919 and 1,900,000 in normal years. The harvest amounted to 623,860 tons, as against 1,319,330 in 1919, and a normal yield of 1,206,340. The average weight per hectolitre in the Old Kingdom of Roumania was 74.4 kilos., rather below the normal average.

Maize was sown on an area of 1,954,874 hectares, almost equal to the normal area, and the production amounted to 2,013,640 tons, as against 2,739,500 in normal years. The quantity required for home use (food and seed) is estimated at about 1,450,000 tons.

It is hoped that the 1921 harvest will show an improvement on that of last year, as more of the expropriated land will have been distributed, and, the army having been placed on a peace footing, a great many peasants have returned to their villages and their land. The much-needed rain has come at last, and fairly good reports are coming in from the provinces regarding the harvest prospects, though several districts have suffered pretty severely from the drought and forage has been exceedingly scarce.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news, received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 9:—During the week ending April 30 crop prospects fair to good generally, except in North-West Frontier Province, unirrigated areas of the Punjab and Hyderabad, where rain badly wanted. Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomra May Rs. 261, July Rs. 278. From September 1, 1920, to April 29, 1921, 1,918,000 bales arrived in Bombay as compared with 2,444,000 bales during the corresponding period of the preceding year. Piecegoods market unchanged, but optimistic as regards future demand. 86,082 packages of imported piecegoods were in Bombay Port Trust warehouses at the end of April last, which is 4,617 less than the figure at end of February. Calcutta jute and gunny markets very quiet; new jute prospects continue excellent with favourable weather. Rangoon paddy arrivals fair by boat, but poor on rail. Arrivals mostly previously contracted for, and it is difficult to buy fresh arrivals under Rs. 187 per 100 baskets of 46 lb. each. White rice prices have advanced to Rs. 460 and Rs. 490 per 100 baskets of 75 lb. each, for specials and small mill qualities respectively. At tea sale on May 3 offerings mostly plain and unattractive; useful liquors again sold readily, with fair inquiry for well-made leaf teas, but prices generally unchanged. 795,930 packages sold to date at an average price of 5 annas 2 pies per lb. Land revenue suspended for one year in two districts in the Hyderabad State—viz., Aurangabad and Bir—being most affected by the prevailing famine. Survey of 17½ miles for construction of Jambusar-Kavi Railway (agricultural area in Broach district of the Bombay Presidency) by Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company sanctioned. No change in bank rates.

LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give the following extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for March:—

The failure of the London Conference to reconcile the Greek and Turkish interests in Anatolia has cast a deep gloom over the commercial communities of Constantinople and Smyrna, and the optimism which previously existed has been completely swept away. A marked increase in the purchases made on behalf of the Kemalists was noticed until about the third week of the month, when the Greek advance commenced, since when this trade has practically ceased, owing to the increased difficulties of transport to Kemalistan Anatolia.

Since the recommencement of hostilities in Anatolia, and as the result of the requisition of Greek vessels lying in Smyrna harbour, for the transport of troops and war material from Greece, communication with Smyrna has become extremely difficult, as a very large part of the carrying trade, both for passengers and merchandise, between Smyrna and Constantinople is in Greek bottoms. Railway communication with Salonika was also interrupted for a short period by a strike of the railway employees.

During the early part of the month, the Samsoun-Sivas railway was occupying the attention of the Angora Government, and it has since been decided to form a company with a capital of £T.5,000,000 to take over the work; of the capital, £T.500,000 is to be subscribed by the founders, and the remainder of the shares, each of £T.5, it is hoped will be taken up by the landowners and farmers whose property adjoins the railway. It is further stated that the permanent way will be complete by the end of May, when the task of laying the rails will be commenced. Some attention is being devoted to the concession for the lighting of Constantinople. By the terms of the concession, the gas company undertakes to hand over to the prefecture all plant in good order, on the termination of the concession, which is seven years hence. In view of the enormous increase in the cost of gas production the company has decided not to request a renewal of the concession, and the prefecture is at present negotiating with several other companies who are seeking it. Prices generally have fallen, though it is interesting to note that the great fall in values which has taken place during the past few months is by no means reflected in the retail prices, which still remain high when compared with those obtaining in other European cities.

ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the forty-third ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Offices, Alexandria, on Wednesday, the 1st June, 1921, 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 20th May, 1921, or in Alexandria before the 28th May, 1921, until after the Meeting, at Messrs. Barclays Bank, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W.1. or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

Dated, Alexandria, Egypt, the 21st April, 1921.

By order of the Board,

J. E. CORNISH, Secretary General.

COUNCIL of ADMINISTRATION of the OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

NOTICE to HOLDERS of the OTTOMAN 4 PER CENT. UNIFIED CONVERTED DEBT.

The Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt inform holders of the Unified Debt that in accordance with Article No. 1 of the Décret-Annexe, and without prejudice to their rights under that Article, they have decided to authorise the PAYMENT in London of the sum of 1s. 3d. on account of each half-yearly coupon of 8s. to Allied and Neutral holders who are in possession of overdue coupons due March, 1915, to March, 1920, inclusive.

The provision for the payment of this amount is in the hands of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, London Agency.

Holders are invited to present the above-mentioned coupons before the 1st September, 1921, at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2, either direct or through the intermediary of any of the undermentioned Establishments:—

Imperial Ottoman Bank, 7, Rue Meyerbeer	Paris
Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas	"
Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris	"
Crédit Lyonnais	"
Société Générale pour favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie	"
Société Générale de Crédit Industriel et Commercial	"
Crédit Mobilier Français	"
Banca d'Italia	Rome
Banca Commerciale Italiana	"
Banque de Bruxelles	Brussels
Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas	"
Banque Centrale Anversoise	Antwerp

In exchange for the coupons accompanied by a declaration of nationality, holders will receive at the same time as the cash payment receipts representing their rights.

These decisions are not applicable to holders presenting only coupons due March, 1910, September, 1919, and March, 1920, either separately or together.

Constantinople, 8th April, 1921.

With reference to the foregoing advertisement the Imperial Ottoman Bank give notice that they are prepared to receive on and after the 1st instant the above-mentioned coupons, listed on forms which can be obtained on application. The cash payment is subject to deduction of income-tax and 2½ per cent. for stamp duty.

It will be a convenience if holders will present coupons through their Bankers.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2
14th May, 1921.

STEEL PRODUCTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The steel production in Czechoslovakia in 1920 amounted to 972,976 tons, including 163,663 tons or 16.82 per cent. of Bessemer and Thomas steel, 792,794 tons or 81.48 per cent. of Martin steel, and 16,519 tons or 1.70 per cent. of electric steel. In comparison with 1919, when the output amounted to 786,022 tons, the production has increased by 186,954 tons, or 23.8 per cent. This increase is due to the fact that the steel works, especially in Slovakia, are better provided with coal than in 1919.

MACHINERY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

At the recent general meeting of the Czechoslovak Joint Stock Company for the manufacture of machinery, the annual report showed that the output during 1920 was mainly for export. The post-war difficulties have not yet disappeared. They consist specially of a shortage of coal and coke, the terms of delivery for raw materials, the rapid increase in the prices of transport materials, and the rise in salaries and general expenses. These difficulties have been partly met by concluding long-term contracts without guarantee of a fixed price. Satisfactory results have thus been obtained, and the company has a large number of orders on hand. The total profits amounting to 4,873,391 crowns have been distributed as follows: 500,000 crowns to the reserve funds, 200,000 crowns for grants to disabled workmen, 100,000 crowns for grants to disabled officials, 800,000 crowns reserve for the tax on property, 2,800,000 crowns for dividends (14 per cent.), 318,141 crowns for royalties in accordance with the statutes, and 155,250 crowns carried forward to the new account. The proposal of the Board of Management to raise the capital from 30 to 50 million crowns was adopted unanimously, as well as the scheme for modifying the statutes.

RUBBER EXHIBITION.

It is announced that over forty British and foreign countries have secured space at the Fifth International Exhibition of Rubber, which is to be held at the Royal Agricultural Hall from June 3 to 17. The various Governments, in addition to rubber, will exhibit tropical products such as oils and cottons, which are directly essential to the welfare of the rubber industry.



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Paid-up	-	£5,000,000
Reserve	-	£1,250,000

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 Lt.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs P. REDON B. KERESTEDJIAN J. UNGAR	} Directors.	DJEVAD BEY HAMID BEY. NOURY BEY.

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

OTTOMAN UNIFIED DEBT.**Coupon Payment to Allies and Neutrals.**

The Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt announces that a payment at the rate of 1s. 3d. per coupon per unitary bond of £20 of the Ottoman Converted Unified Four per Cent. Debt will be payable to Allies and neutrals on account of the eleven coupons from March, 1915, to March, 1920. This payment will be made in London by the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C., where the coupons may be deposited on and after May 18.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended May 12:—It would be difficult to imagine a spot market more depressing than the one we have experienced during the past week. The small inquiry has been chiefly for Sakellaridis and white cotton, but hardly sufficient business has transpired to test prices. The basis for Sakellaridis shows signs of weakening, and the confirmed optimism for which Egypt is noted is being severely tested by the continuance of the unhappy conditions prevailing in our country just now. The latest cloud on the horizon is the prospect of a serious dispute on the wages reduction question between the owners and operators in the trade. Although opinions differ, the general impression is that the dispute will be settled on an amicable basis. Many excellent authorities persist in their view that a considerable volume of "waiting" business is mounting up, and that, granted a settlement of the coal dispute, an early revival is prophesied for the trade. C.I.F. business is stagnant. Manchester reports indicate a waiting policy. Total sales 500 bales. Quotations are generally reduced 50 points, with the exception of good and the grades above in Sakellaridis, which are only 25 points down on the week. F.G.F. Sakellaridis to-day, 16.50d.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Roumanian Government have denounced the Trade and Navigation Agreement with Holland dated March 15, 1899, from April 2, 1922.

The production of opium in Yugoslavia in 1920 amounted to about 150,000 kilos, and came principally from the districts of Veles, Kavadar, Kumanovo, Stip, Radovic, and Prilip.

The importation of saltpetre and opium into Palestine is only permitted under special licence issued by the Director of Public Security and the Department of Health respectively in that country.

Matches, cigarette papers, and playing cards have been added to the list of Bulgarian Government monopolies, and a special commission is studying the question of creating a State monopoly of oils.

An American Consular report states that there are only about 250 motor-cycles in Yugoslavia, mostly of European make. The horse-power of the machines used varies from 2½ to 9.

A census of the tyres fitted on competing machines in the A.C.U. one-day trial held at Brooklands the other day, showed that out of 133 46 per cent. were Dunlop, whilst five out of ten special certificates and six out of sixteen first-class certificates went to machines fitted with this make.

The annual general meeting of the Suez Canal Company will be held in Paris on June 6. Shares may be deposited in London with Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons, who will in due course deliver a card of admission to the meeting or a form of proxy.

Due to the greatly increased importations of automobiles into Egypt in 1920 the market for rubber tyres was considerably increased, and despite the present slump in the automobile trade there is still a more or less constant but limited demand for tyres, says an American Consular report. There are approximately 4,500 motor vehicles in use throughout Egypt at the present time. It is estimated that 85 per cent. of the tyres used are of the clincher type and the remaining 15 per cent. straight edge.

TENDERS INVITED.

[Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.]

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

Egypt.

Paper.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of squared paper. May 24.

Typewriters.—The Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of Arabic typewriters. May 24.

General Stores.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of general stores required for the second half-year 1921-1922. June 13.

General Stores and Clothing.—H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt reports that tenders will be received by the Director of Stores, Frontier Districts Administration, Alexandria, for the supply of general stores and clothing. The tenderer must have an agent resident in Egypt. June 14. (D.O.T.)

Rope, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of ropes, canvas, etc., required for the second half of the financial year 1921-1922. June 15.

Yugoslavia.

Motor Boats.—The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade reports a call for tenders for the supply of motor-boats, to be used for inspection purposes on the Danube and its confluent. The boats must carry five persons and be fitted with petrol motors of 20 to 30 h.p., and have a maximum draught of 50 centimetres. Movable covers to form cabins must be fitted. Hulls may be of wood or metal, and if of wood must be oak or pitch pine. Prices should be quoted for six or ten boats. Date of delivery, speed of boats in calm water, fuel consumption drawings and photographs, and all other necessary particulars must be sent with tenders. Prices must be quoted f.o.b. works or port of despatch, and, in addition, cost of transport between works or port of despatch and Belgrade or Galatz. These last quotations (for transport) will not be binding on the contractor, but should be estimated from inquiries made from different transport agencies. The contractor whose offer is accepted must deposit, if a subject of Yugoslavia, 10 per cent., if a foreigner, 20 per cent. of the total value of the contract. It is also necessary that tenders bear a 10 dinar duty stamp.—June 4 (D.O.T.).

Dredgers, etc.—The General Direction of Waterways, Department of the Yugoslavian Ministry of Agriculture and Waters, invites tenders for the supply of two chain bucket dredgers, one tug boat, and eight lighters provided with means for discharging contents downwards through hull. The successful tenderer must deposit, if a Yugoslavian subject 10 per cent., if a foreigner 20 per cent. of the total value of the tender. All tenders must bear a 10 dinar duty stamp, and should be addressed to the General Direction of Waterways, 81, Krunska ulica, Belgrade. June 6 (D.O.T.).

India.

Stores.—The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of the following stores:—Wheels and axles and straight axles (forgings), cast-iron pot sleepers, tie bars, gibs, and cotters, steel fishbolts, chair bolts, spikes, etc., cranked fishplates, cast-iron waterpipes, etc., fencing materials, fencing-wire strand. Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the company's offices. May 24.

Morocco.

Construction of Buildings in Morocco.—Tenders are invited by the Secretariat of the Delegacion de Fomento in Tetuan for the building of a church, episcopal palace, mission and schools. May 25. (D.O.T.)

Egyptian Markets.—Further dividend on ordinary of 5 per cent., less tax, making 10 per cent. for year 1920.

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Established for the Assistance of British Trade by the Insurance of Accounts.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ACTIVITY AT ROUMANIAN PORTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 4.

During 1921 the ports have been very busy with the export of grain, a large part of which is being shipped in fulfilment of Government contracts in exchange for materials required for the reconstruction of industries—chiefly agricultural machinery and implements. During March the following quantities (in tons) of various products were exported through the ports of Braila, Galatz, Balic and Orsova:—Barley and oats, 84,000; rye, 2,320; beans, 1,590; timber, 3,890; crude petroleum, 3,100.

PORT FACILITIES AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The first annual review of the National Bank of Turkey, the object of which is to supplement the information contained in the bank's monthly market review, contains much valuable information on various aspects of the economic situation of Turkey, which should make it a most useful addition to the business man's bookshelf. Finance, trade and commerce are the subject of a general survey; movements of trade, the cost of living, the quotation of securities, customs receipts, and the course of exchanges, etc., are dealt with statistically in a series of appendices, and the brochure also contains an interesting article on "The Port of Constantinople and its Communications," in which emphasis is laid on the advantageous position of the port:—

It is the best and most natural outlet for the riches of Anatolia, and its geographical proximity to the Black Sea Ports of Russia, Roumania, Bulgaria, and the Trans-Caucasian States gives it an unrivalled importance as a transit port. It is a natural port, and little has been done to modernise it. The fairway has not been dredged, and very large ships are therefore unable to come up to the quay, but have to be unloaded into lighters. The quay accommodation itself is entirely inadequate for the commerce of the port, but though various schemes have been suggested for the extension of quayside, there are many difficulties to be surmounted before this defect can be overcome. Any further extensions will have to be made on the Marmora side of the port, as the strong Bosphorus current offers too many drawbacks to the extension of the present quays at Galata. Further, the Galata area is very thickly covered with buildings, chiefly offices and the usual seaport slums; extension there would therefore involve great expense, and an aggravation of the already serious housing problem.

The article goes on to deal with the communications of Constantinople with the hinterland, and the view is expressed that the city "possesses peculiar assets which should raise it to a position of great importance, both as a terminal port and as a transit junction." Of the city's future it is said:—

The future of Constantinople, considered as a port, depends to a large extent upon the political decisions regarding the attribution of territory and spheres of influence in Asia Minor. For example, the ultimate cession of the Smyrna area to Greece would modify the present distribution of trade as between Constantinople and Smyrna. It is understood that the Greeks would be prepared to spend large sums for the equipment of Smyrna as a modern port; should these plans materialise, there can be no doubt but that Constantinople would lose a considerable amount of business.

There are many suggestions for the improvement of communication in the interior. Of these, the most notable, perhaps, is the proposed construction of a railway from Samsoun to Sivas, with branch lines to the smaller towns. The opening

of such a railway would divert from Constantinople the large trade in wheat, skins, etc., which come from the Sivas Plain, and would find an outlet at Samsoun, the Black Sea port. The present condition of almost complete isolation of Constantinople, which is due to political upheavals, may, however, be considerably modified by the eventual reopening of trade with South Russia. Since the Armistice the series of adverse circumstances . . . coupled with the resultant depreciation of the currency, have had grave effects on trade, and many merchants have found themselves in serious difficulties.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia, for Bombay (taking cargo for Karachi and coast ports) (Liverpool, May 31).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Matheran, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, May 26); s.s. Masirah, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 28); s.s. Imani, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 11).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire, for Rangoon (London, in May); s.s. Leicestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo and Rangoon (Birkenhead, May 25).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Mackellar, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, May 23).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Tyria for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina and Catania (Liverpool, May 26; Manchester, May 26; and Swansea, May 31); s.s. Brescia, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza and Sulina (Liverpool, June 1; Manchester, June 1; Glasgow, June 6; and Swansea, June 8).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Asturian, for Gibraltar, Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, June 4); s.s. Belgravian, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 11); s.s. Bosnian, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina and Catania (Liverpool, June 16).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Exeter, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, May 27); s.s. City of Bristol, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, May 30).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Regular sailings every fortnight for Mediterranean, Egypt and Levant ports.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenamoy, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 2); s.s. Glenade, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 16); s.s. Glentara, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 30).

Glynn Line.—S.s. Riposto, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina and Palermo (Liverpool, in May).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Matador, for Calcutta (Liverpool, May 30); s.s. Craftsmen, for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 16).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Arracan, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 1).

Holt Line.—S.s. Helenus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, May 20); s.s. Teiresias, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, May 27; Birkenhead, June 2).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Pomaron, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, May 21); a steamer will sail from Liverpool on June 11 for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz and Braila.

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, May 25); s.s. Maindy Transport, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, middle of June).

Moss Line.—S.s. Sitra, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Alexandria (transhipping to Moroccan, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports) (Liverpool, May 28); s.s. Limoges, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 18).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nyanza, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (also taking cargo for Malta, Port Said and Aden) (London, May 20); *s.s. Kashgar, for Bombay (London, May 20); *s.s. Karmala, for Bombay (London, June 3); s.s. Novara, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, June 3) (also taking cargo for Malta, Port Said and Aden); *s.s. China, for Bombay (London, June 10). (*Taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said and Aden, also for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports, with transhipment at Bombay).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. Manela, for Bombay and Karachi (taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar coast ports) (London, May 28); s.s. Hatimura, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta, calling at Port Sudan (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez and Aden) (London, June 4); s.s. Tanfield, for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 18); s.s. Masobra, for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (taking cargo for Port Said, Suez and Aden) (London, June 24).

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince, for Tunis, Malta and Alexandria (taking cargo for Beyrout, Jaffa, Haifa, Tripoli (Syria), Latakia, Alexandretta, Mersina and Cyprus ports) (Manchester, May 28).

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 524.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Yugoslav Constitution.

The Constituent Assembly in Belgrade has passed the Constitution of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes by 227 votes to 93, and this satisfactory majority, it is to be hoped, will prove an earnest of the measure of unanimity with which the new State will settle down to the serious work of reconstruction after the war. A notable dissident was Dr. Trumbitch, who by his masterly handling of some of the negotiations regarding Yugoslavia's foreign affairs has won for himself abroad a reputation for sound common-sense and constructive statesmanship. But in the Constituent Assembly Dr. Trumbitch was the one and only Independent, and he would seem to have lived up to the tenets of his party by refusing to accept any of the suggestions put forward for the new Constitution. He was at least consistent, and there is no reason to suppose that he would prefer to see his country remain any longer in political chaos merely because he held that it was attempting something for which it was not ripe. No doubt there are political troubles ahead for Yugoslavia; but it is difficult to believe that she will not be better off with the Constitution, although defective in parts, settled, and thus at liberty to devote some attention to her economic development.

Angora's Choice.

Are the Turks once more to be betrayed by the incompetence of their ruling class? Recent events at Angora inevitably force the question upon the Allies. Up to a certain point Mustapha Kemal Pasha played a dignified and not unpatriotic part. Taking advantage of Anatolia's geographical position, he exposed the weakness of the Treaty of Sevres and compelled the Supreme Council to listen to the Turkish point of view. His representatives achieved a personal success at the London Conference, which was still further enhanced when the Greek military offensive was held and then thrown back. At this stage the good sense of the Angora Government seems to have taken flight. Instead of following up the line of action which had won for Bekir Samy Bey golden opinions in London, the Angora authorities have repudiated their spokesmen and have behaved in a manner that was only to be expected either from a wholly uncivilised people or from a group of men who were resolved to remain outlaws to the world. For the time being Mustapha Kemal Pasha and his followers can adopt such a course with impunity, and may persuade themselves that they are fine fellows. They will find it more difficult to show that they are studying the interests of Turkey rather than pandering to their own vanity at the

expense of their hapless fellow countrymen who want peace and settled government.

A Breach of Faith.

The conventions entered into by the Turkish representatives in London have been disavowed in Angora, and Bekir Samy Bey has given proof of his own sense of honour by resigning. A reconstruction of the Cabinet followed. Unless, therefore, wiser counsels prevail, Mustapha Kemal Pasha would seem to have decided that he can dispense with any mutual understanding with the Allies, and will be able to impose his own will upon them. There can be no surer way of adding to Turkey's difficulties. In the meantime the Angora Government has broken faith with Great Britain in the matter of an exchange of prisoners. Forty of the sixty-four Turkish prisoners detained at Malta have been released by the British Government, but so far there is no sign of the British prisoners in Mustapha Kemal's hands being released. As already stated, this is a proceeding which may commend itself to Angora, but, if persisted in, it will effectually remove Mustapha Kemal from any list of patriots and statesmen and place him in the category of brigands or successful adventurers.

Rahmi Bey.

Among the names of the Turkish prisoners who have been released from Malta we are glad to find that of Rahmi Bey. Attention has been called on several occasions in these columns to the apparent injustice of keeping under detention a man who, in the incongruous circumstances of the war in the Near East, had shown himself consistently well disposed towards Great Britain and had been highly spoken of by the British community in Smyrna. Rahmi Bey has always shown marked independence of character in regard to Turkish politics, and it may be inferred that it was partly owing to this trait that the Constantinople Government showed a readiness to have him removed where he could not exercise his fearless criticism at its expense. If he had been a free agent all this time there is every reason to suppose that he might have proved a useful intermediary with the Angora authorities. As things are, he has left Malta, and is now in Rome, waiting for the permission of the British Government to come to England, where, it is understood, he wishes to have a son educated. It is to be hoped that the further injustice of refusing him authority to land in this country will not be committed.

Fresh Trouble in Egypt.

The policy of inflaming public opinion in order the more easily to make it serve his own purposes, which

Zaghoul Pasha has pursued of late, has now had its inevitable consequence: both in Cairo and in Alexandria there has been rioting, and Egypt is threatened with a recrudescence of widespread troubles. The latest reports available at the time of writing describe the situation as being well in hand, but the mob has been blooded, and nothing but the firmest treatment now will prevent fresh outbreaks. Happily, the Government is reported to be firmly resolved to stand its ground, and to take whatever step may be necessary to crush out this attempt at revolution. At first, placed in a very difficult position by Zaghoul's skilful, if unprincipled, manoeuvres, it acted with extraordinary leniency; and, indeed, forbearance appears to have been carried to a dangerous point, for the police and military were not allowed to fire on the mob. To their credit, both police and soldiers showed restraint, as well as courage, under those trying conditions; but at last it became clear that leniency was quite misplaced and misunderstood—as always by the Egyptians—and a firmer policy has been substituted, apparently with satisfactory results.

The Extremists' Folly.

There is no need to go into details of the damage done and the casualties reported up to date. The important thing is that the Egyptians, or those of them who regard Zaghoul Pasha as the ideal leader of their nation, have again taken to violence to secure their "independence," thereby strengthening the hands of those who hold that they are as a nation still quite unready for the gift. Indeed, the one thing that these "demonstrations" have succeeded in demonstrating is the unfitness of those who take part in them for self-government. For, after all "independence" is to be granted freely by Great Britain, not wrested from her by force, and she herself will in the long run have to say on what terms the gift is to be made. She has invited the Egyptian Government to send a delegation to London to discuss the matter; the Government, which was lately accepted by the nation as thoroughly representative, has accepted the invitation; and, surely, the next step should be to see what terms are actually proposed. To behave as the Egyptians are behaving now can only imperil the success of the negotiations and flatter Zaghoul's vanity. The world at large will have noted that nothing but the presence of British troops saved foreigners in Alexandria from massacre, and the city from a repetition of 1882.

Persian Road Concession Cancelled.

On Saturday *The Times* published a message from its Teheran correspondent, in which he wrote:—"The Persian Government has cancelled the concessions granted to the Persian Transport Company, a well-known British concern," and, a little later, "the concessions include the so-called 'Lynch Road' through the Bakhtiari country." The latter statement is, we understand, incorrect, and the action of the Persian Government concerns only the Teheran-Sultanabad road, the Teheran-Kum road, and the Kum-Ispahan road, an extension of the Teheran-Kum stretch, which is not yet completed. Even so, it is difficult to understand the Persian Government's action. According to the report quoted, the Government alleges that the company never carried out the terms of the concessions. That allegation may, or may not, be literally true—we are not acquainted with the terms of the concession—but in view of the extremely disturbed conditions that have ruled in Persia for a long time, it looks as if the Persian Government were taking advantage of a technical failure for some hidden reason of its own. In a letter to *The Times*, the Persian Minister states that his Government have "dealt very leniently with Messrs. Lynch," and have granted them several successive periods of grace; but even so, the question still remains: Has the delay been unreasonable in view of the conditions prevailing? The Russians' road concessions in Persia have been cancelled, and since *l'appétit vient en mangeant*, Seyyid Zia ed-Din may now have made up his mind to a clean sweep. If, technically, he is within his rights, protest would probably be vain. But it would be interesting to know

whether in this case he draws his inspiration from Moscow, which has shown a pretty taste in the way of forgetting old friends and past services.

Lord Reading and Mr. Gandhi.

As yet we have no definite news of the outcome of the conversations between Lord Reading and Mr. Gandhi at Simla, for the former has made no statement, while the reports of the latter's speech are too condensed to permit of any inference being drawn from them; it would, however, be unwise to encourage high hopes of the immediate result, for the simple reason that some of the leaders of non-co-operation are absolutely impracticable persons. An American professor who has recently been studying Indian politics at first hand has classed a few of the leaders definitely as "medical cases," and one can accept his diagnosis so far at least as to say that they have unfortunately failed to share in the general increase of a sense of responsibility, which has been so marked a feature of Indian political life. The immediate collapse of the movement is not to be expected, but all the same Lord Reading will have done an excellent bit of work if he has succeeded in opening a road by which the more reasonable non-co-operators can enter the constitutional fold. As we said last week, some of them are obviously tired of being outside, and such of them as can realise the facts of the position will be able to do useful work for India by and by.

Facts and Dreams.

The truth is that the non-co-operators have been living in a land of dreams, and inventing facts to suit themselves. The recent attack on State education, to take a conspicuous instance, was based largely on the statement that its tendency was to produce "slave mentality" among the students, and quite worthy people believed this because the assertion was made so loudly and repeatedly. The treatment of that myth by the *Bengalee* is an excellent example of the return to reality. Our contemporary is unable to understand how education in "the glorious literature, history, and politics of England, inspired by the spirit of the valiant warriors who fought for progress and freedom, can be said to foster slave mentality," and it states the plain truth that the servility produced by a thousand years of foreign subjection has already practically disappeared under the impact of English education. India, in fact, learned freedom almost unconsciously, and it is only now that the fact is being realised. Neither Mr. Banerjee nor Mr. Gandhi would have been possible under Afghan or Mogul rule, and the essential difference between them is that the former has grasped a truth which has not yet penetrated the latter's dream.

Lord Chelmsford's Apologia.

Lord Chelmsford's speech at the Royal Colonial Institute constituted the most outspoken statement and defence of his policy which has yet appeared. Summaries often fail to do justice in such cases, but perhaps the essence of his apologia may be stated as follows: He started with the conclusion that the old régime was worn out; he saw that the immediate future depended on the growth of an effective moderate party; and, beset by extremists on both sides, he relied throughout on the men who formed the nucleus of that party, even in the early days when it had neither head nor body. The result is seen to-day in every Indian legislature, and there is, in fact, no question that his policy has secured a striking success at the outset, so striking, indeed, that there is some risk of overlooking the difficulties which have still to be surmounted. A sane and responsible body of politicians has been brought into existence, but they have still to be brought into some organic relation with the masses of the people. The Councils have made a good beginning; the constituencies have still to be developed, and, with new ideas and vague aspirations stirring among large masses of ignorant people, the task is as urgent as it is delicate. To employ a metaphor appropriate to the season, Lord Chelmsford played a fine innings, and has given his side a good start, but the match is by no means over.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

A Coal Concordat.

The coal dispute still drags on interminably and uselessly; there has been no formal meeting of the parties. But progress has been made towards a settlement. Private meetings have been held between leaders on either side, at "wayside inns" or, rather, at seaside villas; informal dinners have taken place, hints have been dropped, and soundings made. All has been wrapped in impenetrable secrecy, and Fleet Street, baulked of news, has been reduced to printing "Make Peace Now" on the placards.

A general public conference of miners and owners, with the Government in the chair, will probably be held towards the end of this week, and will formally ratify the negotiations now being carried on; another ten days should see the resumption of work. The lines on which the settlement will be made are already beginning to emerge. Both sides are naturally anxious to save their faces, but neither side will win everything it set out to get. The miners will drop the pool; on the other hand, the owners will make a better offer of wages—a still better offer than the better offer which was already better than the original offer which was "all the industry could afford" in March. Wages will be lower than they were before the trouble, but higher than they would have been had the strike not taken place.

Whether the domestic public will have to pay more for their coal remains to be seen. But it is quite impossible to make industrial coal dearer, or manufacturers will turn to oil; indeed, those who have done so already will not return to coal, and unless the price of coal is reduced, others will follow their example. Both owners and miners foresee the danger of losing their market while they are quarrelling over terms.

On the other hand, it is admitted that economies can be made in production and distribution. The old system of individual collieries was obviously wasteful, and half the trouble has come because capital was less efficiently organised than labour. Lord Londonderry, a great coal-owner, has suggested an amalgamation of collieries to secure greater cheapness of production, and something on these lines is certain to be done. There has been some criticism of his plan on the ground that it would form a coal trust with intolerable power, and do away with competition; the *Westminster Gazette*, which still lives in the shadow of John Stuart Mill—the substance of that economist has long since vanished—has roundly condemned the whole idea. But the net result of competition appears to be that we generally get bad coal at a high price, and sometimes no coal at all at any price, which does not seem a very hopeful outcome. A coal trust would certainly have to be watched by the State. But so must an everlasting coal crisis be watched by the State. Theoretically it could increase the price of coal to an extortionate price. But practically it could not do so. It would merely stimulate the already great trade in wood and peat for private consumption and oil would finally dethrone it for industrial consumption. For that reason it would probably aim at reducing the price to something like a reasonable sum.

A Trade Revival?

Business men seem rather hopeful of the immediate future. The City frankly believes that the worst is over, and expects a speedy resumption of trade; even manufacturers have been seen to smile. It will take some time to absorb the existing unemployment—six months, according to those who ought to know—but orders are coming in, and the voice of the consumer is heard in our land, a little querulous and doubtful, it is true, but still audible to those with ears.

England, France and Europe.

Foreign affairs have almost rivalled coal in interest this week. Mr. Lloyd George's speech some days ago showed that the British and French Governments did not see eye to eye about Poland and Silesia. The usual newspaper discussion, which sometimes became a re-creation between Paris and London, followed, and the Prime Minister issued a vigorous reply, pointing

out that the American and Italian newspapers sided with England against France. There was certainly some provocation, but it was not a particularly wise act, and there has been a great deal of lifting of eyebrows and shrugging of shoulders in the clubs.

But apart from these exchanges the position is very simple. France does not believe that the downfall of Germany is permanent, and since Russia has collapsed, it is her policy to set up a strong Poland to co-operate with her against Germany in Continental affairs. England also thinks that Germany will recover, but not in measurable time; she is not so sure of the permanence of Russia's collapse as France, and she is sympathetic to Polish freedom. But she is disappointed that the restoration of Polish independence has meant the resurrection of Polish Imperialism, and she has no belief whatever in either the justice or the practicability of the Polish claims to large territories east and west of her present natural boundaries. The Polish adventures at Kieff and Vilna last year definitely modified English opinion, and Korfanty's action in Silesia this spring has only deepened that impression. The British standpoint is that the Poles are to have their pound of flesh according to the Treaty of Versailles, but not an ounce more; justice must be done impartially, and our word kept to all parties. It is not for us to have the "scrap of paper" reproach thrown back at us by the Germans.

The Imperial Conference.

But apart from this, England is tending rather to turn away from Continental affairs; after every great war we begin to neglect European politics, and some of our political prophets preach the glories of isolation—the Americans did the same a year ago. Isolation is, of course, impossible; what really happens is that the British Empire takes the place of European politics, and Canadian and Australian affairs usurp the attention hitherto directed on the Continental States. One sees the visible signs of it already, in the prominence being given to the meeting of the Imperial Conference next month, when the statesmen of the Dominions will assemble in London to discuss matters with Mr. Winston Churchill. Many constitutional questions will come up for debate, but the tendency of the Conference will be to emphasise the political autonomy of the Empire.

The Political Calm.

Home politics, says one of the Lobby correspondents disconsolately, are utterly dead; he is evidently driven to make bricks without straw. There is little chance of their reviving this year, and even the Opposition have given up talking of a general election—indeed, I notice that Mr. Cole, one of the intellectuals of Labour, has admitted that his side would probably not get a majority if an election took place. When that is acknowledged there cannot be any life in domestic politics.



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JOPPA

The remainder of the session should be fairly easy. There is no controversy over the Budget. Anti-dumping seemed at one time likely to cause a pother, but the spectacle of a Free Trader like Sir Alfred Mond defending the measure from the Government side has rather taken the heart out of the Liberals—and Labour, though willing to wound, is afraid to strike, because it believes in its heart of hearts that the measure may increase employment.

Licensing reform seems to be postponed. And the coal trouble has for the time being put the nationalisation controversy out of the field altogether. Of course, there are personal intrigues beneath the surface, but these matters are of no interest except to the individuals concerned; the Government as a whole is perfectly safe.

Ireland.

Meanwhile the Irish Southern elections have been held with the expected results. There were few contests, and a solid block of over a hundred Sinn Feiners will face a minority of four Unionists, who represent the Universities. It is believed that there are conciliatory, or, at least, moderating, influences beneath the surface, but the extremists are determined to wreck any chance of agreement if they can. Only a few days ago there were several attempted assassinations by Sinn Feiners in London, and one of the victims has since died. They have not been disavowed by the Sinn Fein leaders, but these latter have at the same time not denied the possibility of a meeting with the Government to discuss the terms of a concordat. Their own position is probably not too easy; those who have relied on murder as a policy cannot always drop their tools at the precise moment when they become inconvenient.

A Test Match.

The Americans beat us badly at golf last week, and the pessimists are saying that the Australians are going to beat us at cricket next week. The first Test Match of the season—it is the hundredth of the series—begins at Nottingham on Saturday. Douglas, of Essex, has again been chosen captain for England, although there

was a very audible demand for C. B. Fry, who, though nearly fifty, is still a great player. Only eight of the eleven have so far been picked, several of whom took part in the disastrous tour last winter; but Hobbs has to stand down owing to injury. This is in itself a calamity, for he is the greatest bat of the day, and his enforced absence from Surrey this season has seen that county collapse time after time. The remainder are good men, but hardly in the same class as the Australians or an England team before the war.

The Week's Books.

Two books on the present discontents may be mentioned. "The New Labour Outlook" (Leonard Parsons), by Robert Williams, the prominent transport leader, gives the extremist view; on the other hand, when looking through "Labour and the New World" (Cassell), there were moments when one detects a cautious and conservative tendency in Mr. Philip Snowden, who used to be considered rather a firebrand. He remarks that "a sudden overthrow of the capitalist system in Great Britain would immediately reduce ninety per cent. of the population to a state of actual starvation"; but he believes that "a new and permanent social order can never be established on any other basis than the consent and co-operation of an enlightened democracy," and, as regards bureaucracy and nationalisation, "the only safeguard against the danger of large bodies of public servants using their political power in their own interests is the development of a social spirit . . . which will need considerable educational work." Mr. Snowden was once in the Civil Service.

A lighter book is "The Glass of Fashion" (Mills and Boon) by "A Gentleman with a Duster," who published a volume of personal portraits that had a vogue last autumn. It is full of small epigrams, such as "Few men set out to reach hell, but most of us are for ever losing our way to heaven." Quite a number of railway travellers like just this sort of thing when they find it on the bookstalls.

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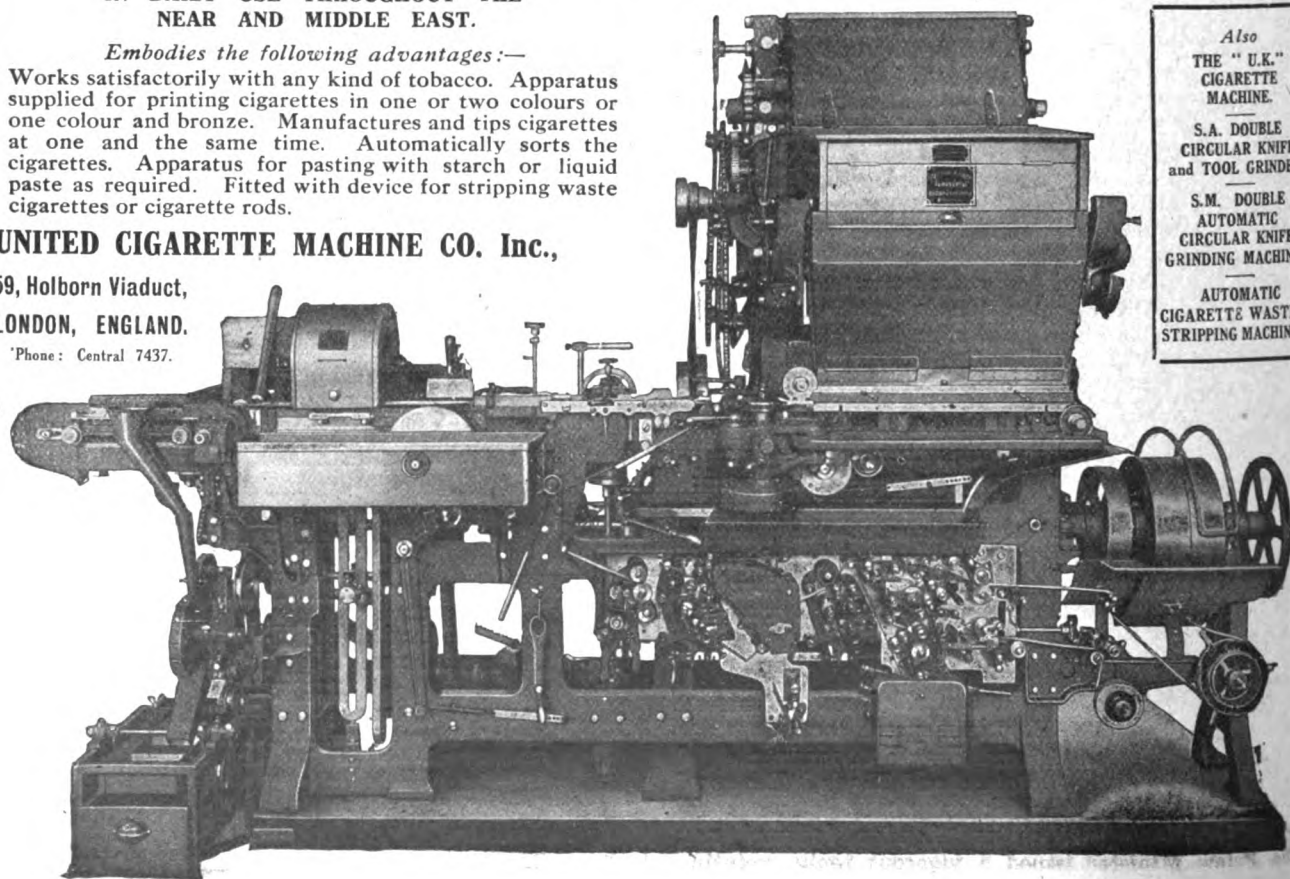
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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, May 7.

The Political Situation.

Since my last letter full details have come to hand of a regrettable incident at Tanta, where a serious demonstration took place last week. It was started by students in favour of Saad Pasha Zaghloul, and carried on by the mob, and the crowd refused to disperse when ordered to by the police; it attacked the latter, besieged one of the police stations, and burnt the Mudir's car. What appears to have aggravated matters is the fact that when the Commandant of Police, finding the mob would not disperse, ordered his men to fire over their heads, one of them fired into the crowd and hit two men. So violent did the mob then become that the local police became powerless, and Egyptian troops had to be sent down from Cairo to restore order. They only did so after making use of their rifles.

An official inquiry has been opened, and the Commandant of Police has been sent before an Egyptian Military Court. But, although the Government has taken every possible measure in order to deal firmly with this question, the incident has naturally been used as a trump card by Zaghloul Pasha and his supporters; and, in a statement issued on Thursday last by him, it is adduced by Zaghloul Pasha as one of the reasons why, even if the Cabinet now accepted all his conditions, he would not consent to collaborate with it.

In face of this definite banging of the door, and, in fact, of the unmistakable declaration of hostilities which Zaghloul Pasha's more recent speeches and interviews represent, the Cabinet's sole course obviously is to proceed with the negotiations. Accordingly, two days ago it issued a statement in which, after replying to the various points raised by Zaghloul Pasha, it declared that it had reported to the Sultan, who had given orders for the formation of an official delegation under the presidency of Adly Pasha, and that it was engaged on drafting a note stating the objects of such a delegation and submitting the names to His Highness for his approval. We are now momentarily awaiting the publication of the names of the delegation, which, it is believed, will have certain outside experts attached to it as advisers.

The Mixed Courts.

The mandate of the Mixed Courts was renewed on April 30 by a Sultania decree for a further six months from May 1. In the above-mentioned decree the United States was excepted because no reply had been received from Washington, but, three days after its appearance, the American Agent was able to inform the Egyptian Government of his Government's acquiescence in the extension of the mandate of the Mixed Courts, and a supplementary decree in this connection is about to be issued. It is also interesting to note that the difficulty with Holland which caused that country to be excepted from the renewal last October has been overcome, the two judges whose nomination was the point in dispute having been appointed last week.

From what I gather, it is extremely unlikely that even on November 1 next it will be possible to introduce the contemplated legal reforms, and a further prolongation of the powers of the existing Courts will become necessary. It is, indeed, difficult to appreciate the optimism which the authorities appear to feel in this respect, and, considering the periodical difficulty that is experienced in obtaining the adhesion of the fifteen Capitulatory Powers to the prolongation in time for the promulgation of the decree, one would have thought that it would have been more satisfactory to obtain a renewal for at least a year.

SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, April 17.

The Political Situation.

The enthusiasm for Saad Pasha Zaghloul amongst the Egyptian Nationalist Party has caused a certain amount

of comment locally. Naturally, all Egyptians resident in the country are at heart firm supporters of the Pasha, and have evinced a certain amount of indignation at the alleged defection of Abdul Aziz Bey Fahmy, who was formerly a very prominent pillar of the delegation. The Sudani is on the surface indifferent, but when in confidential mood will volunteer the opinion that Zaghloul Pasha has apparently got Mr. Lloyd George stiff and cold, and is, in his opinion, far the cleverer statesman of the two. The opinion of the uneducated masses is indicated by the following little tale, which has the merit of being entirely veracious. A certain British officer employed in the Egyptian Army recently had cause to visit Egypt and took with him his black bātman, a private in one of the Sudanese Battalions. The course of his duties took the officer to Cairo, where he and his bātman were put up at one of the principal hotels. The dusky private was remarked as spending all his spare time during the stay in Cairo in sitting at the foot of the steps up to the terrace, obviously absorbed in the passing world, and seemed unwilling to stray out of sight of his billet. On the return journey the officer, out of curiosity, asked him what he thought of the city and its inhabitants. The bātman replied that the miles and endless miles of buildings and the noise and congestion of the traffic had got on his nerves, but that the Egyptians amused and interested him beyond measure. They reminded him of monkeys, for they would begin a job of work with the greatest enthusiasm, gradually slacken off in their endeavours, and start chattering, and finally forsake their unfinished work and start on something else. He concluded the exposition of his impressions by remarking, with decided animation: "By God, a fine city to sack, and, please the Almighty, oh Bey, you will lead us against the Egyptians before the end of this year!"

This from one who some eight months ago was an absolute savage, entirely untroubled over the cost of clothing, is somewhat illuminating.

The Blue and White Nile Dam Construction.

Trouble has been experienced recently both at Makwar and Gebel Aulia with the Yemeni labour. On April 2 some considerable trouble was experienced, and Government officials and servants of the Construction Company were obstructed in the execution of their various duties and subjected to personal insult. As a result some 600 labourers were sent down to Port Sudan under military escort for repatriation, giving cause for minor excitement on the way, notably at Musmar, where they broke out of the train and had to be forcibly entrained again. A further 600 have been dismissed from Gebel Aulia, and are being returned to Aden as soon as shipping can be provided.

Provincial News.

Communication between Gambeila and Bure has always been very difficult, and it is gratifying to hear that work is now well in progress on the road connecting these stations. The Dirbir bridges and the new road are expected to be open by the first week in June. If navigation of the Sobat and Baro Rivers is possible by then, there will be connection by the first steamer from Khartoum.

Horseshows have been held with considerable success at Sibdu (Dar Rizeigat) and Buram, some fifty remounts being purchased for the Egyptian Army, and a considerable number of ponies for police duties being acquired at the former locality.

The question of discovering a sufficient supply of water is of paramount importance in the Darfur Province. However, as a result of sinking various wells, good water has been found at a depth of 40 metres at Tubluk, and at 22 ft. at Zalingei. A new well is in course of being sunk at Abu Adam (Rahad).

A serious fire is reported to have broken out on the night of March 19-20 in a village north of Talodi. The high wind prevailing assisted the flames to such an extent that practically the whole village was wiped out, fortunately with no loss of life.

From Mongalla Province it is reported that the total rainfall for February was two millimetres. Oppressive heat has been experienced—the maximum temperature reaching

104 degrees. Rinderpest has, unfortunately, made its appearance amongst the buffaloes on the East Bank south of Malek.

It is very interesting to note that the natives appear to have overcome their aversion to vaccination, some thousands of persons having been voluntarily inoculated against small-pox at Gnopp, in the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province.

Reports from the Red Sea Province state that the Customs Department will move to summer quarters at Sinkat on May 8. Owing to the increasing number of vessels calling in at Port Sudan for bunkering and water considerable difficulty has been experienced in providing an adequate supply for both drinking and boiler purposes. Unfortunately, the pumping plant at Suakin has also broken down, occasioning simultaneous troubles in that port. In view of the fact that a very large proportion of the population of both towns migrate to the Red Sea hills during the summer months the position is not as acute as it might be, but the water supply is one of the most pressing problems of the province, and a committee has been appointed to go into the question thoroughly.

Dongola Province reports the death of Sheikh Mirghani Mohamed Siwar El Dahab, of the Sawarab, Bederia, at Merowe on April 5. The Sheikh was born in Kordofan in or about the year 1860. He joined the Mahdi there, and fought against the old Egyptian administration, being promoted to the rank of Emir for his services. After the battle of Toski he forsook the trade of soldiering, and settled down in Dongola as a religious teacher, and in view of his connection with the Mirghania became one of the leading notables of the province. He was extremely loyal to the new administration, and was distinguished for his personal charm and wonderful hospitality, and gained the affection of all who knew him.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, May 16.

The Constitution.

The event of the week has been the passing of the draft Constitution. The later speeches were curtailed, and the Chamber proceeded to vote as early as possible. There are 417 members of the Assembly, of whom 54 have not had their elections certified by the Examining Committee, for refusal to take the oath. (These are Raditch's party, the Frankovci, and M. Stoyan Protitch, who is out in the cold since his secession from his old party.) Thus there are 363 fully qualified deputies, of whom 320 were present at the division. Of these 227 voted for and 93 against the motion, which was thus carried by a large majority. The Government had an absolute majority of 18 out of all elected members, of 46 out of all properly qualified members, and 14 more than the requisite two-thirds of all members present.

It is noteworthy that Dr. Trumbitch voted "against," which produced a storm of applause from the Communists. His action is a little difficult to understand, but probably the explanation is that, having lost the confidence of his people in connection with the Treaty of Rapallo, he is taking up a highly democratic line in order to recover his popularity. He is credited with a scheme of organising a new party which will combine all elements hostile to the present Constitution.

The Narodny Club left the Chamber in protest before the voting, their present leader, Dr. Drinkovitch, declaring that his party recognised neither the Constitution nor the Assembly itself. But M. Pashitch neatly pointed out that it was late in the day to question the legality of the Assembly, which should have been done at the time of the elections. The properly elected Chamber, the result of absolutely free elections, has declared its will by a commanding majority, and the hard fact remains. It is not easy to understand the policy of the Narodny Club. Originally it was intended to protect the Croats against any possible hegemony of the Serbs, and was thus in direct opposition to the Democratic party, which is all for union and centralisation. The latter has a very strong backing in Croatia, although little is heard of it because it is not so demonstrative as its opponents.

Raditch and the Peasants.

The Zagreb papers have come out with a portrait of Mr. Lloyd George reading a document, beneath which is the following legend:—"We have learnt that Lloyd George has received, after the passing of the Draft Constitution in the Constituent Assembly, a note of protest in the name of 'the crushed people,' with the signa-

tures of Stjepan Raditch, the *perpetuum mobile* in speech; of Ivo Stozhir, the hero of high treason; of Jan Janechko, the living lower half of the Yugoslav Casement; Miss Miletitch, the future 'hofdame' of the President of the Croatian Republic. It is anticipated that as a consequence of this the English Cabinet will resign."

It is hard to take Raditch seriously, and nobody is really afraid of his movement. The peasants of the most prosperous parts of Croatia are simple souls, who believe all he tells them, and will go on believing till they are disillusioned. Private conversation with some of them in different villages has shown that this process has begun. The peasants have made some educational progress since the exaggerated disturbances in connection with the branding of stock last summer. When Karl Habsburg went to Budapest not a voice was raised on his behalf in any Croat district. Recruiting has proceeded with great success, better indeed than it used to do in the bad old Austrian days, and the purely Croat agricultural districts have carried the record for tax-paying in the united kingdom. Their country is green and smiling, fertile and well cultivated; it is so full of stock that men come from Austria and Italy, and even from Germany, to buy their cattle and horses. None of these things is evidence of a discontented peasantry. The cheery good morning and smiling faces of the sturdy folk of all ages and both sexes when the stranger motors through their villages, or stops and has a yarn with them on the roadside, tell their own tale. A full stomach and pocket and a rich farm afford a bad foundation for demagogues and agitators to work upon.

A Croat Idealist.

There has just passed away in Zagreb a fine specimen of the type of patriotic Yugoslav who made the last sacrifice for the idea of the union. When the war broke out Milan Hajdin was a student at Zagreb University, little more than a lad. He at once slipped across the river to Belgrade and joined Tankositch's band of irregulars, which were the first to hold the Save. In spite of not robust health, he followed his fearless leader through the desperate fighting on the Cer, and after the death of Tankositch, whose bones were afterwards dug up and scattered by the Austrians, he joined the famous band of Vuk Popovitch, whose names had become legendary by 1915. After Vuk's death, he joined the 23rd Infantry Regiment in the Vardar Division. He was wounded four times, and was in hospital since the war. A bullet through his chest aggravated the consumption which had not prevented his sharing all the terrible hardships of the long campaign, and he passed away, only twenty-six years old. At his funeral the farewell oration, in the name of the Association of Volunteers of Croatia, Slavonia, and Istria, was pronounced by Captain Lujo Lovritch, who was blinded in the Dobruja. Both these were Croats, and Croats of the best type, both young men, full of ideals, but men of action, not of politics, and ready to sacrifice everything for their country and the union. The politicians might well take a lesson from them.

Football Enthusiasts.

Both Serbs and Croats are keen footballers and play a good sporting game. The matches are reported in detail in the Press, and it looks odd to see our familiar English words appearing in a strange and, at first sight, uncouth guise. Such as "goalom," that is, in the instrumental case, but "goalman" seems an odd variant. A very keen match was recently fought at Maximir, near Zagreb, before a huge and enthusiastic crowd of

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onlookers, between a Croatian and a representative Swedish team. After a hard tussle, the home team just succeeded in beating the visitors, but the attendance, the keenness of the criticism, and the space in the Press devoted to it made one rub one's eyes and wonder where on earth one was.

A Convict's Escape.

An exciting incident happened not long ago at Topchider, whose pleasant groves are so familiar to all visitors to Belgrade. There is a prison there, and gangs of convicts are a familiar sight, as they walk to their work on the Government farm and back, escorted by armed guards; and many of them wearing clanking chains. Incidentally, the terms of service of the guards show a perhaps unconscious sense of humour and poetic justice. If a guard allows a prisoner to escape, he is condemned himself to complete the unexpired portion of the prisoner's sentence. A few days ago, about four in the afternoon, a convict suddenly sprang on a guard, knocked him over, took his rifle, and put a bullet into him. That was the sign for a bolt, and several convicts took to their heels, including some long-term men wearing fetters. But the guard turned out sharply, and as all Serbs can hold a rifle straight nowadays, they brought a couple of their quarry down near the station, shot dead, and others wounded. Only one succeeded in escaping.

GREECE.

ATHENS, May 6.

The Prime Minister in Smyrna.

M. Gounaris, accompanied by the Minister of War, M. Theotokis, the Chief of Staff, Major-General Dousmanis, and the sub-Chief of Staff, Brigadier-General Stratigos, left for Smyrna last Thursday. The Prime Minister's departure, which was the result of many disquieting rumours as to the military situation at the front, was decided upon at a meeting held at the War Office on the previous day. At the same time, the Minister for Foreign Affairs issued an official *communiqué* denying the rumours of a Greek reverse; while late in the evening a Royal Decree was published in a special edition of the *Government Gazette* calling up the reserves of the 1903, 1904, 1912, and 1913a classes. One of the rumours referred to above, which was very widely circulated, casting a gloom over Athens, was that the Hellenic troops had been forced to abandon Ushak, which town was promptly occupied by the Turks. This news was published in the French, the Italian, and the Egyptian Press, though nothing had, so far, appeared in General Papoulas's *communiqués*, which, by the way, have become extremely terse of late.

Easter Day was not quite as joyful as might have been, and, although everybody thoroughly enjoyed his red eggs and the "magiritsa" soup after the midnight service, and the King paid his customary visit to the barracks on Sunday morning to wish the officers and men "Christos Anesti," people were not really happy. One did not mind the temporary loss of Afion Karahissar, which, it is argued, could easily be retaken as soon as the fresh reinforcements have reached their destination, but to lose Ushak, and thus endanger Smyrna itself, would be a heavy blow to the *amour propre* of the Hellene and to the prestige of the Hellenic army abroad. "What will Lloyd George think of us," a Greek officer was asking me the other day, "if we lose this war?" The Greek has always considered the little Welshman his best friend and the greatest supporter of his country's national aspirations, and would die with shame if anything happened which would shake the latter's faith in him.

It was not until Easter Monday that the news of the evacuation of Ushak proved to be void of any truth. An official telegram dispatched from that town announced the arrival there of M. Gounaris, M. Theotokis, General Papoulas, and General Dousmanis. The telegram went on to say that the Greek Premier had been present at the midnight Easter service, and had proceeded on the following morning as far as the Toulou Bounar trenches, which are at a distance of two kilometres from the Turkish lines.

The rumours about Ushak are attributed to the very efficient propaganda which the Kemalists are conducting in Europe and particularly in the French and Italian capitals. Both sections of the Athens Press are vigorously attacking the Government for not taking any steps to deny promptly all reports of imaginary Greek reverses, which are being so cleverly and so effectively circulated abroad by enemy agents.

Roumanian Students.

A party of eighty Roumanian students from Bucharest University and the School of Fine Arts, including fifteen ladies, arrived here from Constanza this morning, accompanied by Professor Stefanescu. They were received by a number of professors and Roumanian speaking students of the University of Athens, who arranged for their accommodation in the various hotels in the capital. The Roumanian excursionists will stay in Greece for a fortnight in order to visit various places of archaeological and historical interest.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, May 12.

Parliament.

Parliament is still closed on account of the Orthodox Easter holidays. The Budget does not meet with general approval; the Press and competent politicians have begun to discuss and to criticise it, urging greater economy and less taxation. An Opposition journalist demonstrated by figures its excessive imposition. M. Titulescu, the Minister of Finance, protested against his figures as intentionally false and designed to lead the public into error, and he invited the members of the Press Association to a conference, at which he expounded his whole financial policy, also the mode of reckoning—rather complex—how much everybody will have to pay, according to his possessions and income. He repeated his speech in the Chamber of Commerce for the benefit of the financial and commercial public. His design is to make everybody contribute in proportion to his capital and income towards the restoration of the finances of the State; and he aims also at reach-

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ing those fortunes amassed during the war, and since, by profiteering, and especially by those who have held official positions which they misused for their personal interests. He wishes to be able to confiscate the whole property of the latter, but as the Constitution forbids entire confiscation he intends making them disgorge up to 92 per cent. of their ill-gotten wealth, and every former or present public official will have to prove the origin of his present possessions. The Minister declared frankly that he is willing to accept any suggestions or amendments put forward in a right spirit. The representatives of the big banks have already begun to confer with the Minister as to the taxation which the banks can bear without affecting trade and commerce in general, and similar meetings will take place with representatives of the manufacturers' and other associations. This new Budget scheme will not come before Parliament very soon, as the Agrarian Reform and other laws will have to be passed first; so there will be plenty of time for the Minister of Finance to study the feelings of all classes, and, having regard to his great ability, he will surely succeed in framing a Budget that will at the same time conciliate the taxpayer and satisfy the needs of the Exchequer.

M. Duca, a former Minister and a prominent member of the Liberal Party, whilst recently addressing his constituency, declared that his party acknowledges the necessity of introducing the proportional tax on capital and income, but considers the quota of taxation proposed by M. Titulescu to be excessive. He advocates the reduction of the expenses by reducing the number of the newly-created Ministries; all sinecures of all kinds should be abolished; a balanced budget should be worked out; and only after all this has been accomplished should the quota of taxation be fixed according to the real and vital needs of the State. There is no doubt that financial reform will serve as the future electoral platform, and the Liberal Party is cleverly adopting the alluring motto of "less expenditure, less taxation," which will attract very many adherents, and may help them to come to power again in due course.

Prince Carol's Return.

Prince Carol and his bride, Princess Helen, made their official entry into Bucharest on Sunday, the 8th inst., returning from Greece, where they have been staying since their marriage. The population of the capital accorded them a very loyal and enthusiastic welcome. The authorities have arranged extensive festivities with the usual street decorations and illumination. Delegations from all parts of the country will be presented, and the celebrations will last three days.

Miscellaneous News.

The Government of the U.S. has requested the assent of the Roumanian Government to the appointment of Mr. Peter Jay as the U.S. Plenipotentiary Minister to Roumania.

A fiendish outrage on the railway line Bender-Dassabarskaia in Bessarabia was perpetrated on the eve of the Orthodox Easter Holiday. A portion of the line was undermined, and an explosive placed there was timed to explode just when the train should pass. For unforeseen reasons, the train was luckily delayed for about fifteen minutes, and though the explosion took place at the appointed moment, destroying the line, it fortunately caused no casualties. The train was crowded with passengers, among whom were some members of Parliament. An investigation has been opened. The authorities attribute the outrage to a gang of Communists.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, May 10.

Political.

M. Stambolisky's health is steadily improving, and last week the doctors pronounced him out of danger.

M. Yourlakoff is acting as President of the Council of Ministers, but the Sobranje is not sitting, and will probably not reassemble till the end of the month.

M. Dimitroff returned from his tour yesterday but is leaving for Prague to-day and, as I mentioned before, it does not seem likely that he will go to America, at any rate not for the time being.

The Government will now, however, have seriously to take up the question of reparations, and it is difficult to see how their present policy will bring them in the necessary revenue.

Tour of the Reparations Commission.

On Easter Monday the members of the Inter-Allied Commission, accompanied by M. Dashkoff and a few other Bulgarians, started on a four days' tour in the provinces.

I was fortunate enough to accompany the party. The special train left Sofia in the evening, and all the next day was spent at Rustchuk, visiting various places of interest. On arrival at Varna, on Wednesday, the train was taken alongside the quay, and after breakfast we all went by boat to Euxinograd to see over the King's Palace, which is six miles from Varna and is situated on a fine promontory, jutting out on the Black Sea. The weather was perfect and we had a glorious view of the bay and the coast stretching down towards Burgas.

Leaving Varna late that evening we woke next morning to find ourselves below Tirnova, the ancient capital of Bulgaria, which has been the scene of so many conflicts. Tirnova, which is easily the most picturesque place in Bulgaria, if not in all the Balkans, is a town of some 12,000 inhabitants, standing high up on a rock and completely surrounded by the river Yantra. The rock is shaped like the figure 8, and in the middle of the figure there is a narrow strip of ground, some fifteen yards broad, which connects the two circles of the eight.

We left at 2 o'clock, and during the afternoon and evening went through gorgeous scenery in the Balkan Mountains, finally dropping down to Stara Zagora. While descending from Krastetz to Torlova several of us journeyed by "Drazzine," which is a light sort of man-handled trolley. Next morning we were at Philippopolis, and it being May 6 (St. George's Day) we saw a march past of the local garrison.

The return to Sofia was accomplished without incident. The whole journey was extremely enjoyable and made under most comfortable conditions. M. Karakashoff, the Director of Railways, who was of the party, spared no pains to make it a success, and he certainly accomplished his purpose.

SOFIA, May 17.

Relations with Yugoslavia.

During the past few days the relations with Yugoslavia have again become strained, and the Press of both capitals is full of warnings about the future. There has been talk of Bulgaria giving over a certain quantity of guns and ammunition, but it is clearly laid down in Articles 80 and 98 of the Peace Treaty that it is the duty of the Inter-Allied Military Commission of Control to accept delivery of all war material, and it is now announced that the Commission will remain on for another three months. Although this involves more expense to Bulgaria, it will be of great use to her to have the Commission here in case of any warlike action on the part of Yugoslavia.

In the Sofia *Zora* of May 12 there appeared an interview with the President of the Military Commission, who stated that Bulgaria need have no fear for the future, as the representatives of the Great Powers here know that Bulgaria was loyally carrying out the terms of the Peace Treaty, and that, in any case, France would never permit Serbia to take action against Bulgaria. The speaker also declared that the anti-Bulgarian feeling in Serbia was not encouraged by the Government, but was rather the spirit that found favour in military circles. It is interesting, however, in the light of the above to note that so far it is only Great Britain and America, who have issued statements showing their disapproval of the steps proposed by the Serbians.

Another Note.

Yesterday the Bulgarian Government addressed a Note to the diplomatic representatives of the Great Powers here. The Note dealt with the alleged *Komitaji* bands operating on the Serbian frontier, and requested that the international court of inquiry, asked for last month, might be formed. The Note made mention

of the declarations in the Belgrade Press regarding the proposed sanctions, and even the modifications of the frontier fixed by the Peace Treaty. The Bulgarian Government declared itself willing to abide absolutely by the decisions of the court of inquiry, and said that the continuous Press statements were having a damaging and alarming effect in the country. In view of the above, the suggestion made to me humorously the other day by a friend here that it would help the Allies out of a double difficulty if they employed a few thousands of General Wrangel's troops from Constantinople to police both sides of the frontier in dispute would seem to have its points!

The Bulgarian Army.

If hostile action were taken by the Serbians, there would be no doubt of the result, as the Bulgarian Army is now reduced to the cadre of 33,000, which includes some 13,000 gendarmes and forest guards. These men must in the future all be volunteers, but up to the present only two or three hundred recruits have been obtained, in spite of the comparatively good rates of pay.

It is thought that some modifications may be allowed, as the question of money also enters into the discussion. The present army on a compulsory basis will cost 285 million levas a year, while the voluntary army would cost 600 million levas annually. The Reparations Commission will thus have to allow 315 millions levas, so to speak, to slip out of their hands, although, of course, increased taxation can be brought to bear on the nation. In the writer's view the great danger is neither of the above two points, but rather the fear that the Government will, if they see a voluntary army is inevitable, accede to the Allies' demands, and, regardless of cost, create an agrarian army which will be the tool of the Cabinet. This would be the only organised force in the country, and could overthrow the Constitution, justice, and all departments of State, and thus plunge yet one more country in Europe into a state of disorder and ruin.

General.

Four thousand soldiers from General Wrangel's army at Constantinople are to be employed as road labourers in Bulgaria.

The result will be shortly declared of a contract for supplying fourteen million postage stamps, which will bear the head of the late Mr. J. D. Bouchier.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 11.

The Calm before — ?

Very little worthy of mention has occurred during the past week. The Sublime Porte has been principally occupied with addressing protests to the Allies concerning alleged atrocities on the part of the Greeks against the Turkish population of Anatolia, and the arrest as prisoners of war of Turkish travellers from Bulgaria to Constantinople. Everyone is waiting for the Greeks to start another offensive as advertised. Easter has come and gone, but Constantine has not yet attended mass in Aya Sophia. The Cabinet seems to have settled down after the re-shuffling caused by the resignations of Izzet and Salih Pashas; and although the financial situation is as desperate as ever, one hears less about it than was the case a few weeks ago when various "incidents" were provoked by unpaid officials. The truth of the matter is that a very considerable number of Government officials have managed to get jobs in Angora, where there seems to be less difficulty in finding enough cash to balance the monthly salary list. In fact, the exodus from Constantinople has reached such proportions that a clamour has arisen among those who fear that there will not be enough loaves and fishes to go round. The Angora administration has, therefore, been compelled to take certain steps to stem the flood of immigrants. Incidentally, this is probably one of the principal causes of the "spy fever" which is raging in Anatolia at the present moment.

All the "spies" are, of course, said to be British, and it is reported that at the trial of one of these worthies Madame Berthe Gaulis, a well-known French lady corre-

spondent, was present. We shall, therefore, in all probability, be regaled in the near future with some sensational propaganda from the Ville Lumière.

The Greeks, like the Turks, have also become comparatively quiescent, which means that the silence is almost unearthly. The Venizelist officers are still here, and show no signs of falling in with the suggestion of the Athens Government, which agreed to their request for reinstatement provided they broke themselves up and let themselves be tried for disciplinary offences after the termination of hostilities. This sounds ungrateful, but perchance the Athens Government has become aware of certain deep schemes laid by the Committee for National Defence in Constantinople.

Anatolia.

Little information is available regarding the reception accorded to Bekir Sami Bey upon his return to Angora, but it appears that a bitter struggle for supremacy has been begun between the moderates and the extremists. The extremists are composed of ardent adherents of the defunct Committee of Union and Progress, and are out for a struggle to the death against the British. The moderates, on the other hand, are ready to make peace as soon as a maximum of concessions has been secured.

So far as can be judged the struggle is being waged with the utmost bitterness, and it is not exaggerating to affirm that upon its issue depends the fate of Mustapha Kemal and the entire Nationalist party. It is only necessary to recall the fate of Nazim Pasha in 1913 to understand the possibilities of the present situation in Anatolia.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, May 9.

A Peaceful Outlook.

Matters have settled down into complete tranquillity. The Greeks have been celebrating Easter with the usual rejoicings, and the local papers deal chiefly with the festival and the affairs of Greece. In conformity with the decision at Athens, the celebrations which were to have been carried out on the adjourned date of April 25 have now been indefinitely postponed, and the Pan-Cypriot Sports are not to be held.

The island is, as usual, full of rumours not worth recording. There has been no apprehension, it should be said, of any serious disturbance, especially as the Turkish element could be counted upon to preserve, as it has done, a completely correct and dignified attitude. But a small detachment of about eighty Sherwood Foresters has been quartered at the depot at Nicosia. The Ottoman community enters upon Ramadan to-day (May 9), which should bring round the Ramadan Bairam on June 7. As the hot weather approaches, preparations are being made for the summer season in the hills.

M. N. Katalános, an Hellenic subject, who has for many years past been a conspicuous promoter of disaffection in Cyprus, has been expelled, none too soon, from the island. After being confined for about ten days in the Central Prison, he has been placed on board an Austrian steamer for the Piræus. The Greek Consul has sent to the authorities his passport *visé* for Greece. M. Katalános has at various times come forward to deliver speeches well calculated to disturb the peace of the island, and he might with advantage have been invited to quit these shores many years ago; but a misplaced tolerance has allowed him to take a leading part among the agitators. The step now taken may be a wholesome warning, to supplement that recently given to M. N. Laniti, M.L.C., on similar grounds.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and Cyprus.

The reply of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the letter of the island Archbishop Kyrillos (dated March 25) is published by the *Phoné tes Kyprou*. His Grace assures the prelate and the Holy Synod of his earnest desire that the cordial relations existing between their respective Churches may continue, and indeed be strengthened. As regards political considerations, which the letter introduced, his Grace fears that he can do no more than devote his earnest care to supporting the authorities in both countries in all that may contribute to the harmony and happiness of the different communities who live together in the beautiful and famous island in which the Archbishop holds so eminent a position.

Mr. Stanley Fisher, Chief Justice, is on a visit to Jerusalem, as guest of Mr. Luke, the Assistant Governor. His place is filled by Mr. A. L. Stuart, Puisne Judge, while Mr. Grimshaw, P.D.C. at Papho, acts for the latter.

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 TRUTH ABOUT THE BALKANS."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir, In reply to Madame Christitch's, in the main very complimentary, letter upon the subject of my article in the current number of the *Quarterly Review*—a letter published in your issue of May 12—I would only say that:—

(1) In apparently grudging Bulgaria even a commercial access to the Aegean, that lady seems to have forgotten the long-drawn-out and justifiable struggle of Serbia to secure an Adriatic port of her own—a struggle the ultimate and happy success of which was so materially furthered by the praiseworthy efforts and help of Madame Christitch herself.

(2) The positions of Bulgaria and of Albania, in their reference to Yugoslavia, are in no sense the same as that of Germany in her relation to France, and this because, if for no other reason, the population of the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes is more than twice those of Bulgaria and Albania combined, whereas the population of France is still less than that of her Eastern neighbour.—I am, etc.,

H. CHARLES WOODS.

May 14, 1921.

THE OLYMPIANS AND THE DANUBE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The Danube, that serene and mighty waterway, has lately become subject to the consideration of High Olympus, in this instance taking the form of a Conference in Paris.

In the early days of the Danube Commission, before "high-brow" notions were allowed to obscure clear vision, things went sufficiently well, and though the Danube Commission was unable to prevent wars, its composition did not actually provoke them. The Danube Commission of pre-war constitution, minus the German representative, has been carrying on the task of administration provisionally, as far as outward appearances go, sufficiently satisfactorily. It is remarkable that the Commission, consisting of British, French, Italian, and Roumanian members—that is, three representatives of non-riparian against one of the riparian States—excludes the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and the Czechoslovak Republic, two allied nations, who are also interested in Danubian affairs.

The Conference of Olympians in Paris is now engaged in constituting a Permanent International Commission of Control over the Danube. The proposed constitution of this Commission is interesting. Non-riparian States—Great Britain, France, and Italy—send one representative each. Of the riparian, presumably Roumania, Bulgaria, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, the Republican Monarchy of Hungary and the Czechoslovak Republic one each, and the German riparian States two. What are the German riparian States? German-Austria is one, no doubt; is the German Reich, as such, another? Or will Bavaria, Wuerttemberg, Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, and Baden severally have a voice in the matter? One may imagine how impressive Teuton eloquence would become when discussing the necessity of controlling the Danube from its very source in the Baroque fountain in the castle-yard of Donaueschingen.

Whatever prompted the suggestion that Hungary be made the centre of gravity of the Danube system, it is based on entirely false premises. Hungary is not entitled to that position on any grounds whatever, either geographical, economic, or political. Geographically, though Budapest be roughly halfway between the source and the mouth of the Danube, it has no natural right to be considered anything but what it actually is—the capital of a small State which grew up round the stronghold conveniently situated on a fairly steep hill of a predatory Mongolian chief. There are no natural communications, such as waterways, leading to the Danube at this spot. Roads and railways were made to converge on Budapest as the distant provinces were forced to give their raw material towards creating a centralised industry in the capital—an economic falsity. The Olympians, therefore, would encourage an artificial economic centre in a country devoid of all the raw material necessary to industrial enterprise, and would check the industrial development of the Succession States and Roumania, who as Allies of the Great Powers achieved their political freedom, and may not be denied their economic independence. Politically the importance of Hungary lies in its capacity of doing mischief. Much the same may be said of Vienna as an economic and political "centre of gravity." In both cases the same influence seems to be at work, in both instances the activities which,

by oppression of the outlying Slav races, built up a corrupt empire, by wanton aggression in quest of further spheres of oppressive influence brought down that empire, are again at work to destroy what Western Europe and its Allies fought for.

Vienna and Budapest are swarming with international financial adventurers, whose chance of gain is favoured by political uncertainty, rather than by sound economic measures which tend to stabilise values.

The "centre of gravity" of the Danube system is to be found not in the capital of effete Austria or restless Hungary, both economically dependent on their riparian neighbours, but in the place where Nature has ordained it should be, and that place is Bratislava. Here, by means of the Morava, the big waterways are connected, or will be when the plans to that end have been carried out. Then, by way of Elbe, Oder, Vistula, Morava, and Danube, the North Sea, the Baltic, and Black Sea water communications will be established. Then the Succession States, who, being well acquainted with the influence of Vienna and Budapest, know how to deal with it, will settle down to those closer economic relations which the Danube encourages, and will thus gradually remove the causes which make Eastern Europe restless and discontented.

But as a matter of justice and expediency, someone should discourage the tendency of Olympians to overlook important geographical factors such as Bratislava, to disregard economic developments as of the Succession States, and to encourage ex-enemies against old and new Allies.

We cannot afford any more wars.—I am, etc.,

MID-EUROPEAN.

THE SITUATION IN EGYPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The marked change in the attitude of the Egyptian towards the Briton is possibly not very noticeable to residents in the country, but it is a veritable eye-opener to those, like myself, who are paying a brief visit to Egypt. There appears to be a studied policy of antagonism to all things British; the favoured nation for the time being is Italy. As a result of frequenting the type of café that is rigorously shunned by the so-called respectable and fashionable community, and in the course of conversation with all sorts and conditions of washed and unwashed humanity, it has been possible to pick up a considerable amount of gossip of the underworld, which, I consider, reflects the ideas and opinions of the uneducated masses on the present political situation.

There can be no possible doubt that the so-called Nationalist movement is heavily financed by several of the wealthy and fanatical Egyptian princes; that their paid agents are continually at work inculcating a hatred of all things British; and that the lower classes are deliberately encouraged to insult covertly and to jostle British subjects on every occasion. The popular war-cry of the underworld of Alexandria is: "Inshallah fi'l ahar i-senna de mafeesh boranett fi'l Iskindireyèn," which may be translated as "Please God, there will be no wearers of hats in Alexandria at the end of this year." In other words, the inhabitants will wear either the tarbush of imma, meaning that all Europeans will be driven from the country by then. The recent labour troubles are attributed by many to the underground policy of an Italian group, who are credited with having furnished strike funds in certain cases. In this connection it is interesting to note that the only foreigners resident in the country who appear to favour self-government for Egypt are of Italian nationality. The Hellenic community, by far the largest in numbers, and, one

Cunard Line

MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA PATRAS PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE ROUMANIAN PORTS ALSO FROM LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE AND FIUME

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM
LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER LONDON SWANSEA ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT AND BLACK SEA PORTS

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might say, the most important financially, view the prospect of a Pashalik with undisguised horror. A very great deal of stress has been laid on the blessings that will result from the abolition of the Capitulations, but it should be remembered that the only protection afforded to non-Egyptian subjects owning real estate in the country is that given by those same much-abused Capitulations, which certain members of the Milner Commission talked so glibly of abolishing, without, however, suggesting an alternative method of protecting non-Egyptian interests.

Imagine the position of a house-owner of, say, British extraction under entirely Egyptian rule. The odds are about 5,000 to 1 that after two years of self-government the police would be owed three or four months' arrears of pay. What is more natural for the Shawish than to look around for a suitable subject for blackmail in order to keep his own dependents from starvation? For countless generations he has been taught the advisability of always choosing the line of least resistance, and would accordingly descend on the British landlord with the complaint that his chimney smoked excessively or that his bath-water was running into the public thoroughfare, and that in default of a fairly substantial *pourboire* he would be reluctantly compelled to hale the said landlord to the local police-court there and then. A refusal to pay up would undoubtedly result in enforced detention in a filthy cell and a fine of many pounds on the morrow, which would be shared in certain proportions between the Shawish in question and the Mamour of the Kism. Nine out of ten, knowing their native, would backsheesh the Shawish straight away. This is a very minor example of what might, and certainly would, occur. The far-sighted foreigner who recognises what will happen under Egyptian self-government is very sanely and cautiously selling out all his interests in the country with a view to retiring to a safer locality in his old age.

The average Briton is very insular and possessed of excessive race prejudice, and in the case of the less travelled and experienced subject endeavours to force his mentality on the native, whose ideas and reasoning powers run in absolutely contrary directions. An amusing example of this is the following:—The British authorities, in the kindness of their hearts, are reputed to have placed a machine-gun detachment in or near the palace of Saad Pasha Zaghloul with the idea of protecting him from the too pressing affection of his native adherents. This mistaken act of kindness has been construed by the anti-Delegationists as clear proof that Saad Pasha Zaghloul is in British pay, and has been subsidised by perfidious Albion from the very beginning, and that the detachment is meant to protect him from the righteous vengeance of his betrayed compatriots! On the other hand, one is told by those who are not generally received into polite society that Saad Pasha Zaghloul is a tool in the hands of Omar Pasha Toussoun, the strong man in the background, who keeps up semi-royal state, has illimitable funds, his own brass band, and *corps d'élite* of pipers. There is little doubt that this powerful prince, one of the most intelligent and fanatical of the old régime, has enormous influence amongst the masses, and has, alas! certain cause to detest the British as a result of his experiences with immature officers. In view of his dominant personality, I should not be a bit surprised to see him oust the various pashas, collectively and individually, and finally gather the strings of Government in his own hands.

British influence in Egypt has been steadily on the decline since Lord Cromer surrendered the reins of control.—I am, etc.,

A PASSER-BY IN EGYPT.

Alexandria, May 10, 1921.

Like other countries that were involved in the war, Serbia is suffering from an excess of divorce cases (writes our Zagreb Correspondent). So great is the congestion that some cases have been waiting two years and even more. Measures have been taken to clear off a great deal of these arrears and to simplify and hasten procedure. No less than eight thousand cases have come forward.



BUILDING THE FUTURE OF THE HOLY LAND.

THE Holy Land holds a unique position in the heart of every Christian. We are all stirred to the depths by the thought that the care of Jerusalem and the diverse peoples of Palestine is to be entrusted to the British Empire.

The future of a country is in a great measure bound up with its schools. Sir Michael Sadler gives it as his opinion that the work of mission schools is of great and increasing importance. "They have an ideal which no nation can afford to lose, and they have at their command the priceless service of devoted men and women." We have a working example of what such schools should be in the Girls' High School, Jerusalem, which was started in 1919 under the joint management of four missionary bodies. Here Christian, Jew, and Moslem girls meet and learn to know, respect, and understand one another, and imbibe the very best that Western Christians can give them in the way of spiritual, intellectual, social, and political ideals.

A crisis has suddenly arisen owing to the receipt of notice that the school building, formerly a German orphanage and day school, must shortly be restored to its original owners.

It is therefore essential to raise £20,000 to provide a new school, £12,000 being required for the site and £8,000 for the first building. There is every reason to believe that in a few years the school will cover its own running expenses. It is for Christians to decide whether this historic opportunity is to be grasped and developed. Large and small contributions are needed, and should be sent to the Rev. E. M. Bickersteth, 12, Warwick Square, London, S.W.1, Secretary of the Joint Committee of the Co-operating Missionary Bodies. Cheques should be made payable to the "British High School, Jerusalem," and crossed "Messrs. Coutts and Co."

THE BRITISH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AT JERUSALEM.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

We read in the Old Testament of Huldah, the Prophetess, who "dwelt in Jerusalem in the college," whom Hilkiah, the priest, and others sought in the day of trouble. The women of Palestine have played a great part in the history of the Holy Land from Bible times onwards, and they are to-day, perhaps, the most important factor in its life. I would not expect success for any reform which the women of Palestine had no will to support. People at home often make the mistake of thinking that the women of Palestine have no voice in matters; this is fully as absurd as it would be to say that they have *all* the power. In towns, at least, and certainly in Jerusalem itself, they take no mean place in affairs.

Bishop Blyth was wont to say that there was no instance in the Gospels of a woman turning her face away from our Lord, or of offering Him a slight, far less an unkindness; and Syrian girls would seize upon that thought with absolute joy and never let it go. In all his educational schemes the Bishop always gave the education of girls—the mothers of the future—the first place, and so it was that St. Mary's Home for Girls was the first thing he started—in 1889—whereas St. George's Boys' School was exactly ten years younger. He believed in giving a sound English education on English lines, and, first, a thorough knowledge of English as being the one road into literature, for there are no general or simple books in Arabic, nor story books, to cope with the needs of young minds eager to learn and to grow; not forgetting the purely domestic arts and—games! Strangely enough, games were a new feature in school life for little girls in Palestine; perhaps action and excitement were considered unmaidenly, but his experience of Syrian girls was that they could play games without losing their charming natural manners or their gentle ways and speech. They did more; they gave clear proof of the fine qualities of Syrian girls. One is now curator of a department in the Cape Town Museum; she is just twenty-five. One is a teacher in a L.C.C. school in England. Several are teaching in Palestine. Others have nursed with distinction in Egypt, and one passed her midwifery examination in London ahead of all the English girls, gaining 100 per cent. on nearly every point. One passed out among the first in a Government examination at the new high school last year. These girls have shown themselves fully as sturdy, independent, and reliable as their brothers.

The soil is good and deserves only the best seed. That best we believe to be what is understood by the term "a sound English education," which it is the aim of the new Girls' High School to give to the daughters of Palestine. The school was opened for paying pupils and for orphans in September, 1918, at the express request of the Military Government of Jerusalem by the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund; it was housed in the empty building known as "Talitha Kumi," formerly a German orphanage for girls, worked by the Kaiserswerth deaconesses. It began in a small way, but it began also in the best way, having for its head one who had already a long experience in educational work in the Near East. By July, 1919, good homes had been found for the orphans, and the Relief Fund was able to close its work in Palestine, now in the safe keeping of the British Occupation, and to concentrate its forces on the greater need of Syria. The school now became wholly available for girls whose parents could afford—and preferred—to pay for their education; and four of the British Missions already pledged to service in the Holy Land became responsible for it. Such co-operation was new in the history of missions in Palestine, and this unity of purpose was surely the happiest augury for the future of the school.

The school is run on simple, yet practical, lines. The staff are all first-rate teachers, whose aim is to give the girls a thoroughly sound education in English in all branches, from the kindergarten up to the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board examinations. The Bible is taught as part of the curriculum, and each day's work begins with school prayers. The girls, in their many nationalities and types, show the extraordinary diversity of races and creeds which call the Holy Land home; there are English, American, Syrian, French, Russian, Armenian, Montenegrin, Persian, Bulgarian, Greek, and Jewish girls. It would be impossible for children of such widely differing creeds and nationalities to work together happily and peacefully in Palestine in any but an English school. It is the utter fairness and impartiality of British rule, indeed, whether in the small confines of a school or the wide spheres of political dominion, which make such harmony possible.

The high school is but in its third year, and results are yet to show; but the Palestine Government, which is eager to promote education and progress, believes that such a school can do valuable work in the new era in the history of the Holy Land. As a British institution, it has the sympathy and welcome of the Syrians themselves, who have always been thirsty for English education, and it will not overlook the claim of European children whose parents are working under the British mandate in Palestine. It is part of the strength of British rule that it gives its best unreservedly, and believes that nothing less than the best is good enough to give. The British Occupation has given to Palestine many of the things she most needs, but unless her people are to be educated in the principles of honour, liberality, and uprightness, which we believe to be implied in the term "An English education," these great benefits will lose much of their virtue in the future. Those who know the Syrians well have great confidence in their ability. The soil is good, and will, of the best seed, give a generous harvest in the days to come.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Stephen Raditch.

The *New Statesman* of May 14 contains a very instructive article upon Stephen Raditch, the advocate of a Croat Peasants' Republic. It gives a definite picture of his picturesque personality, this orator in several languages, whose eloquence "has frequently carried him along and swept him round and round like a leaf, not only in a direction opposite to that which he previously travelled, but flying sometimes in the face of the most puissant and august authorities." It comments upon his declining to come to the Belgrade Government, and continues:—

There are those who say that the impulsive little man has changed his mind so often that it would be just as well to wait until he writes another motto on his banner. But Jugo-Slavia cannot afford to wait; if it survives the first few years of infancy we need not be afraid that it will fly apart. But just now everything must be done to encourage the centripetal forces. It would be grievous if a heavy blow were to be struck at this new State by one who has always been a patriotic Croat. It would be sad if he and his adherents were to do what will prevent the Croats from truly uniting for a long time with their brother Serbs. For if he continues with his propaganda of the Peasants' Republican Party he will make this union more and more hard to achieve. There are obstacles enough in the two people's different culture and traditions without the addition of any others. Raditch, however, is not one of those people who irrevocably make up their minds on any subject; in fact, his critics assert that the sentiments which he expresses at the end of one of his perivivid orations do not in the least tally with what he said at the beginning. They have pointed out that his republican ideas did not find utterance before the war, and he admits that when he heard the cry "Long live the Republic!" at a meeting of the Peasants' party on July 25, 1918, it came to him as a revelation. He accepted it. Four months after this famous meeting a Convention was held, with 2,874 delegates, who represented some 100,000 people. They pronounced themselves to be Republicans and Jugo-Slavs. At a meeting on February 3, 1919, 6,882 delegates, speaking on behalf of about 200,000 people, resolved to send in a petition for a Republic to the Jugo-Slav Government.

It proceeds to state his political beliefs:—"One should not try to be original, but should seek to interpret, as do the peasants, both the living generation and the ancestors. He wishes to retain the good which has been handed down—for example, the local dress and customs—but also to add the good which is the product of our time."

It must be remembered that the Serbs are a democratic people; they are by their nature in opposition to any force, civil or military, which might attempt to make the monarchy more absolute. The wisest Serbs do not forget that in the peasant lies their principal wealth, and although as yet the Serbian Peasants' Party does not hold many constituencies in the old kingdom, nevertheless it appears to have a brighter prospect than any other Serbian party, for in that country the revolt against the lawyer-politician is likely to be more efficacious than in France or England. One may look forward to an understanding between Raditch and this Serbian party, which is as yet only eighteen months old.

The uncertain factors appear to be the hold of Raditch over his peasants and over himself. Yet there is no denying the good work he has done for the peasants, whose love and confidence he has now secured. "But the question is whether he has got sufficient strength of will. With all his qualities of heart and brain, he has not managed to discard his zigzag impetuosity."

Those who are openly sailing in Raditch's boat are for the most part the hard-headed peasants. Yet a number of the intelligentsia are coming on board—some of them, no doubt, with a view to their own advancement, but others on account of their convictions. And a still greater number of the Croat intelligentsia look on him with sympathy—municipal officials, barristers, doctors, merchants, schoolmasters, and military officers. It is most foolish to pretend that all these people are thinking regretfully of the old Habsburg days—they are, in the vast majority, sincere and loyal Jugo-Slavs who have certain definite grievances. They do not believe that Croatia has fared very well since the institution of the new State, and it would seem wise to give them as much autonomy as is consonant with the interests of the whole country, for then they will only have themselves to blame if there is no improvement. When Belgrade makes a statesmanlike gesture, then Raditch will probably be able to persuade the peasants to abandon their republican slogan, as well as that sullen attitude towards the Government which they were far from entertaining when the State was first established. A conciliator is needed, and it seems possible that the wise old Nicholas Pashitch may be destined to fill that rôle, and live to witness the achievement of the ideal for which he has worked so long—a contented and really united Jugo-Slavia.

Armenia.

In the *Contemporary Review* of May, Viscount Bryce, O.M., writes from the Armenian aspect upon "The Revision of the Turkish Treaty." After giving a brief record of events from 1914, he says:—

It is, perhaps, too soon to apportion the blame between those responsible for this Near Eastern policy, the failure of which nobody denies. The excuse usually made is that the European Powers were waiting for the United States to take the action which they had, somewhat too light-mindedly, expected from

that Power. This excuse, however, does not justify either the initial blunder of a weak and improvident armistice, nor the want of foresight and of energy in neglecting to see it enforced. Neither need time be spent in discussing the causes which have been inducing some of the Powers to show favour to the Turks. We all have heard of the somewhat unworthy motives which are alleged to be at work; we have all noticed the pro-Turkish attitude of several important journals in some countries, and have sought an explanation. Why this tenderness for a Government which massacred a million of its innocent subjects six years ago, a Government which, whatever form it may take, has shown itself always irreclaimably corrupt, savage, and stupid?

It remains to ask what can be done now, if not to remedy the misfortunes which the policy, or want of policy, here described has entailed, yet at least to save something out of the wreck? Whatever the means to be adopted, the objects to be attained seem to be the following:—Secure, if possible, the retirement of Turkish and Bolshevik troops from the Armenian and Georgian Republics, by making this a condition of any agreement between Britain and France on the one hand and either of those invading Powers on the other. Compel the Turks to evacuate any territory heretofore Turkish that may be assigned to Armenia. This will keep some sort of an Armenian State in existence even if the Erivan Republic be for the time overrun. Make the concession of some local autonomous institutions sufficient to protect the Christian population of Eastern Cilicia a condition of any Treaty to be concluded with Turkey. Carry out the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles by providing funds which will enable some one of the minor Powers within the League of Nations to accept a mandate for Armenia, since it is known that none of the Great Powers will do so, and it is believed that one of the minor Powers will.

To accomplish these things, especially the last, will cost more money than it would have done to prevent the Turks from disregarding the Armistice and resuming their massacres of the Christians. But it will prove in the long run far more costly to allow our dangerous foes the Turks and Bolsheviks to threaten Afghanistan and India by dominating the regions that were to have been liberated, and some such action offers the only means of escaping the dishonour which will rest upon us if we abandon innocent peoples who suffered only because they were Christians, and to whom we promised liberty and protection.

The concessions which the London Conference has proposed to make to the Turks in Constantinople, Thrace, and Western Asia Minor are unfortunate and likely to give rise to further troubles, and it is much to be regretted that the opportunity of extinguishing Turkish rule in Constantinople, thus "cleaning up" a city which has been a nest of scoundrelism during the last five centuries, has been lost.

THE JAFFA RIOTS.

We are indebted to an occasional correspondent for permission to publish the following extract from a letter written from Jaffa on May 2. It confirms reports from other sources that the rioting was directly caused by the Communists, about whose admission to Palestine there have been so many warnings and complaints:—

"Yesterday was most exciting. Some Bolshevik Jews started a riot. First of all they came in in numbers from a colony just outside Jaffa, and had a meeting all against English rule, doing their best to get the Arabs up against it. This first meeting was at 11 a.m.; it was allowed, and soon after there was another one, of a very stormy kind, and then began the row. The Jews were the chief sufferers; some got awfully battered. . . . A lot of killing and wounding took place before the troops arrived. About midday the firing was very hot. — went out to see what was going on, and said afterwards that it was terrible, dead lying about the streets. . . . He said that it was all he could do to keep his hands off a man he passed, who was just shouting out awful things against England. This man was a few minutes later struck on the head by an Arab and battered to death by two or three. There are some terrible Jews here, real Bolsheviks. . . . To-day the whole town is closed, and they are still fighting."

MUSICAL NOTES.

A Greek Pianist.

Unfortunate conditions, the chief of which was due to the reduced means of travelling, prevented my hearing more of M. Leon Eustratiou's recital at the Æolian Hall, on May 12, than Rachmaninoff's G minor Prelude. M. Eustratiou is a Greek pianist, who is said to have a considerable Continental reputation, and he has, I believe, played in London before. In this prelude he showed a very facile technique, and a certain type of reckless bravery (which, gratefully enough, was not at the expense of accuracy) that readily took the fancy of his audience, many of whom were compatriots. For the quality of his tone he did not seem to care greatly, and his reading was more brilliantly superficial than deep.

Miss Lily West.

There was typical English playing in the pianoforte recital that Miss Lily West gave at the Wigmore Hall on May 12—a developed but quite fallible technique, a limited imagination, and an inflexible honesty of purpose. It was the respectable sort of playing that fills, day in and day out, the drawing-rooms of our bourgeoisie, a few times a little better, often a little worse. Beethoven's Andante in F was read with all the emphatic dullness in which it abounds, Scarlatti's "Pastorale and Capriccio" (oh, so worn) came rather to grief through missed or muffled notes, and, Ravel's "Pavane on a dead child" was done with great harmonic impropriety. This was the kind of recital which stamps us (for Miss West was no worse than many others) eternally as an inartistic nation.

The London String Quartet.

There are certain things to be said against the London String Quartet, but it is difficult to imagine anyone seriously gainsaying their performance (the first in England) of Kreisler's Quartet in A minor, at the Æolian Hall, on May 9. Their playing in this was extraordinarily spirited and enthusiastic, and at its finish they received with the composer an unusual ovation. Earlier they had played Mozart's Quartet in D minor, the first two movements indifferently, the last two superbly. Their finish in the Minuet was memorable. Of the Kreisler Quartet there is not much to say, because it itself says little. Its construction, of course, is very worthy, the instrumental balance being particularly noticeable. But it has little originality; it has many stereotyped effects, and is often reminiscent. Very certainly it is not worth the time and care that the London String Quartet must have spent on it.

The London Trio.

This trio, which consists of Miss Amina Goodwin (pianoforte), M. Pecsikai (violin), and Mr. Whitehouse (cello), has achieved a true *ensemble*, and their performances, therefore, have no external unpleasantnesses. In Beethoven's Trio in E flat (Op. 70) they played at once with careful accuracy and unaffected earnestness. After the passion for deep and individual interpretations, of which our concerts bear so many sad traces, it was mildly refreshing to hear three modest artists let the music speak for itself. Of course, the joy to be obtained from such a method (repeated in the performance by Miss Goodwin and M. Pecsikai of the "Kreutzer" Sonata) is definitely limited, but it has many merits. It was surprising at so genuine a concert as this to find the cellist repeating, in answer to absurd applause, a most rapid "Introduction and Perpetuo" of his own composition—there was something seriously wrong with someone's sense of values here. Miss Mary Roebuck varied the efficient placidity of the afternoon with some songs, the best sung of which was Arensky's "Coucous," and the worst Stanford's "Cutting Rushes," though much of the failure in this was due to the fact that the accompanist, Mr. S. Liddle, could never forget that it was not Mr. Plunket Greene who was singing.

A True Vocalist.

It is very seldom that one meets in a recital such technical artistry and musical sense as were proved to be Mr. Ingo Simon's possessions at the Wigmore Hall on May 20. His programme was made up of airs from Italian Operas, 1560—1901, and I was genuinely sorry to miss the first and earliest group. For though Mr. Simon's voice lacks freshness, moving power, and, generally speaking, tone-colour, so refined was his taste and so artistic his perception that it was a rare pleasure to listen to him. He even converted one to the use of gesture on the concert platform, with so nice a reticence did he employ it. He is to give another recital at the Wigmore Hall on May 31.

Senor Manuel de Falla.

This distinguished Spanish composer came over to England to play the pianoforte part of his "Nights in the Gardens of Spain," which was given its first performance in this country by Mr. Edward Clark at the Queen's Hall on

May 20. The work was not the highly coloured and exciting thing we had been led to believe it, and despite the composer's claim that it was not descriptive but expressive, its charm is certainly more pictorial than spiritual. Mr. Clark himself strengthened considerably his reputation as conductor, for into a horn concerto of Mozart (beautifully played by Mr. Aubrey Brain) he unexpectedly introduced a flexibility and gaiety that nearly saved the work from monotony. Of his interpretation of modern music I have already written in sufficient praise.

Pouishnoff's Last Recital.

Leff Pouishnoff, the magnificent Persian pianist, is to give his last recital this season at the Queen's Hall on June 2. His programme is largely made up of those trifles in which he particularly excels; it includes a Chopin group, and works by Rameau, Corelli, Moussorgsky, Rachmaninoff and Debussy. This is a concert not to be missed.

ANDANTE.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

May 9.—Mr. A. Williams asked whether His Majesty's Government had yet received any information as to the terms arranged between France and the Kemalists with regard to the French withdrawal from Cilicia; whether he could say how the proposed gendarmerie would be constituted and commanded; and what measure of responsibility would be retained by France for the Christian population of Cilicia. Mr. Harmsworth replied that he had some information from the Press and other sources as to the terms of the agreement said to have been concluded between the French and the Turkish Delegation in London, although he had not heard that it had been confirmed by the Turkish Assembly at Angora. Subject to this reservation, it appeared to have been in contemplation to withdraw the French troops within a month of the cessation of hostilities, to utilise the existing gendarmerie under French officers as the nucleus of the new gendarmerie, and to demand guarantees for the protection of minorities.

In reply to a question by Mr. Spoor on the formation of the Egyptian Delegation, Mr. Harmsworth replied that it was for the Egyptians to choose their delegation, and His Majesty's Government were reluctant to interfere at all as to the manner in which they should exercise that right.

Mr. A. Herbert asked the Prime Minister whether his attention had been called to a letter from the Secretary of State for India to the Indian Moslem delegation with reference to British policy with regard to Turkey; and why such a declaration in accordance with the Prime Minister's pledge of January 5, 1921, was not made eighteen months ago. The Prime Minister replied that the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative. As regarded the last part, he could add nothing to the previous replies which had been given to his hon. friend on this subject.

May 10.—In reply to a question by Sir H. Brittain on the Jaffa disturbances, Mr. Churchill stated that he had already communicated to the Press all particulars with reference to the recent disturbances. A Commission of Inquiry had been appointed to inquire into the matter, and it was not probable that further information would be forthcoming until it had completed its investigations.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies when, and on what charge, Seyid Talib, of Busreh, late Minister of the Interior in the Baghdad Government, was arrested; whether he had since been deported for life, and whether he was in custody. Mr. Churchill answered that Seyid Talib Pasha, late Minister of the Interior in the Provisional Arab Government of Mesopotamia, was arrested at Baghdad on April 16. The charge was that while holding an important office, and responsible for public security, he made a speech in the presence of foreign Consuls and other gentlemen, in the course of which he stated that he was prepared, in certain eventualities, to have recourse to armed force against the Mandatory Power. In the interests of law and order he was accordingly deported to Ceylon, where he would be allowed to live at liberty with his family. The period of his detention would be dependent upon the course of events in Mesopotamia, and has not been fixed. In reply to a question by Mr. Ormsby-Gore whether deportation was carried out by a military court or by the order of the High Commissioner, Mr. Churchill stated that it was by the order of the High Commissioner.

May 12.—Sir Philip Magnus asked the Prime Minister when the Treaty of Sévres would be ratified; whether under Articles 125 and 129 of that Treaty British subjects resident in Palestine would have the option of electing to be Palestinian or of retaining their British nationality; whether as to that option a distinction was made between Jews and non-Jews who are British subjects; and, if so, whether he would take such steps as might be necessary before the ratification of the Treaty for the removal of such distinction from the terms of the Treaty? The Prime Minister replied to the first part of the question in the negative. With regard to the second part of the question, Article 129 of the Treaty would not affect the nationality of any British subjects in Palestine other than Jews who were "*habitually resident*" there, who would, under the Treaty, become citizens of Palestine. Persons affected by the provisions of Article 129 would have the same right as other persons habitually resident in Palestine to opt in accordance with Article 125, but that article gave no right to opt for either British or Palestinian nationality.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"THE BALKANS: ROUMANIA, BULGARIA, SERBIA, and MONTE-NEGRO." By William Miller, M.A. "Stories of the Nations" series. (London: Fisher Unwin. 7s. 6d. net.)
- II.—"A DREAM OF OLD SOMERSET." By Frederick A. Goudge. (London: S. Allen Warner. 3s. net.)
- III.—"WAKE UP, PRINCES." By Khasherno Jadhava, Bombay. Rs. 6.
- IV.—"THE WRECK." By Rabindranath Tagore. (London: Macmillan and Co. 8s. 6d. net.)

I.—THE STORY OF THE BALKANS.

This is not a new edition, but a new impression of the second edition of Mr. Miller's well-known and very useful book. The fact that it is called for shows how interest in the Balkans has spread in this country of late years; and we welcome its appearance, while hoping that a new edition will take us beyond 1908. As far as it goes Mr. Miller's work is well done; he makes the confused history of the Balkans as clear as may be for the ordinary reader, and adapts his style to the highly popular series to which the volume belongs. It would be possible, no doubt, to point out faults; but of what book on the subject could not the same be said? And we find Mr. Miller at least as dependable as, and much more easy to read, than many writers on Balkan history, ancient and modern. The book can be unhesitatingly recommended for readers who wish to obtain a general view of the subject without wishing to go deeply into it. They will certainly find it interesting, and often entertaining; and the index will enable them to look up quickly any fact they want.

II.—OLD SOMERSET.

The charm of Somerset is well known to adults in this country, largely through the efforts of Mr. Cecil Sharp in collecting and in tirelessly seeking to popularise the folk-songs and dances of this county. In this little book, a pageant in seven scenes, it is the child whom the author has tried primarily to interest, and his enthusiasm for his task never flags. His characters are quite representative types, and though of his songs the two genuine Somerset ones are easily the best, the music as a whole adds attractive relief to the play.

The story of the book centres round Alice, the little girl creation of Lewis Carroll, who goes to sleep and dreams of all the things that are supposed to come to imaginative children—witches, kindly peasants, rich and rather superfluous gentlemen, and so on—and by means of these the author contrives to prefer some of the salient points in Somerset folk-lore. Mr. Goudge is perhaps limited by the audience for whom he is writing, and there might be more delicate and original poetry in his lines, but his effects are simply and surely made, and the little play is pleasantly produced.

III.—PROBLEMS OF THE INDIAN STATES.

The writer of this book, a high official in the Baroda State, offers an interesting contribution to the discussion of the future of the large number of States lying among the British provinces of India. The discussion is somewhat rhetorical, and would have benefited by compression and rearrangement, but the views propounded are clear enough. Liberate the States from the control exercised by the Government of India, and leave the Princes free to develop the ancient Indian theory of sovereignty in the light of modern democratic ideals. The author dislikes the Chamber of Princes as at present constituted, and his criticisms reflect sentiments which are known to prevail in some of the most important States; he offers an alternative constitution designed to give more weight to what he regards as the predominant interests, and much that he says on this topic is enlightening, but the subject is too large and too complex to be discussed here, and we must content ourselves with recommending the book to students who are prepared to take divergent views into consideration. Mr. Jadhava has not attempted a complete discussion, but he has put the case for one party forcibly and without offence.

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IV.—AN INDIAN COMEDY OF ERRORS.

Bengali fiction is of comparatively recent growth. It originated during the era of our Early Victorian giants, whose influence is seen in the latest vernacular novel. Rabindranath Tagore has followed a well-beaten track in constructing "The Wreck"; but when we turn from plot and dialogue to the atmosphere which he conjures up, we are faced with a social environment which might well make Dickens and Thackeray turn in their honoured graves. "The Wreck" is a novel without a hero. Its leading character is a young lawyer named Ramesh, who falls in love with Hemnalini, the charming daughter of a Calcutta neighbour. His suit finds acceptance, and an auspicious date is fixed for his wedding. But Ramesh's father summons him home, and forces him to marry a young person named Susila. Ramesh goes through the ceremony in a fit of sulks, and deigns not to glance at his blushing bride. The entire wedding party then starts in a flotilla of boats for Susila's home—and is wrecked by a whirlwind on the Ganges. After the catastrophe Ramesh finds himself deposited by wind and wave on a sandbank with a beautiful girl, his father and all the rest of his family having perished. He naturally thinks that the lovely castaway is his bride; but she has a story of her own. She is an orphan named Kamala, whose miserly uncle implored every Brahman stranger he met to take her off his hands. A young doctor in that category, Nalinaksha by name, happened to call at Kamala's village, and on learning her sad plight chivalrously offered to marry her then and there! The wedding duly took place, and Nalinaksha embarked for home with his bride. His boat was wrecked by the tornado which destroyed Ramesh's flotilla, and Nalinaksha sought in vain for his poor little wife.

Ramesh soon discovers that Kamala is not the girl whom he had been compelled to marry, but accepts the curious situation with something more than philosophy. He carries Kamala to Calcutta, places her at a boarding school, and resumes intimate relations with Hemnalini's family. She is kept in ignorance of her rival's existence, and arrangements are made for her union with Ramesh. He, however, finds a double life impossible, and flees to Ghazipur with Kamala. After undergoing many vicissitudes, she meets Nalinaksha, and the curtain descends on an ideally happy pair. We are left in the dark as to Hemnalini's fate, and can only hope that she will not espouse so despicable a creature as Ramesh.

"The Wreck" will interest western readers by reason of the glimpse it gives of a civilisation differing entirely from their own; but it proves Rabindranath Tagore to be no exception to the rule that poets are very seldom convincing novelists.

F. H. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Stories of the East." By Leonard Woolf. (Richmond: The Hogarth Press. 3s. net.)

"Beast and Man in India." By J. Lockwood Kipling, C.I.E. With illustrations. (London: Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Where the Pavement Ends." By John Russell. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 8s. net.)

"Studies in Islamic Mysticism." By Reynold Alleyne Nicholson. (London: Cambridge University Press. 24s. net.)

"Life of Venizelos." by S. B. Chester. With a Letter-Preface by M. Venizelos. (London: Constable and Co. 21s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

May 26 (New Style).

May 13 (Old Style).

Ramadan 18, 1339, of the Moslem Calendar.

Iyar 18, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince Christopher of Greece has arrived in Rome.

Sir Rennell and Lady Rodd have arrived at 25, Cavendish Square, from Rome.

Lady Rumbold has arrived at 8, Lowndes Street from the British Embassy, Constantinople.

General Thomson, delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has arrived in Sofia from Constantinople.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes (May 17): Sir Arthur Peel, the British Minister, has gone on leave to Constantinople.

Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, Commercial Secretary to his Majesty's Legation at Athens, has arrived in this country on a short official visit.

General Gouraud arrived in Cairo on a visit to Lord Allenby on May 17, and was received with military honours. He is staying at the Residency.

Major-General Sir Lee Stack, Governor-General of the Sudan, who has been in Cairo for the past fortnight, is coming very shortly to this country.

The Prince Regent of Serbia is due to arrive this week in Paris. His Royal Highness travels *incognito*, and may possibly extend his journey to England.

Mr. and Mrs. Lamb, of Goldsborough, have arrived at 33, Bruton Street, where they will be joined by Major Lamb, who is on his way home on leave from Khartoum.

The annual dinner of the Central Asian Society will take place on June 15 at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent Street, W. Viscount Chelmsford will be the guest of the Society.

Our Sofia Correspondent reports that Lady Colvin, the wife of the British representative on the Reparations Commission, arrived in Sofia on April 30, accompanied by her daughter.

The Calcutta dinner will be held at the Hotel Cecil on Tuesday, May 31. Applications for tickets (price £1 1s.) should be made at once to Walter Davies, Downhurst, Ealing, W.5.

The marriage arranged between Mr. C. Owen, of Brookside, Ceylon, and Miss Phyllis Clare Henderson, will take place at St. Andrew's, Westminster, to-morrow, May 27, at 12 o'clock.

Mrs. Rosita Forbes was entertained by the Overseas Club and Patriotic League at luncheon on May 20 at the Hyde Park Hotel. A report of her lecture before the Central Asian Society will be found on another page.

At the Empire Council which is to be held in London next month, the following will represent India:—Right Hon. E. S. Montagu, Secretary of State for India; His Highness the Maharao of Cutch (one of the Princes of Western India); and Mr. Srimvasa Sastri.

Reuter's Athens Correspondent reports under the date of May 18:—The infant daughter of Madame Manoş, the widow of the late King Alexander, was baptised to-day in the Palatine Chapel in the presence of the entire Royal Family. The child has been given the name of Alexandra.

On May 17, at Oxford University, the degree of Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa* was conferred upon the Rev. Philip N. Waggett, M.A., Christ Church. During the war he served as a chaplain in France and Palestine. He was attached to the Headquarters Staff at Jerusalem, and entrusted with important political work.

The engagement is announced of Captain George Cecil Sloane Stanley, late Grenadier Guards, of Ury, Badulla, Ceylon, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Sloane Stanley, of

42, Christchurch Road, Winchester, and Hilda Beatrice, younger daughter of the late Arthur F. Leach, of 34, Elm Park Gardens, S.W.

General Sir Arthur Hunter-Weston, who has recently been at Gallipoli for the purpose of selecting a site for the War Memorial, is now on his way back to England, accompanied by Lady Hunter-Weston. After a short stay of three days at Sofia, where they were received in audience by King Boris, General and Lady Hunter-Weston left for Belgrade on May 18.

The engagement is announced between Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Claude J. E. Auchinleck, D.S.O., O.B.E., 62nd Punjabis, elder son of the late Colonel J. C. A. Auchinleck, Royal Artillery, and Mrs. Auchinleck, of Greenways, Bourne, Farnham, Surrey, and Jessie, only daughter of the late Mr. Alexander Stewart, of Innerhadden, and Mrs. Stewart, Innerhadden, Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire.

Our Sudan Correspondent writes (April 27):—

It is reported that His Excellency the Governor-General will leave for England early in May.

Le Chef de Bataillon Toureng, ex-Commandant of Wadai, who has travelled to Khartoum via El Fasher, is shortly proceeding to France on leave, and is reported to be about to be married. He proposes to take his wife back to Wadai via El Fasher.

Sir Charles H. Bedford, LL.D., D.Sc., late Director, Central Excise Laboratory for India, will read a paper before the Indian and Colonial Sections of the Royal Society of Arts to-morrow on "Industrial (including Power) Alcohol." The chair will be taken at 4.30 p.m. by Lord Southborough. Sir C. Bedford has just returned from India, where he has been experimentally investigating the commercial and technical possibilities of various waste vegetable materials for power alcohol production, as well as various matters relating to the denaturation of and Excise restrictions on alcohol.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (May 6):—

The Crown Prince of Roumania and his wife, Princess Helena, left Athens for Bucharest last Thursday evening.

Signor Montagna, the Italian Minister, has returned to Athens from Rome.

Prince Christopher and his wife, Princess Anastasia, left for Paris last Wednesday. They will also visit London. Prior to her departure the Princess made a donation of 30,000 drachmæ to the Hellenic Red Cross Society, 10,000 drachmæ to the widows and children of Greek soldiers who have fallen, and 10,000 drachmæ to Princess Elizabeth's fund in aid of the poor.

On the occasion of the Crown Prince's name-day (St. George's), a thanksgiving service was held at the old Palace Chapel in Athens. Only the members of the Royal Family were present. After the service the Ministers, the high State officials, and many superior officers proceeded to the Crown Prince's Palace and signed their names in the book of congratulations. In the afternoon the Dowager Queen Olga, accompanied by the Princes and Princesses, motored to Tatoi, where a service was held in memory of the late King George.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced from Peking of M. Boppe, the French Minister to China. M. Boppe had been for a long while in the French diplomatic service, his posts including the French Consulate at Jerusalem and the Counsellorship to the Embassy at Constantinople.

The death is announced at Mashobra, near Simla, of Colonel Sir Alfred Mackenzie, an Indian Mutiny veteran. Colonel Mackenzie, who was 85, entered the Bengal Cavalry in 1854 and served in the siege and capture of Delhi and Lucknow, being wounded at the latter. He also took part in the Afghanistan campaign of 1879-1880, was mentioned in despatches, and held the bronze star for the march from Kabul to Kandahar. He became Colonel in 1882, C.B. in 1886, and K.C.B., in the Military Division, in 1907.

The death of Mr. John Gerald Ritchie, late of the Bengal Civil Service, removes an important link, says *The Times*, in the long association of the Thackerays with India. His grandfather, John Ritchie, married a daughter of William Makepeace Thackeray, the elephant hunter and grandfather of the novelist. Gerald Ritchie's father, William Ritchie, sometime Advocate-General of Bengal, died at the

early age of forty-five, six months after appointment to the Law Membership of the Government of India. A younger son, the late Sir Richmond Ritchie, sometime Under-Secretary of State for India, married the daughter of the novelist. Gerald Ritchie was further connected with Thackeray, as his widow is a daughter of Colonel Sir Edward Thackeray, V.C., a first cousin of both the novelist and William Ritchie. He also leaves a daughter. Gerald Ritchie was born in Calcutta in 1853, and retained as a vivid recollection of childhood a mental picture of the Naval Brigade landed there for the defence of the city in the Mutiny. In India he did district work at Darjeeling and elsewhere, but his most important appointment was that of chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta between 1892 and 1896. He did his work efficiently and sensibly, and was able to hold his own amid the subtleties of Bengali debate without making enemies; indeed, he was genuinely popular with both Indians and his Service colleagues. He was a great reader, with a fund of literary knowledge. At the end of last year he published the family letters of his father and many delightful reminiscences of his own under the title of "The Ritchies in India," which is a continuation and amplification of Sir William Hunter's "The Thackerays in India."

INDIAN STUDENTS.

The Secretary for India has decided to appoint a committee to examine comprehensively the whole question of Indian students in the United Kingdom.

The Chairman of the Committee will be Lord Lytton (Under-Secretary for India), and the members will include Sir Deva P. Sarbadhikari (late Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University), Diwan Bahadur M. Ramchandra Rao (member of Madras Legislative Council), Mr. Ernest Barker (Principal of King's College, London), Mr. M. N. Chatterjee (of the Y.M.C.A. Indian Students' Union, London), and Miss L. M. Brooks, Warden of the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine for Women.

RULES OF GOLF.

As a result of the changes made in the rules of golf the Royal Insurance Company, Ltd., has issued a further edition of its invaluable booklet, giving the rules, explanations of terms, and a variety of other information regarding the Royal and ancient game. Material differences between the rules of 1912 and those of 1920 are shown in tabular form, and some notes respecting the rubber-core ball are added. Altogether the small publication is an invaluable boon to all golfers, and if it were possible for its merits to be enhanced they would be by the fact that readers of THE NEAR EAST may secure a copy of the booklet gratis on application to the Royal Insurance Company, Ltd., at its head offices, North John Street, Liverpool, or at 24-48, Lombard Street, London, or at any of its branches. Copies can only be supplied as far as the stock permits.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Motor tractors, which are hired out to farmers, are in use in the Damascus and Aleppo districts.

Shefket Bey, formerly Turkish Minister at Stockholm, has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Our Yugoslavia Correspondent informs us that it is reported in the Yugoslav Press that Princess Helena of Serbia will shortly leave for England for the purpose of the education of her children.

Our Sofia Correspondent reports that the Bulgarian Easter was celebrated with all the customary ceremonies, and that a great sports meeting was held outside the city on the Monday afternoon.

A Bill for the ratification of all the Draft Conventions and for the approval of recommendations adopted at the International Labour Conference at Washington has now been passed by the Roumanian Parliament.

The Arab, Moslem, and Christian Palestine Congress has protested to the Pope and the Powers against the present British policy in favouring Jewish immigration in view of the Bolshevik proclivities of many of the immigrants.

Four Turkish prisoners of war recently escaped from the custody of the Greeks and took refuge in the Italian Consulate in Smyrna. The Consulate was subsequently surrounded by the Greeks and the prisoners were eventually given up.

The Czechoslovak paper *Praga Presse* learns that M. Take Jonescu, Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, intends to propose to the Yugoslav Government the conclusion of a political and military convention on the lines of that arrived at with Czechoslovakia.

The Metropolitans of Nazareth and Acre, who are residing in Jerusalem, are, reports Reuter, in disagreement with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, and have refused to obey the Patriarch's order to return to their dioceses. The Government has ordered them to leave Palestine.

With the permission of the Palestine Government, excavation of the Biblical city of Beth-Shan (Beisan) is to be undertaken next month by the University of Pennsylvania Museum. The work will be under the direction of Mr. Clarence S. Fisher, Curator of the Egyptian Section of the Museum, who left London on Tuesday, and expects to begin work in about ten days.

ADVENTURES AMONG THE SENUSSI.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society held in the Royal Society's Lecture Room, Burlington House, on May 18, Mrs. Rosita Forbes lectured on the Senussi. She said they were a religious order of comparatively recent origin, the founder, Sidi Mohammed ben Ali es Senussi, having been born in 1787. He was born in Algeria of a Berber tribe, but was a descendant of the prophet through Idris, founder of the Moroccan dynasty. His doctrine was based on the strictest interpretation of the letter of the Koran, was definitely opposed to all innovation, whether by Mohammedans or Christians, and found a readier acceptance among the uncontrolled Bedouin, to whom Turk and Christian were equally hateful, than among town dwellers. The Senussi were sometimes wrongly spoken of as a sect, but they had never been other than an ascetic confraternity, opposed to all forms of luxury or of ceremonial, and intolerant of any intercourse with Jew, Christian, or Infidel. In 1852 Sidi Ben Ali, the then head of the order, excommunicated the Sultan of Turkey for unorthodoxy, and, this making it necessary for him to remove his headquarters beyond Ottoman jurisdiction, he had established himself at Jaghbub, a little oasis on the edge of the Libyan desert. Subsequently, in 1894, under Mohammed el Mahdi, the headquarters were removed to Kufara. This was in an almost impregnable position, commanding the trade routes of half a continent, and from this date the growth of the mercantile power of the Order was assured. In 1911 the Senussi had withdrawn from the position that Turk and Christian were alike "outside the pale," and had united with the Turks against the Italians, and in 1914 they had made war on Egypt. Our victory then had been decisive and easily won.

Captain R. S. Gwatkin Williams followed with an account of the experiences of himself and about 100 sailors as prisoners of the Senussi during the war. Their ship, the *Tara*, had been torpedoed, and they had been landed at the secret base of the submarine which had torpedoed them and marched 130 miles into the Libyan desert to Bir Hakkim. There they had been half-starved. On one occasion they had lived for a time on a camel that they had pulled out of a well after it had been dead three or four days. When they stuck a knife into the camel such an aroma came out that they resolved to bury it, and did so; but in the night they had dug it up again. For the next four days they had fried camel, boiled camel, camel soup, and camel liver. Anyone who wanted to get an idea what camel flesh tasted like should go and smell the live animal in the Zoological Gardens. An important part of their dietary consisted of snails; there were snails in the desert that could live without water for a year, and these they used to collect and boil in a tin. Their captors allowed them a small ration of rice a day. He had escaped on one occasion, but had fallen in with some Bedouin, who would have killed him but for the arrival of two Turkish soldiers, who took him back to the prison camp. The rice was all gone, the prisoners had eaten all the snails and all the roots within miles of the camp, several of them had died of starvation, and the rest were very nearly doing so when they were rescued by a small force under the command of the Duke of Westminster.

Captain Gwatkin Williams described his captors as being like children—cruel at first, but kind in their own way when they got to know you. They were so poor that he was several times in danger of being murdered for the sake of the gold filling of his teeth, but he had escaped this fate by saying that the metal was not really gold but brass. This the Senussi had believed, for they could not imagine anyone so wealthy as to have golden teeth!

Shefky Bey, formerly Turkish Minister at Stockholm, has been appointed Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

At a mass meeting of Indians in Nairobi (East Africa) a resolution to pay no income-tax, on the ground that there should be no taxation without representation, was unanimously adopted.

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THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1921.

COMMUNISM IN THE NEAR EAST.

The frequency with which organised Communism now figures in the affairs of the Near East raises the question whether the countries concerned have to deal with a permanent and growing factor in domestic politics or with a passing phase that will lose its prominence as the effects of the Great War recede into the background and Russia liquidates her present troubles. There is no room for dogmatism on the subject, as the future of all these countries is linked up with too many elements of uncertainty to enable the point to be decided with mathematical accuracy. But at a time when the Near and Middle East seem to be on the threshold of great developments, when an era of progress and prosperity out of all comparison with the modest part they have played in the past opens out before them, it may not be unprofitable to take stock of the forces which may be held to make for or against the advance of communistic doctrines. The inquiry is of importance to the peoples themselves, as it may suggest lines of policy to be followed or avoided, and is not without interest to those who count on political and business relations with that part of the world, as the result can hardly fail, in a greater or less degree, to affect the confidence that is essential if international trade is to be on a satisfactory footing.

Apart from the "Sovietisation" of the whole of Transcaucasia, the more aggressive form of Communism in the Near and Middle East ranges from the still undetermined part played by Jewish Communists in the Jaffa riots to the attempt to destroy the new Yugoslav kingdom, so dramatically described to the Belgrade Assembly last month by M. Drashkovitch, Minister for the Interior. According to this indictment Yugoslavia had had to cope with a determined conspiracy, covering assassination and revolution, organised and financed from abroad. In other words, the Russian Soviet Government had tried to carry out in Central or South-Eastern Europe what it has successfully achieved in the Russian secession States of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia. Whether conditions in the new Yugoslav kingdom were supposed in Moscow to be playing into the Bolsheviks' hands and thus provoked a more elaborate campaign than has been attempted elsewhere, or whether ordinary Bolshevik propaganda discovered a particularly fertile soil must remain an open question. In any case these manifestations of Soviet intrigue, however alarming to the individual country at the moment, are less important to the inquiry we have undertaken than the headway made by political Communism. In Yugoslavia, it will be recalled, the Communists last November secured fifty-four seats in a Constituent Assembly of 420 deputies; at the municipal elections they captured both Belgrade and Zagreb, as well as other large towns. The Communist Party of Bulgaria is the second strongest in the Sobranje, with fifty seats out of 229. In Greece Communism has no parliamentary strength, but it has a cut-and-dried political programme and can, no doubt, claim to have made progress as an organisation in recent years. If in

Roumania Socialists and Communists can be classed together, as in Greece, they can still claim only seven seats in an Assembly of 568, and it may be regarded as a tribute to their sense of the hopelessness of their position that the chief demonstration that Communist doctrine has given of its existence has been recourse to the bomb. As far as Turkey is concerned, an alliance with Bolshevik Russia, which for any other country might imply some measure of sympathy with Soviet political theories, has in this connection no meaning. The Angora authorities consider that the world is in league against them, and finding the Russian régime in the same plight, have made common cause with it in the hope of being able to put up a more effective resistance. Communism and Turkish officialdom can have no other point of contact, and will part company as soon as they cease to be of advantage to one another. It is, indeed, one of the ironies of the situation in the Near and Middle East that the Allied Powers, having such a formidable opponent as Bolshevism, should not only have failed to enlist the support of the Moslem countries hemming in Russia on the south from the Mediterranean to Chinese Turkestan, but should have deliberately thrown the only part of Turkey which counts into the arms of Soviet Moscow.

The record of Communism both in Yugoslavia and in Bulgaria suggests that it has derived most of, if not all, its present parliamentary vitality from the war and its after-effects. A distinction is made by Marx and Engels between proletariat and peasantry; the former is the real revolutionary class, but inasmuch as the latter has to maintain a struggle against the bourgeois classes to prevent itself from falling (into the proletariat), the proletariat is encouraged to enlist the services of the peasantry in its fight against capital. The exponents of Communism, however, are silent as to the part to be played by the peasantry when the fight against capital has been successful. The resultant dictatorship is to be of the proletariat alone, as laid down by Marx, and if the experience of Russia is any criterion, it can hardly be said to promise a marked improvement in the condition of the peasantry. When, therefore, a peasant nation such as Bulgaria can return nearly 25 per cent. of its parliamentary deputies as Communists, or half the number of the official Peasant (Agrarian) Party, it is difficult to suppose that the electors who voted Communist did so altogether as followers, from knowledge and conviction, of Marx. Even a peasant population has its poorer or *bijwoner* class, and to these people the promise to distribute State lands as well as other property must make an appeal, while the Communist candidate in each case will know how to bait his hook to suit local prejudices. Thus it is alleged that in the Bulgarian elections of a year ago officials and teachers on strike voted Communist, just as in Yugoslavia the same practice offered in many districts, particularly in Serbian Macedonia, the readiest method of "going agin' the Government." Such recruits, however, bring Communism no permanent accession of strength. In the case of the urban proletariat in the Balkans it is inevitable that *post bellum* conditions should make for considerable discontent, and in this connection it is noticeable how domestic in character is the programme of the Greek Communists. Complete recognition is to be given to the Russian Labour Republic, and a Soviet Republic in the Balkans is to be created; but the party also sets store on the abolition of martial law, on the immediate requisition of all large buildings in order to ensure cheap lodgings for workmen, and on a general amnesty to all persons condemned for political and military offences. Only in the penultimate clause is a thought spared to the peasants, who are to be "re-established" on the lands on which they are now employed without indemnity to the landowners. Many of the conditions which have helped within the first few years after the war to swell the Communist electoral roll will gradually be eliminated. Moreover, even if an extreme form of Socialism should hold the reins of government in any Near Eastern country, it has yet to be shown that it would follow in every particular the lead that exotic Bolshevism has set in Russia. Power begets the love of power, hand in hand with which goes conservatism.

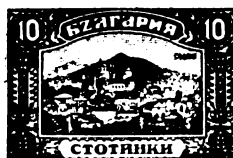
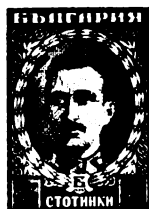
NEW ISSUE OF BULGARIAN STAMPS.

By the courtesy of Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co. we are able to reproduce prints of a new series of stamps shortly to be issued by the Bulgarian Government.

All the stamps, it will be noticed, are of exceedingly fine workmanship. Three comprise a striking portrait

Shipka, with its Russian Monastery, the scene of the Turkish defeat in 1877 (75 stotinki); and Sofia, with the Cathedral in the centre of the picture (10 stotinki).

Whereas most of the stamps of the last issue were of two colours, the whole of the present issue consists of single-colour steel-plate stamps, border and vignette being from the same dies in each case. The colours



ENGRAVED AND PRINTED BY BRADBURY WILKINSON AND CO. LTD.

of King Boris. Of the picture vignettes three are familiar, having been used in a previous issue, although for different values. Thus, the former 1 stotinka (the fortress Church of Ivan Assen II. (13th century), near Stanimaka, to the south of Philippopolis) becomes 3 leva; the view of the principal church in the Rilo Monastery (where the late Mr. J. D. Bouchier is buried), formerly on the 30 stotinki stamp, now appears on the 5 leva; the view of Tirnova on the River Yantra has been transferred from the 3 stotinki to the 50 stotinki stamp. The other illustrations represent the Tsar Liberator (Alexander II.) statue in Sofia (20 stotinki); a Bulgarian peasant girl harvesting (2 leva);

in which these stamps are being printed are as follows:

10 leva, violet; 5 leva, blue; 3 leva, violet; 2 leva, brown; 1 leva, part of the issue red, part blue; 75 stotinki, part of the issue violet, part blue; 50 stotinki, orange; 25 stotinki, blue; 20 stotinki, green; 10 stotinki, blue-grey.

Since this issue was completed, the Bulgarian Government has placed another contract with Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co. for a further issue of 14,000,000 stamps in memory of the late J. D. Bouchier. These stamps will be of two designs, one showing him full face, the other full length in native costume; they will be of different values, ranging from 10 stotinki to 5 leva.



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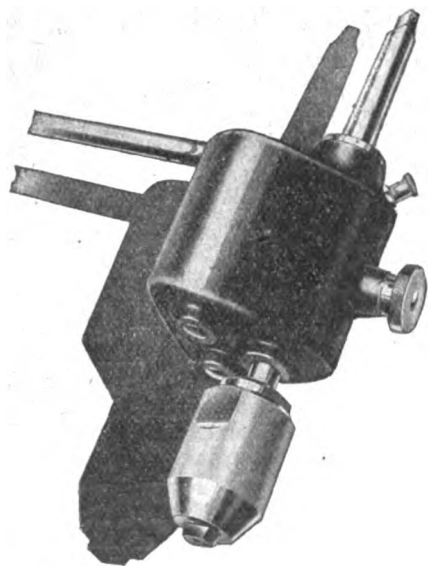
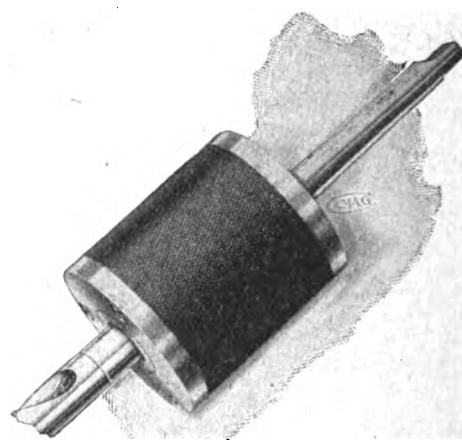
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IN ALEXANDRIA IN 1864.

BRITISH MERCHANTS' GRIEVANCES.

We are indebted to Messrs. Reuter's, Limited, for a copy of an old document, which records a number of resolutions passed at a meeting of British merchants held at the British Institute at Alexandria on Thursday January 21, 1864. These are followed by a memorial, dated February 10 of the same year, and addressed to "S. S. Saunders Esq., H.B. Majesty's Consul, Alexandria." Next comes a second letter to Mr. Saunders, of which a copy was sent also to: "R. G. Colquhoun Esq., C.B., H.B.M. Agent and Consul-General, Cairo," and which covered a copy of another resolution, given below. The paper is interesting for a number of reasons: it shows what difficulties British merchants in Egypt had to contend with half-a-century ago, and how sturdily they faced them; it shows how the truly Oriental system which caused them so much annoyance worked to the disadvantage of the country as well as of the foreigners; and it sets us wondering whether if and when the Egyptians are left to look after themselves, we may not see some very curious "reversions to type."

The first and second resolutions run:—

1°.—That the Egyptian Railway ought to be available for the transport of Goods for the public without respect of persons, whereas the Government, and the Daira of His Highness the Viceroy, have been in the frequent practice of monopolizing it, to the exclusion of the general public, and that in consequence of this injustice, in many instances, heavy pecuniary loss, and very serious embarrassment have resulted to the Mercantile community.

2°.—That the Railway Administration is both morally and legally responsible for the number of packages received, for transport, and for any pillage that may take place during Transit, although it has unjustly in many instances, refused all satisfaction to the owners, for property lost or damaged while in its custody.

The third resolution complains of the Egyptian Government and the Viceroy's Daira acting "most unjustly in monopolizing, as they often do, the transport by water to the interior"; which leads to the merchants being subjected to imposition, and often stopped from carrying on their business. Then comes a "grouse" at unloading and warehousing accommodation:—

4°.—That the system of treating the Goods of Merchants now practised at the Alexandrian Custom-House, is without precedent in any civilized country, valuable property being detained for six weeks, and upwards, owing to the want of Government porters to discharge the lighters.

That there is not enough accommodation provided to receive the Merchandise imported, nor even sufficient covered spaces provided to protect it from the weather, and from pillage; whereby heavy losses have been sustained by its owners, and that this abuse should be remedied without delay.

The latter clause of this resolution inevitably reminds us of what we read recently about congestion in certain docks that are *not* in Egypt. Indeed the first four clauses all seem to have a kind of prophetic "Great War" flavour about them. The fifth is concerned with the shortage of labourers to discharge steamers; and the sixth with the "disgraceful state" of the roads, "especially those from the Merchants' stores to the shipping wharves." And then we have another moral resolution:—

7°.—That the shameful system of bribery practised at the Railway Station and the Custom-House should be stopped.

The eighth resolution declares that "the accommodation at the Arsenal is totally insufficient" for the larding and storage of machinery, "which is likely to increase yearly." In the ninth the merchants declare:

That if H.H. the Viceroy of Egypt is of opinion that the Railway, and the Steamers on the Nile, are only sufficient for his own requirements and those of His Government, Her Majesty's representative be requested to demand of His Highness an authorization to enable the Commercial Community of this City to provide at their own cost, the necessary means of Transport, both by land and water, as an independent undertaking requiring no pecuniary aid from His Highness the Viceroy.

After this highly sporting offer, the Memorialists conclude their list of resolutions with another gentle dig:—

10°.—That the order of H.E. the Governor of Alexandria, having been, on several occasions, set at naught by subordinate officers, H.M. representative be requested to represent this to H.H. the Viceroy, in order to avoid the embarrassment which such a conflict of authority causes to the Mercantile Community.

The Memorial itself breathes the same spirit as the Resolutions. "It is not," the signatories declare, "because the grievances we complain of are of recent origin, that we have not before this time, as a body sought the assistance of our Consul. Those grievances have long existed, but of late they have increased to such an extent as to be no longer endurable." They go on to say that they have remained passive by reason of the

great professions so recently made by His Highness Ismail Pasha, on his accession to the Government of this Country, indulging the vain delusion that he would take some steps to show the sincerity of the promises he then made, and that he would at least alleviate, if not entirely remove the evils of which we complain.

But when we see H.H. the Viceroy in his Mercantile capacity, using the almost unlimited means at his command to secure his private interest, without regard to the ruin it may entail on us: we are reluctantly forced to address to you this our public protest and remonstrance.

The Memorial proceeds to give details of the charges brought in the Resolutions, and makes it very clear that the merchants had abundant reason for complaint. Property of the value of many thousands of pounds, it says, is detained for weeks, and sometimes for months, in transit on the railway. "Whole bales of goods are often stolen, and when complaint is made to the Transit Board, who are morally and legally responsible, remonstrances are met by an unblushing denial of responsibility." Then comes a very human confession:—

If these oppressions fell on all alike, your memorialists, although suffering grievously, would still have one ground of complaint the less. But is the same treatment applied to property which belongs to H.H. the Viceroy; or the Princes of the Viceregal family; or to the higher officers of the Government? Far from it. . . . To them every facility is afforded. . . .

The Viceroy, "in his Mercantile capacity," and his friends seem to have made the most of any advantage that was theirs!

The roads are described as "utterly unequal to the requirements of our Commerce," and then later we read: "Goods are heaped together in one confused mass on the open wharf, amid pools of water and mud, exposed to Sun, Rain, and pillage." After reference to promises of reform having been held out, and an inquiry by one of "H.H. Ministers . . . into our grievances, with a view to their remedy," the signatories remark: "While duly acknowledging this concession, we cannot forbear reminding you, who know the East, what little reliance is to be placed on mere promises."

The Memorial closes with a statement of the reasons for which the signatories "believe themselves entitled to every consideration at the hands of H.H. the Viceroy." It is signed by the following:—

Taylor and Co.	Anderson and Hobson.
Wm. Prehn and Co.	R. J. Moss and Co.
Henry Bulkeley.	Fairman and Co.
Dixon Brothers and Co.	P. Pasquale.
Joice Thurburn and Co.	Schilizzi and Liddell.
St. J. Forssmann.	P. I. Cavafy and Co.
Barker and Co.	Carver Bros and Gill.
Dickinson and Co.	Chas. J. Joice and Co.
John Corlett.	J. Haselden.
Fleming and Co.	W. B. Brough and Co.
Peel and Co.	

The later resolution referred to above reads:—

That this meeting, whilst acknowledging the attention of H.H. the Viceroy in sending His Excellency Ragheb Pasha to look into some of the grievances complained of, is, notwithstanding of opinion, that the unremitting attention both of Her Majesty's Consular General, and of Her Majesty's Consul in this City, is required in order to obtain their redress, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to each of these Gentlemen.

The impression created by reading this old paper is one of an Oriental land indeed—a land which could give Turkey hints in the matter of backsheesh and corruption generally. British administration has altered all that, but —.

THE KING EDWARD VII. STATUE FOR NEW DELHI.

On Saturday next Their Majesties the King and Queen are to visit Thames Ditton to inspect at the Burton Foundry the equestrian statue of King Edward VII. by Sir Thomas Brock, which is shortly to be despatched to India, where it will find its permanent home at New Delhi between the Jumma Masjid and the Fort.

When in 1900 the Queen-Empress died, the universal grief of the peoples of India led to a widespread movement for the erection of statues of her at various centres. To this development the idea of the memorial at New Delhi may be indirectly traced. Sir Thomas Brock, it is interesting to recall, was responsible for the statue at Cawnpore, which is looked upon as being an ideal representation of the Queen-Empress. Then in 1910 King Edward died, and though his brilliant reign had been short, the passing of the King-Emperor touched the imagination of India at least as acutely as the death of Queen Victoria. A movement was set on foot for the erection of a permanent memorial to him, and the committee appointed for this purpose, presided over by Lord Hardinge, decided to commission Sir Thomas Brock to execute a large equestrian statue of the King-Emperor for New Delhi.

That was some time before the war threw its all-embracing influence over the world, and but for that unhappy development the statue would long ago have stood in its destined place at Delhi. Early in the war the memorial was ready for the final process, but it was impossible to proceed with it as the moulders were wholly occupied in the production of war supplies.

In the autumn of 1916 the writer was privileged to inspect the full-sized model of the statue at one of Sir Thomas Brock's London studios. It is a noble and most impressive piece of work, and its vastness only serves to emphasise its inspiring character. King Edward, whose face is turned slightly towards the left so that he will look towards New Delhi, is represented on a charger in motion, and one can give no higher praise to the sculptor than to say that the whole conception is instinct with life. The King himself is a truly regal figure. Poised easily on the charger, he seems to be in a reflective mood, and his countenance has a rather severe aspect suggestive of hidden reserves of power. One can see the diplomat there, but the

man of action is more in evidence, and it is a monarch in very truth who looks down upon one. The statue is of the present, but it is also of all time and of all countries. It epitomises the great figures of history, taking their triumphs, contemplating the world with the serenity of soul that comes from the knowledge of a life well spent in the cause of country. For India the statue is ideal. It is indeed a King-Emperor who will gaze upon Delhi.

The height of the statue, with its pedestal, is forty feet. The Royal Arms are on one end of the pedestal, while at the other is the inscription: "This tablet was placed in position by His Majesty George V., Emperor of India, on the occasion of his visit to Delhi for the Coronation Durbar, December 15, 1911." Cartouches of laurel and decorative wings flank the shields bearing the arms and inscription. Lines of bold bronze ornament are below the side moulding of the pedestal, while shields with the arms of the United Kingdom are at the lower edge. Bronze panels are in the sides of the pedestal, bearing the following inscription—in English on the one side, in Persian on the other—in bold bronze letters:—

EDWARD VII. KING AND EMPEROR.

Let this monument, erected by the voluntary donations of thousands and thousands of his subjects throughout his Indian Empire, the rich giving of their wealth and the poor out of their poverty, bear witness to their grateful memory of his virtues and his might.

He was the father of his people, whose divers religions and customs he preserved impartially.

His voice stood for wisdom in the councils of the world.

His example was an inspiration to his Viceroy, his Governors,

His Captains, and the humblest of his subjects.

His sceptre ruled one-fifth of the dwellers on earth.

His justice protected the weak, rewarded the deserving, and punished the evil-doer.

His mercy provided hospitals for the sick, food for the famine-stricken, water for the thirsty soil, and learning for the student.

His sword was ever victorious. Soldiers of many races served in his great Army, obeying his august commands.

His ships made safe the highways of the ocean and guarded his wide dominions by land and sea.

He ensured amity between the nations of the world, and gave well-ordered peace to the peoples of his vast Empire.

He upheld the honour of Princes and the rights of the defenceless.

His reign was a blessing to his well-beloved India, an example to the great, and an encouragement to the humble.

His name shall be handed down from father to son throughout all ages as a mighty Emperor, a merciful Ruler, and a great Englishman.

Could any description be more appropriate, or, it may be added, more worthy of the statue?

ROUMANO-BULGARIAN FRONTIER INCIDENT.

The Bulgarian Press Bureau issues the following statement, dated Sofia, May 14:—

The joint Roumano-Bulgarian Commission charged to inquire into the late troubles on the Dobruja frontier have completed their report, which gives the following as the causes of the outbreak:—

(1) As passage of travellers was permitted only at a single point on the frontier, many travellers, desirous of evading the formalities and loss of time, tried to cross into Roumania at other points, but were surprised by the guards.

(2) A great many refugees, prosecuted by the authorities in both countries, in their desire to cross the frontier were met by the guards, and as they were taken in some cases for contrabandists they were generally chased, and sometimes there was serious fighting. In some cases the inhabitants of the local villages affected by these troubles joined in the fight.

The Commission came to the conclusion that out of a total of forty-seven cases only nine could be considered as "frontier incidents," even these being of no such importance as some interested parties wished to represent them. The Commission is of opinion that the accusations against Bulgaria as provoking the incidents are sheer attempts to disturb the good relations between Roumania and Bulgaria.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Bulgarian Consortium.

In dealing with the official organisation appointed in 1919 to control the export of Bulgarian cereals, our Sofia correspondent makes out the best case that can be made for that body. Opinion in general, however, is, I fear, strongly against the Consortium. Bureaucratic control always works under difficulties, and in Bulgaria it was specially handicapped by local conditions. The requisite knowledge of trade conditions throughout the world, experience in handling big business, and disinterested impartiality, it is alleged, were all lacking in the Consortium. But it will be well if the Reparations Commission can institute an inquiry into the working of the Consortium and pass judgment. Here in England we have little to go upon beyond the fact that Bulgaria is still offering cereals at prices far above those at which the business world can purchase elsewhere.

Trade with Greece.

One of the many ways in which British traders were handicapped before the war in their efforts to develop trade with the Near East was the lack of opportunity of meeting British official representatives there, and of hearing from them at first-hand the prospects and the outlook as regards their particular lines. Reports are valuable in their way, but their utility is limited *inter alia* by the fact that by the time they appear the information they contain is unavoidably out of date and quite probably no longer applies. Certainly in the best circumstances they are no substitute for what may be called the "personal touch," which the Department of Overseas Trade are now endeavouring to supply by arranging for periodical visits by our representatives abroad. As recorded elsewhere in our columns, one of these has just reached this country—Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Athens, who will be pleased to meet manufacturers and merchants who wish to discuss with him questions relating to trade with Greece, and who may desire information or advice regarding the appointment of agents, the marking and distributing of goods, terms of payment, Customs duties, or general information as to openings existing for British goods. I am asked to state that applications to interview Mr. Rawlins should be made immediately.

Future B.I.F.

The report of the committee which was appointed last year by the Board of Trade to consider the best policy to be adopted in future as regards the British Industries Fair, which has just been issued, strikes a rather indecisive note on the main issue—whether the fair should continue to be held at various centres or be concentrated in one place. The committee's opinion is that the ideal arrangement would be to hold the fair in one centre, London, in which respect it is simply echoing business sentiment generally on the matter, but it does not proceed to advocate an entire change. In its view, Glasgow should be given up as a centre for the fair, as it has not obtained adequate support, but it recommends the continuance of the Birmingham Fair as long as it receives support, and the addition to it of the trades represented at the Glasgow section.

An Improvement.

A fair at two centres—which presumably we may expect as a result of the report—will be a step in the right direction; but it seems a pity not to pursue the policy of concentration to its logical outcome by bringing the whole fair to London at once. As I have pointed out before, there is everything to be said in favour of the change. The division of the fair into two or more centres, even if, as was the case this year, the dates of the various sections vary a little, means that buyers will in all probability not see all the exhibits, while if the fair is held at one centre, every trade is given an equal opportunity of attracting attention. I am glad to see that the committee views with disfavour the proposal to hold fairs twice yearly. It would be an impossibility to organise a really representative exhibition in the spring and also in the autumn, and the season at which it is at present held is unquestionably the most advantageous, since buyers can come here first before going to the Continental fairs, which fall a little later.

Export Credits.

I had hoped that the comments on the Ter Meulen scheme last week would have been followed by a statement from the League of Nations as to the prospects of its early utilisation. But nothing of the kind has happened, and one is therefore left to the highly encouraging assumption that the adoption of the scheme by the impoverished countries of Europe will depend mainly on the intensity of propaganda by traders in more fortunately situated countries. If that is so it will be a long time before the scheme operates on a considerable scale. One can only hope that for the sake of British trade the authorities here will not delay much longer in introducing their new export credits scheme, which was primarily intended as a substitute until the Ter Meulen scheme was ready, but so far as can be seen will now have to be first choice for England in the Trade Test Match.

Tribute to British Scheme.

It should be an encouragement to the powers that be to hurry on their scheme to read a recent report by an Allied rival in which a tribute is paid to the results that are now being obtained in the Near East from the present scheme which it is destined to supplant. The report in question is from the Belgian Legation at Sofia, and praises the enterprise of British traders in Bulgaria, who, it says, are redoubling their efforts there, and are, thanks to the facilities afforded by the Export Credits Department, delivering their goods against acceptance of a sterling bill at twelve months, while very active rivals are only able to grant three or four months' credit. For several months, as a matter of fact, there has been an increasing tendency to take advantage of the scheme here, and as the only points to which exception is taken by traders will, it is assumed, be remedied in the revised scheme, there is no great reason why British merchants and manufacturers should concern themselves should there be any great delay in bringing the Ter Meulen scheme into operation.

Near Eastern Exchanges.

In the last few weeks the exchanges of the Balkan countries, with the significant exception of Greece, have undergone a decided improvement. The main cause of this is to be found in the outlook for the harvest, which is everywhere reported to be favourable. In the spring a prolonged drought seemed to threaten trouble, but the desired rains materialised, and, so far as can be judged, the dry period has not done any serious damage. The effort that the countries in question have been making to increase production may be judged from the statement of our Bucharest correspondent this week that all the arable land in Roumania is being utilised, and it is very evident that, unless unforeseen contingencies arise, these countries should have at their disposal this year large stocks of cereals for export. Provided adequate use is made of the surpluses, a further substantial improvement in the exchanges should take place by the autumn, particularly in the case of the lei, if only sufficient progress can be made in the reconstruction of Roumania's transport system to enable the development of the export trade in oil and cereals.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, May 12.

Market Depression.

Prices for imported goods in the wholesale market are pursuing a downward course, in accord with the tendency in the Western centres. Some articles are being sold here even below the cost price abroad. Owners of goods are anxious to dispose of some of their stocks even below cost, as they anticipate an appreciable increase in the buying power of the lei in the autumn. Retailers, however, are reducing their prices slowly and reluctantly.

Statistics for America.

In compliance with an official request from New York, the Minister of Finance is sending a compilation of all statistical data referring to the monetary circulation of Roumania, specifying the varieties of the issued banknotes, and also all the data referring to the Treasury bonds which have been issued since the outbreak of the war, and the amount of gold that has been extracted from the mines of the country during the same period.

Miscellaneous.

A delegation sent by the German Government has arrived in Bucharest with the object of dealing with the question of the deposits which Roumania had with the German Imperial Bank. On this occasion they will also discuss the question of the banknotes issued by the Banca Generala Romana which, as it is known, will be reimbursed by Germany.

Negotiations are in progress between Roumania and Poland for an economic treaty. A delegation of the respective experts will shortly start for Warsaw.

EGYPT.

CAIRO, May 7.

An Agricultural Rent Law.

The much-talked-of Agricultural Rent Law has at last been promulgated. One or more commissions are to be set up in each Mudiria, consisting of a judge as president and two notables; one representing the landlords and the other representing tenants. These commissions are to consider all complaints presented by tenants with regard to rentals to 1920-1921, and in giving its decision the commission is to take into consideration the current prices of cotton and other agricultural products the land can produce, but in no case may the rent be fixed at a figure less than the mean of the previous three years. If the price of cotton, on which the commission has based its decision, rises, the landlord will be entitled to an increase in rent equal to two-thirds of the difference between the old and new values based on the number of kantars which the land may produce.

This measure is a very excellent departure, and should have been adopted long ago, for a large number of current rentals had been fixed when cotton prices were very high, and the drop has meant not only considerable hardship to tenants, but also friction between them and the landlords, which, with its consequent possibilities of agrarian trouble, it is highly desirable to avoid at the present juncture.

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Industrial Troubles.

For a fortnight the Cairo streets have been remarkably free from noise. This is due to the fact that the trams have ceased running, owing to a strike among the workers. There has been unrest amongst the latter for almost two years, and the company has little by little been compelled to make considerable concessions as regards pay and conditions of service. The workers have formed themselves into a syndicate, which latterly put forward demands of such a nature that the company declared it would rather shut down than be compelled to work solely for the benefit of its employees, which was what the conditions demanded amounted to.

It would seem, however, that a reign of terror, so to speak, is being exercised by a small portion of the workers over the rest, for the company has received offers to resume from a large number of its employees, who state that they are intimidated by their comrades, and ask for protection. That there is more than merely industrial grievances at the back of this movement, and that it is being supported from influential quarters, would appear to be indicated by the fact that the syndicate, which has only been in existence a year, and to which the workers merely pay a nominal monthly contribution, has been able to distribute strike pay on a sufficient scale to enable the workers to abstain from work. That the movement is receiving funds from outside would appear to be clear, and some strong action in the matter is certainly called for, but so far the Government has shown itself helpless to deal with the crisis.

THE SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, April 17.

Agricultural Show.

A successful agricultural show was held at Tokar at the beginning of April. Exhibits were well up to the average, and there was considerable competition for the various prizes that were offered. Lieut.-Colonel C. Wilson, Governor of the Red Sea Province, was present at the formal opening, and was enthusiastically received by the assembled populace.

GREECE.

ATHENS, May 7.

Sericulture in 1920.

Silkworm rearing, which had been neglected during the war, has been paid much more attention lately. 760,650 okas of cocoons were produced in the whole of Greece during 1920. Of these the province of Salonika contributed 212,459 okas, which were sold at an average price of 15 drachmæ per oka. The province of Messinia, which produces the best Greek silk, has only yielded 56,784 okas of cocoons, which were sold at about 20 drachmæ. 31,919 boxes of seeds (eggs) were used for the production of the above 760,650 okas of cocoons. Of these 12,124 were imported from abroad.

Scarcity of Nickel Coins.

There has been a marked shortage lately of nickel coins in this country, and the Government is considering the necessity of doubling the present circulation. The scarcity is mostly due to the export of large sums of nickel money to the newly acquired territories. The nickel coins in circulation at present represent a total of 502,699.20 drachmæ, which are distributed as follows:—5 lepta, 1,656,000, representing 82,800 drachmæ; 10 lepta, 1,500,000, representing 150,000 drachmæ; 20 lepta, 1,349,496, representing 269,899.20 drachmæ.

Customs Receipts.

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during the first ten days in April (O.S.) amounted to 2,344,115.35 drachmæ in paper and 73,667.30 drachmæ in gold. In comparison with the receipts during the corresponding period last year there is an increase this year of 113,871.25 drachmæ in paper and a decrease of 94,008.25 drachmæ in gold.

Miscellaneous.

The total amount of this year's olive oil to be exported abroad has been fixed by the Minister of Supplies at 32,408,480 okas.

In view of the economic situation of the country, the Government has abandoned the project of suppressing the Ministry of Supplies.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, May 10.

The Consortium.

As anyone connected with Bulgaria knows, her main source of revenue is her agricultural wealth, and during the past eighteen months the exportation of all cereals has been in the hands of a Consortium, created in December, 1919, by the present Government. This Consortium sells all the cereals, and in doing this is assisted by three State banks and also by various co-operative syndicates.

Much has been written with regard to the Consortium, and there is considerable opposition to it amongst the commercial classes, in whose hands the buying and selling of grain had been previously. The opposition political parties have taken a strong line against it, and declare that the Consortium is killing the export grain trade, and that, instead of making the leva rise, it is having the reverse effect. They also claim that by restricting private enterprise it kills competition, and, further, that when the trade was in the hands of private individuals, much more care was taken in looking after the various cereals in the depôts and docks than is now the case.

To turn to the other side of the question, it is undoubtedly a fact that at present the great majority of the peasants are in favour of the Consortium, and, of course, this signifies that the majority of the country is in favour of it. The peasants say with some truth that under present conditions speculation in wheat prices is greatly lessened, and they also feel more secure, since large quantities of grain are in the country, and thus in the event of a bad harvest there can be no fear of famine.

The Consortium itself points to its profits for the period ending last September, which amount to 150 million levas. Ninety per cent. of these profits were put aside for the betterment of the industry, such as the instalment throughout the country of elevators, whilst by the law of 1919 the remaining 10 per cent. was divided amongst the three Government banks. This year the profits will not be so large, and it is intended to give 60 per cent. back to the producers, to allocate 25 per cent. for the construction of elevators, 10 per cent. to the co-operative syndicates, and 5 per cent. to the banks.

As regards the price of wheat to-day, there has certainly been a big fall, and to-day's price is 80 French francs per 100 kilos. The Consortium claims that they sell their stocks to the utmost of their ability, and are not adopting a waiting policy in the hope that prices will rise. These are some aspects of the question from the Bulgarian standpoint. It now remains for the Reparations Commission to examine the whole matter, and to advise the Government on their future policy in regard to the Consortium. M. Karadjoff, a Deputy, is the director of the Consortium, and is doing all in his power to ensure the smooth working of the organisation; but there are such big issues at stake, and there is so much adverse criticism from all quarters, that it would seem advisable to hold an inquiry into the working of this institution.

SOFIA, May 17.

The Financial Position.

A good illustration of the present financial position of Bulgaria is to be found in the way that capital is gradually leaving the country in one way or another. The Italian-Bulgarian Bank at Sofia alone has 200 million levas in deposit receipts, and this bank has not been established very long. Very few wealthy Bulgarians wish to have their money in a purely Bulgarian bank to-day, as they fear that some measures may be taken by the Government whereby the banks will be seriously penalised. Then a great part of the paper money in circulation is held abroad for speculative purposes.

The greater part of the money in the country is in the hands of the peasants, as they prefer to have the money in their houses, far from the hands of any city institutions. A good story illustrating this was told to me the other day by an ex-Minister of Finance. One peasant, richer than the average, had 30,000 Austrian kronen hoarded up in his house. After the armistice, with great sagacity, as it has since turned out, he decided to change them into levas. But what did he find? That they were all partly mouse-eaten, and it was only through the good offices of the ex-Minister that he was enabled to get them changed.

The Bulgarian peasant is to-day richer than he has ever been in his life before, and he has good reason to be content with his Government. He pays hardly any taxes, and is disposing of his wheat to-day to the Consortium at three levas a kilo. Nevertheless there are a few of the more educated peasants who are looking ahead, and what they see is not inclined to reassure them. The 1920 crop remains largely unsold, and in two months now the 1921 crop will

begin to be available. Buyers must be found abroad, and that speedily. Of late the Reparation Commission have been taking a close interest in the working of the Consortium, and it is said they are not too favourably disposed towards it. This is as may be, but the cardinal fact remains that while before the war approximately 600 million kilos of cereals were exported, in 1920 the figures were 150 million kilos.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, May 16.

Time Limit for Exchange of Krone.

The time limit for the exchange of the last krone notes throughout the kingdom has been prolonged until the end of the month. After May 31 the small krone notes which remain outstanding—that is, of the values of 1, 2, and 10 krone—will cease to be legal tender.

Yugoslav Delegation at Prague.

A delegation of several hundred Yugoslavs is officially visiting the Agricultural Exhibition at Prague, and will be present at the congress for the formation of a Panslavonic Chamber with its headquarters at Prague. At the same time a "Green International" will be formed, to which representatives of all peasant parties will be invited, and to which the Serbian peasants will probably go. M. Stepan Radich has asked for passports in this connection. Whether he will get them remains to be seen.

An Internal Loan?

The Belgrade correspondent of the Zagreb *Jutarnji List* reports that the Minister of Communications has declared that the country needs a huge loan of 500 million dinars, for a period of fifty years, at 7 per cent. interest. There are two possible alternatives, for the loan will be an internal one. Either the finance houses must form a syndicate and guarantee the issue, or a forced loan will be made.

CYPRUS.

CYPRUS, May 9.

New Motor Company.

A motor company has just been established to facilitate communication throughout the island. It starts with thirty cars, including Ford, Overland, and Maxwell cars. The public is invited to give its support to a purely local enterprise. The principal depôts are at Nicosia, Larnaca, and Limassol. The service promises to be efficient, and should be a very welcome addition to island locomotion.

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MAIDAN-I-NAPHTHUN AND ABADAN.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Maidan-i-Naphtun lies far from the busy haunts of men and away from the beaten track of the traveller in a valley surrounded by the snow-capped Baktiari mountains, which lie stretched across Persia from latitude 38.27 N. to longitude 33.24 E. Ten years ago one could have sought in vain for the place on any available map of Persia. It is now a place of great importance, and a veritable hive of industry. Looking down on it from the mountain pass which opens abruptly upon this arena one sees lying below one a thriving town, studded with boring rigs, engine-houses, dwelling-houses, workmen's huts and all the other essentials of a civilised settlement.

The inhabitants of this town are of widely different nationalities. There are, for instance, the Baktiari and Iranian Luris, a race of mountaineers, supposed to be subjects of the Shah, but owning, as a matter of fact, only a nominal allegiance; then there are Persians and Chaldeans, Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Canadians. It will be readily realised that the control of these different elements calls for something of the qualities of the diplomat.

From Maidan-i-Naphtun the oil is conducted by a pipeline to the Anglo-Persian company's refineries at Abadan on the Persian Gulf—a distance of roughly 150 miles. No one who has not passed over the country across which this pipe-line has been laid can conceive the magnitude of the difficulties which have confronted the undertaking, and have been overcome successfully. It was an arduous struggle against climate, country, and the elements, and these were only conquered by pluck, zeal and inexhaustible patience.

The pipes had to be conveyed up the river Karun and landed on the bank at the most accessible points. During May and June the Karun—like the Tigris—is subject to freshets—caused by the snow melting in the mountains—which come hurtling down, with the result that the river rises from ten to 20 feet in a few hours. These freshets caused serious delay at the commencement of the enterprise, for the erosion of the river banks, where the pipes were lying piled up in heaps, caused them to subside, and hundreds of pipes were lost, for the water comes down so heavily laden with silt that they were soon deeply buried in the river bed never to be recovered. The pipes thus lost had to be replaced, and the pipe-line was laid from Maidan-i-Naphtun to the refineries at Abadan on the Shat-el-Arab.

Only a few years ago Abadan was a marshy swamp with some struggling date palms to relieve its bare monotony. To-day what a change has come over the scene. Industry has touched the land with simply magical effects, and the once barren spot is now well on the way to being a thriving port. Wharves have been built—a great engineering achievement, as the stones, ironwork, cement, timber, and such-like material had to be brought from India or England and the whole site had to be reclaimed and protected from the river. Then there are houses and offices, and a splendid clubhouse for the staff of the company.

The company's sea-going tankers lie alongside the wharves and the oil is pumped into them in bulk for shipment. Here, too, the company ships the tins of oil with which people who live in the East are familiar.

The Company's oil is now used everywhere in the Persian Gulf, in India and at the towns and ports of the Red Sea—at Suez and Port Said. Before this wonderful and inexhaustible store of oil—which lay a rich treasure hidden and guarded by the Baktiari Mountains—was discovered, all the oil supplied to the East was shipped from Batoum.

SANITATION IN THE SUDAN.

(BY OUR KHARTOUM CORRESPONDENT.)

All visitors to Khartoum must have been struck by the very primitive methods of sanitation. The abnormal rains in 1920, with the consequent humidity of the atmosphere and phenomenal breeding of flies, made conditions absolutely perfect for an epidemic of bacillary dysentery. The possible ravages of this fell disease can only be realised by those who served in Gallipoli, where the number of sufferers from the complaint went into colossal figures. The after-effects of the scourge are invariably unpleasant, and take some time to recover from. The fact that Khartoum escaped from such a visitation can only be attributed to the benevolence of the Deity, who, according to the native, burst into unseemly laughter when He surveyed His handiwork, and on reflecting over existing conditions must have considered that the unfortunate resident had quite enough to put up without an additional discomfort of this description. It appears, however, somewhat unwise to count on the continued intervention of Allah in this respect, and steps should undoubtedly be taken to put in an up-to-date drainage scheme. This would naturally be a very costly project, but the extraordinary increase in the European population makes the subject one of extreme importance. From a financial point of view it would appear worth while to compare the cost of the present system, capitalised over a period of, say, fifteen to twenty years, with the outlay required for the installation of an up-to-date scheme. Apart from the unpleasantness of present methods, the existing transport service compares very unfavourably with a bunch of violets, and can by no stretch of imagination be considered as either sightly or savoury. Bazaar gossip has it that the bucket transport labourers were only able to carry out their duties when in a blissful state of intoxication, and struck for more pay in consequence of the increased cost of dhurrah, the basis of Marissa (a type of native beer), so that the authorities, to avoid being fleeced, were compelled to employ prison labour. Convicts apparently are so unenthusiastic over the new form of hard labour that crime has very materially decreased. Verily 'tis an ill wind that blows good to no man.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

112. An Alexandria firm wish to enter into business relations with United Kingdom firms dealing in the following exports:—Beers and stout; salmon, sardines, tinned fruit and vegetables; coconut oil; gunny bags; pepper, rice, flour and soap.

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

114.—Importer in Karachi (India), travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers, and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs, dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116.—Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples, with prices and terms.

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OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

BAKU AND GROZNY FIELDS.

Decline of Production Under Bolshevists.

It is now just a year since the Soviet Government took possession of the Baku oilfields. The Soviet Press gives some data which make it possible to judge of the results of the nationalisation of the petroleum industry.

The *Ekonomicheskaya Zhizn* for March 2 points out that before the war the Baku fields yielded up to 7,600,000 tons, while in 1920 the output was 2,900,000 tons. For the first four months, until the occupation of the district by the Bolshevists the output was 1,200,000 tons, while for the remaining eight months (May—December) of the Bolshevik occupation the output amounted to 1,700,000 tons. The Bolshevists did not even carry out their eight months' programme—viz., 2,400,000 tons. For the last four months (September—December) the average monthly output was 175,000 tons, whereas for the first four months of the year it maintained a level of 270,000 tons. January, 1921, showed a slight increase—i.e., 210,000 tons—but still this figure is below the estimated output for 1921—231,000 tons. The number of wells in January was 816, as against 775 in December, 835 in November, 986 in October, and 1,052 in September.

"The other branch of the industry," says the journal in a later issue, "namely, boring, is still paralysed." On January 1, 1921, 52 wells were being bored, whereas in November, 1920, there were 67, and in June 128. In January 51 *sazhens** were bored, which works out at a little over the November results (38 *sazhens*), but is quite insignificant when compared with the programme, which provided for 17,000 *sazhens* being bored in 1921. "It should not be forgotten," it is added, "that a prolonged decline in production and the almost total cessation of boring increases the alarming flooding of the petroliferous strata, and has already brought the petroleum industry to the verge of ruin."

The principal obstacle, it is declared, is the shortage of labour. All branches of the industry are suffering from it, but the shortage of pump-men is the most acute. Moreover, there are no workmen in the workshops which provide the boring appliances. Thus, at the end of November there were only 30 per cent. of the necessary number of turners at work and 23 per cent. of the smiths. This shortage of labour is explained by the exceedingly unfavourable food and housing conditions. The Soviet authorities cannot manage to provide the workers of this industry, which is so important to the Soviets, with sufficient food, footwear, and clothing. These are the general causes of the decline of Soviet industries, and their roots lie in the very organisation of Soviet economics, so that there is hardly any reason to expect—as this journal does—that there will be any improvement in the Baku petroleum industry. Meanwhile, Soviet industry is not affected by this decline in the output of petroleum, or, rather, the catastrophic petroleum shortage in Russia is caused, not by insufficient production in the Baku oilfields, but by the impossibility of exporting it from there. "In the current year," says the journal, "thanks to the old supplies in Baku, we have not felt the effects of the decline in petroleum production, but in 1922 there will be an abrupt change for the worse in the situation, unless boring and pumping operations are carried on far more energetically this year."

Information as to the output of petroleum at Grozny is very scanty, but it also points to great stagnation. Moreover, here the shortage of labour cannot be attributed to unfavourable food conditions, as the oilfields lie in the midst of a most fertile corn-producing district. The *Ekonomicheskaya Zhizn* gives the following information:—The output for 1921 was estimated at 1,900,000 tons. In January the output was 65,500 tons, or 40 per cent. of the estimated monthly output. As compared with the preceding months, the January output shows a certain increase. In November 50,800 tons of oil were raised, and in December 44,500 tons. Boring operations are, however, in a hopeless condition. In January the boring amounted to 42 *sazhens*, and in December to 49, whereas it had been estimated that the total annual boring would amount to 4,245 *sazhens*. As yet the stores of petroleum in Grozny are greater than the railways can transport, and perhaps here there is no danger of the supplies being exhausted, as the railways, in their present condition, cannot transport all the petroleum produced at Grozny.

* 1 *Sazhen* = 7 feet.

TURKISH GUARANTEED LOAN OF 1855.

Position of British Holders.

In the House of Commons recently Mr. Macquisten asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps had been taken to protect the interests of the British holders of the Turkish loan of 1855, £5,000,000 sterling, secured by the tribute paid by Egypt to Turkey and on the customs of Smyrna and Syria and other revenues of the Ottoman Empire, the interest of which was guaranteed by England and France; was he aware that up to 1875 the Turkish Government provided a sinking fund for the redemption, and reduced the loan to £3,815,200 still outstanding; that under Article 112 of the Treaty of Sèvres Great Britain undertook to relieve Turkey of liability in respect to the loan secured on the Egyptian tribute; would the British Government carry out the obligations of the Turkish Government and provide the sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum stipulated in the original loan contract for the redemption of the balance outstanding; was he aware that the tribute payable by Cyprus to the Turkish Government had been retained by the British Government since 1878, and that an accumulation of £500,000 had been invested in the name of the Financial Secretary to the Treasury; and would this sum be devoted towards the redemption of the outstanding 1855 loan?

Mr. Young: Under Article 112 of the Treaty of Sèvres the Government of Egypt will continue to apply the sums hitherto paid towards the interest on the Turkish guaranteed loan of 1855, and His Majesty's Government will continue to guarantee the interest on the loan. The holders of the loan are thus protected against any deterioration in their position as regards interest as compared with that in which they were before the war. No liability is undertaken by His Majesty's Government in Article 112 in respect of Turkey's failure since 1876 to provide for the redemption of the loan which should have been completed in 1900. The holders of the loan must be taken to have accepted the position created by the Turkish default, which was continuous for a period of thirty-eight years' peace with Turkey, and there appears to be no reason why their security should in this respect be improved at the expense of the taxpayer. The surplus of the Cyprus tribute (over and above the sum required to make up the interest on the loan) has been invested by the Treasury in British Government securities since 1892. Pending the coming into force of the Treaty of Sèvres no final decision can be taken with regard to the disposal of these securities.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended April 30 amounted to £10,238.

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ENGINEERING.

Pier Reopened.

I am informed that the pontoon at the Royal Pier, Southampton, is again in use for steamer traffic, news that will be received with pleasure by motorists who have been inconvenienced during the last six months owing to the difficulties of embarking and disembarking cars on the Southampton-Cowes route. A few weeks ago the Automobile Association represented to the authorities that great inconvenience was being caused to A.A. members desirous of crossing to the Isle of Wight from Southampton, and as a result is able to announce the prompt restoration of the usual facilities.

Power Alcohol.

The Automobile Association points out that the use of power alcohol as a motor fuel is in danger of receiving a serious set-back, in view of the announcement that the Revenue Bill is likely to be entirely dropped. Certain concessions had been embodied in Clause 27 of the Bill, which would have enabled the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to make regulations tending towards the more rational handling of the power alcohol question. The Automobile Association, through the Motor Legislation Committee, is proposing to get the clause in question incorporated under another Act during the present session, and it is hoped that the general public, who are as vitally interested in the question of cheap transport as any individual motorist can be, will use every endeavour with their Parliamentary representatives to get this course adopted by the House of Commons.

Russian Engineering.

An interesting discussion took place recently at the Institution of Electrical Engineers on the position of the electrical engineering industry in Russia. Mr. C. L. Lipman stated that for the time being the Soviet Government is capable of maintaining order and is able to carry out a more or less complete plan for supplying electrical power to certain of the more important districts, the coal mining and metallurgical industries of the Siberian, Ural, Moscow, and Donetz regions being the first to which attention will be given. Much of his statement is of great interest, and may be quoted in full. He said:—"The general destitution and the dearth of engineering materials have not permitted progress much beyond the excavating and layout stage, but considerable pioneer work has resulted. A hydro-electric scheme, the Kashir generating station, to supply Moscow and a number of adjacent counties, is being rushed forward day and night, for it is decreed that all factories in Moscow will use electric power. A temporary district station on the Shatour marshes is helping the Bogorodsky transmission station to illuminate Moscow. The electric station at Sudakovsk works has been restored, and the works at Tula are receiving the required power. Seven industrial districts of the Moscow basin are shortly to receive electricity from the Shatour and other stations with the object of obtaining 1,000,000 tons of coal per annum."

In the Petrograd district electrification is being carried out (according to an abstract of his address) at an intensified pace; the Ontkin works are being reconstructed and a new station commenced on the Viazen marshes. On the River Svir (the Svir Volkhov station) a huge hydro-electric plant is in hand for the supply of the Northern districts of the capital. Simultaneously, dredging of the Svir is going on under the Mariinsk waterway project of connecting the Volga with the Baltic. In the Donetz basin the electricity works, reduced to a deplorable state in the fighting with Denikin, are already recovering, and at the end of February last thirty stations, with a total energy of 190,000 kw., were working in three of the chief districts, while 3,000 motors of 122,240 total horse-power have been repaired and put to use. In the Kizelovsk coal district, in the Ural, great efforts are being made to finish the electricity works by eighteen months hence. Nor is it only industrially the electrification goes on. Thousands of cottages are receiving light, and in the Kieff district the workers' quarters are lighted free of charge.

Modern Bridges.

Motorists will hear with regret, and engineers with interest, that the old timber bridge at Muskham, on the Great North Road, over the river Trent, is to be replaced by a bridge of reinforced concrete. The timber structure, which is one of the most picturesque in England, was built in 1652, and, with the exception of necessary repairs, remains substantially as built. It appears, according to the old records of Nottinghamshire, that the bridge was built at the joint cost of the county and the landowner who was responsible for its upkeep. Now, I understand, the Notts County Council will be the sole owners of the new erection, and will in consequence be responsible for any repairs necessary. The well-known durability of reinforced concrete work renders this responsibility merely of a nominal character, as little is likely to have to be done to the bridge for the next hundred years or so. The new structure, which will cost about £50,000 to erect, will have two arches, each of 100 ft. in span, and at either end of the bridge two flood openings of 22 ft. 6 ins. span will carry off any flood water in the event of overflow of the stream. The road over the bridge will be about 39 ft. clear, the over-all width of the bridge being 42 ft.

Whilst on the subject of bridges, mention may be made of the fact that the new railway over-bridge recently constructed to carry an extension of the Bode Belgica over the ceinture railway in Brussels exhibits, according to the engineering supplement of *The Times*, a type of design which is somewhat unusual, if not altogether novel. The problem for solution was to span the railway in such a manner as to provide the requisite head-room for railway traffic without involving an inconvenient gradient on the roadway above. The conditions made it necessary to provide a centre span of not less than 80 ft., with two outer spans, making up a total length of about 148 ft. in all, and to limit the centre span to 5 ft. in depth.

The design accepted by the Belgian State Railways provided for a cantilever girder 147 ft. 7 ins. long, composed of a central span of 82 ft. supported by piers on each side of the railway lines, and two projecting cantilever spans of 32 ft. 9 ins., one at each end. The weight of the latter, serving to reduce very considerably the positive bending moment at the middle of the centre span, facilitated the task of keeping the thickness of the latter within the required limit and simplified the construction of the two abutments by diverting the load to the main piers.

When undergoing official tests after completion, the bridge proved to be entirely satisfactory under rolling loads, the vertical movement at the end of the projecting cantilevers being negligible. The success of this bridge has induced the State railway authorities to adopt the same type of design for an overhead footbridge, with a central 82 ft. span, at Blaton railway station.

Portable Engines.

The portable steam engine has always been popular in agricultural districts and in countries where work of an occasional character has to be undertaken in localities some distance apart, and for many years the engines of this type made by Messrs. Marshall, Sons and Co., of Gainsborough, have been held in deservedly high esteem. The firm have now placed on the market a new range of portable engines, and also of semi-portable engines of the single-cylinder, simple saturated steam types. It appears that this comprises six sizes of power unit, ranging from 9 to 39 brake horse power economical load. These yield respectively from 13 to 50 brake horse power maximum continuous load, and one of the most generally useful sizes, and one which has given exceptionally good results in practice, has a cylinder of 8½ ins. diameter, with a stroke of 12 ins., giving an indicated horse power of just over 32 and a brake horse power of rather over 30½. The engine is remarkably smooth-running, and the consumption of coal, taking this on a 13,500 British thermal unit value, is only 2.33 lbs. per brake horse power hour at full load. It is pointed out that, eliminating ash and slate, the coal consumption would be only 2.2 lb., or, were coal of the highest quality used, only just over 2 lbs. per brake horse power hour.

Other details given show that the water consumption of the engine was correspondingly low, being just over 20 lbs.

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per brake horse power hour, or rather more than 8½ lbs. per pound of coal.

The boilers, which are worked at a steam pressure of 150 lbs. per square inch, are of the multi-tubular standard locomotive type, and are fitted with the well-known patent fire box designed and made by the firm. In this the fire box crown is not fitted with girder roof stays nor suspension bolts, but has two corrugations rising diagonally from each angle of the side plates and intersecting over the fire box crown plate. These corrugations, which give remarkable strength and rigidity to the structure, are pressed in the sheeting in a press which carries out the work without bringing any undue stress on the crown plate. In this way, and by the adoption of a scientific design and an up-to-date and efficient means of carrying it into effect, a flat plate is given a degree of strength which, as a matter of fact, it would be difficult to equal by any other means. The obvious advantages possessed by this form of crown plate are that there are no obstructions to retard or even tend to retard the free circulation of the water, and that the crown itself is kept free from scale and other deposits from the feed water. Further, the heating area is increased at the very point where an increase is most desirable; that is, at the point where it is of the greatest evaporative value. Instead of the usual heavy stays running lengthwise in the boiler, corrugated tube plates and reinforced front plates are used, and it goes without saying that every joint is made with scrupulous care, and the plating and every fitting are of the highest possible quality of material. The barrel of the boiler is heavily lagged to prevent loss of heat by radiation, and the working barrel of the cylinder is surrounded by steam at boiler temperature.

Electric Power.

A scheme has been sanctioned by the Ontario Government by which a further half-million horse power is to be taken from Niagara on the Canadian side. This will practically double the existing output of the Canadian Niagara hydro-electric power house. The new works will utilise the head of 327 feet between Lake Erie and Ontario, and the means adopted might well be followed by engineers in other countries where water power of considerable volume but comparatively low fall is available. An open power canal of about 13 miles in length is to be constructed, of which about four miles will be an existing waterway reconstructed, the additional nine miles leads having to be excavated. Electrically-driven excavators will be used for removing the material and cutting the channel, and the work will no doubt be put in hand immediately.

Aluminium in Power Work.

For some years past aluminium has been employed in place of copper for a good deal of electrical work, and now that economy in every department of power supply is of such importance, the pamphlet just issued by the British Aluminium Co. is of more than ordinary interest and value. The company say, and rightly, that the substitution of bare copper rod or cable for insulated cable is only a half measure of economy, and that to secure the full advantage aluminium rod or bar should be substituted for the copper itself. They summarise the advantages of copper as compared with aluminium as being an appreciable saving in first cost, a considerable reduction in the weight to be carried, greater resistance to the corrosive effects of the atmosphere, and a reduced temperature rise for equal current-carrying capacity. It is said that on the latter basis an aluminium conductor of the same resistance and length as one of copper will have a cross-sectional area greater in the ratio of ten to six, but owing to the lower specific gravity of aluminium the weights of the two conductors will be roughly as one to two. The increased surface area of an aluminium conductor plays an important part in regard to temperature rise, as the temperature of a base conductor depends on the amount of surface exposed to radiation as well as on the heat generated within it. An aluminium bar, by reason of its greater perimeter, will have a considerably lower temperature rise than a copper bar of the same resistance carrying an equivalent current. Of course, aluminium has not the same tensile strength as copper for a given cross-sectional area, but as a conductor of larger diameter has to be employed when aluminium is used, the tensile strength in actual practice works out at about the same.

Whitsun Motoring.

My friend Mr. Stenson Cooke has just supplied me with the following interesting statistics regarding Whitsuntide motoring. He says that the reports received by the Automobile Association from the road patrols concerning their work during the three days covering the Whitsuntide holidays confirm the prevailing impression that the number of motor vehicles on the road constituted a record for a Bank Holiday. The patrols distributed over England, Wales, and Scotland assisted, by giving road information, 2,549 members. They helped 681 motorists whose vehicles had break-

downs, and rendered assistance in connection with twenty-six accidents.

In connection with other roadside troubles, 506 motorists benefited by the personal assistance of the road patrols, and 433 car and motor-cycle owners availed themselves of mechanical first-aid assistance provided by patrols and the association's fleet of road service outfits—motor-cycle combinations carrying tools and other supplies necessary for dealing with minor mechanical troubles on the road. In addition, the patrols used their first-aid wallets in ten cases of personal injuries. The eight roadside fuel-filling stations erected by the A.A. were widely used by motorists for replenishing their fuel and water tanks and inflating their tyres.

RAW SILK IN TURKEY.

The 1921 crop of cocoons in the Broussa district is estimated at 350,000 kilos, as against 3,185,859 kilos in 1912-13, says an American Consular report. Before the war 83 filatures of 4,873 spindles were in operation in the same field. At present only five mills are running. Several causes have prevented the restoration of the Broussa silk industry, among them being the destruction during the war of nearly 80 per cent. of the mulberry trees, which were cut down for fuel; the lack of capital for reconstruction purposes; the fluctuations of the silk market; and the general disturbed condition of the country. French silk operators still dominate the Broussa silk market and advance funds to the growers. The machinery used in the mills is obsolete.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has been fairly brisk, currants providing the one exception. The market in this commodity has been very dull, and it is evident that stocks in the country are going into consumption very slowly. Sultanas are scarce, and rates are hard in view of the steady demand. Supplies of figs are rapidly being taken up at advancing prices. Good business has been done in Persian dates.

Sugar.—Home refined is unaltered. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 54s. to 56s. 6d., and American granulated is unchanged at 61s. 6d. Czechoslovakian was sold at 32s. Futures are: June, 26s.; July, 25s. 6d.; August, 22s.; September, 21s. 6d.; October, 19s.; November, 18s. 3d.; December, 17s. 9d. to 18s.

Coffee.—Prices have been rather irregular. East India bold coloury is quoted at 97s. to 99s., a decline of 9s.; bold grey-greenish at 97s. 6d. has risen 12s.; and peaberry is quoted at 83s. to 90s. 6d. Costa Rica bold to good bold greenish has been done at 105s. to 122s., a decrease of 3s. 3d.; and peaberry is 118s. 6d. to 135s. 6d. Nairobi ordinary bold to good bold greenish is 91s. to 96s. 6d.; medium, 97s. 6d. to 82s.; and peaberry 75s. Futures market is steady. Quotations are: May, 40s.; July, 40s.; September, 41s.; December, 41s. 9d.; March, 42s.

Oilseeds.—A firm tone has prevailed. Indian linseed is 1s. up at 18s. Rapeseed has risen with Toria at 20s. 6d.; bold Ferozepore at 19s.; and brown Cawnpore at 18s. 6d.; increases of 1s., 6d., and 2s. respectively. Cottonseed is firm with Bombay at 9s. 9d., a decrease of 9d., and the Egyptian black variety 3d. up at 12s. 9d.

Oils.—The market has been very unsteady. Linseed oil has shed 9s. at 20s. Rape oil is higher, with crude at 52s. and refined at 60s., an increase of 3s. in both cases. Refined cotton oil is unchanged at 42s., while Egyptian crude at 34s. is the same, but deodorised is 1s. up at 48s. Turpentine has risen 1s. during the week to 100s.

BULGARIAN TRACTOR TRIALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, May 10.

Trials of agricultural ploughs and tractors were held last week at Knyjo, near Pleven, with the object of enabling the Government to select the most efficient and best adapted machine for use throughout the country. About thirty entries were received, but only ten machines arrived in time, and it is possible that a further series of trials will be held next Sunday. Great Britain was well represented, but it is to be feared that the Central European countries, with their low exchanges, will stand the best chance.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Banca Natiunei.

The report of this bank shows gross profits of 22,757,454 lei, and net profits of 15,819,808 lei. The allocation to reserve was 2,372,971 lei, a dividend of 22 per cent. was declared, and 25,667 lei were carried forward.

British Cotton-seed Products.

The balance-sheet of the British Cotton-seed Products as at March 31 shows the following items:—Debit: Issued capital, £229,664; sundry creditors and other credit balances, £2,787; total, £232,451. Credit: Patent rights at cost, £117,500; purchase of leasehold premises, plant and machinery, etc., £18,087; office furniture, £192; investments, £68,853; cash, £4,783; research and development, £2,249; preliminary expenses, £18,796; profit and loss account, £1,991; total, £232,451.

Constantinople Telephone.

After providing for the interest on obligations and debt certificates and debiting the 5 per cent. interest on share capital, the full amount of amortisation, together with reserves for renewals, etc., the accounts for 1920 show a loss of £118,431, which makes a total deficiency of £174,025.

The prohibition of the export of mine props from Tunis has been provisionally suspended.

According to the *Trgovinski Glasnik*, in 1920 fourteen new factories were established in Yugoslavia, with a total capital of 48,300,000 dinars, and twenty-six new companies were registered, with a total capital of 168,400,000 dinars.

The May list (compiled by the National City Company) of securities of interest to those holding dollar funds in America may be obtained on application to the London Office, National City Company, 4, London Wall Buildings, E.C.2.

The Bulgarian Press Bureau has issued a communiqué denying the statement made by a Budapest newspaper that the Bulgarian Minister of Commerce has declared to the Inter-Allied Commission of Reparations in Sofia that Bulgaria will not be in a position to fulfil any of the reparation clauses before May 1, 1923.

ROUMANIAN CROP PROSPECTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 12.

During almost two months we have had exceptionally dry and windy weather. Spring seeding had to be interrupted, the soil being too hard, and the autumn sowings were in danger. The anxiety was general and intense, as a deficient crop in present circumstances would have been a serious misfortune.

Fortunately, the drought came to an end at the eleventh hour, and during the last fortnight we have been enjoying the long-desired rain throughout the whole country. The autumn sowings now look very promising, and spring seeding is being carried on most vigorously. It is estimated that no arable land will remain uncultivated. Greater Roumania is justified in looking forward to an abundant crop, which will enable large exports of grain in the autumn.

PRUNE INDUSTRY OF BOSNIA.

An interesting article appeared recently in the *Trgovinski Glasnik* dealing with the production of prunes, the most important industry of Bosnia. The writer says:—

There was an average crop in 1920. The fine weather in the autumn during the drying of the prunes had a favourable effect on the quality of production. The prunes were well dried, 105 of those of average quality weighing half a kilo. At the opening of the season the price of prunes was, on the market of Brichko, for example, from 3 to 3.50 dinars a kilo. These prices fell later to 2, 2.50, and 2.75 a kilo, according to the demand.

1,633 wagon loads, each weighing 10,000 kilograms, were brought into the various Bosnian markets up to April 1 last, and 1,537 wagon loads were exported. In addition, 211 wagon loads of prune pulp were received in the markets, and 169½ exported.

The destinations of the exports (the figures representing wagon loads) were:—Other provinces of Yugoslavia, 521; Germany, 614; Austria, 213; Italy, 98; Hungary, 39; Great Britain, 24; Switzerland, 19; Belgium, 7; and Denmark, 2. Nine-tenths of this quantity were probably afterwards exported abroad.

610 wagon loads were exported packed in boxes of 25 kilos., and a smaller quantity in boxes of 5 and 12 kilos. The remainder has been delivered in sacks. The exporters have found, as previously, that only those prunes packed in boxes can safely be sent abroad. The export has, however, been adversely affected by the bad state of rail and river communications, and the sudden increase in the export tariff in the middle of the season contributed to smaller sales.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the three weeks ended April 29:—

The sales of opium during the last three weeks amount to seventy-one cases, from 625 piastres per oke and ending at 790 piastres for extra druggists' manufacturing qualities. The equivalent in sterling is from 9s. to 11s. per lb. The market closes very firm, with an upward tendency. The exchange to-day is weak at 540 piastres per pound sterling for cheque and 0.73 dollars for one Turkish pound of 100 piastres. The arrivals to date are 1,317 cases, against 1,575 at same date last year, and our stock to-day in first and second hands is now 1,164 cases.

CZECHOSLOVAK SUGAR EXPORTS.

The Czechoslovak refineries exported 4,950 wagons of refined sugar in February. Of this quantity 16,174 tons went to Hamburg, 12,434 tons to Austria, 11,643 tons to France, 3,734 tons to England, 2,885 tons to Switzerland, 1,335 tons to Yugoslavia, 487 tons to Trieste, 439.7 tons to Roumania, and the remainder to Hungary, Poland, Germany, and Fiume.

The Banco di Roma has opened a branch at Adalia (Asia Minor).

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin railway for the week ended May 14 amounted to £11,769.

The Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt recommends a dividend of 6 per cent., less tax.

The Government of Czechoslovakia has sanctioned the formation of a Czecho-Ukrainian bank, with a capital of 6,000,000 kronen.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.**Steady Tone.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

Owing to the Whitsuntide holiday period business during the past week has been practically at a standstill. Tuesday was the only day on which buyers and sellers attended the market, and even then only a small amount of trade was about. The steady tone of the market, however, has been well maintained to-day, but offers generally have been slow in materialising. A favourable feature has been the stability displayed in raw cotton circles. The wages question in the cotton trade is causing a little anxiety amongst traders, but the general opinion is that an amicable settlement will eventually be arrived at. In any case, there are no fears of a strike. The industrial position is not all that could be desired, and it is only natural that the continuation of the coal strike is seriously harassing trade. With regard to cloth, buyers for Egypt have been about, but only occasional sales have resulted. Better advices, however, are being received from the other side. Scattered transactions have taken place for the Levant and Constantinople, but sales of any weight are hardly ever heard of. Generally speaking, a quiet business has been done. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have been well held, but the offtake has not been satisfactory. Users appear to have enough stocks on hand to meet their immediate requirements. The piece goods trade with India has not been of large dimensions, but here and there fair transactions are taking place for Bombay, principally in dhooties and other light goods. Business with China appears to be gradually improving, but offers are still a long way out. American yarns have ruled fairly steady in price, but the offtake has been patchy. Generally speaking, the market all round has been quiet, but now that the holidays are over it is expected that buying will be resumed on a larger scale than has been the case for some time past.

LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended May 19:—

As was generally anticipated, only a very small inquiry made its appearance during the past week, and business done was on a very limited scale indeed. Many mills were shut down altogether, and the Manchester exchange was practically closed. The tone was depressing, owing to the continuance of the coal strike and the political crisis in Silesia. The latest news to hand indicates a resumption of negotiations in the coal dispute, but it is early yet to disseminate optimism on this account. An interesting feature of the present situation is that several mills have had their furnaces adapted for oil fuel at small cost, and the results are reported to be very satisfactory. Slightly more c.i.f. business has transpired, the recent weakness in Alexandria having tempted a few bold spirits to cable out bids. The tendency of prices here is again downward, particularly for Sakellaridis. Manchester reports have been lifeless. Total sales, 500 bales. Quotations of upper are reduced 25 points, and Sakellaridis and brown are reduced 50 points on the week. Fully good fair Sakel, 16.00d.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended April 20 amounted to £E10,167; total for year, £E18,974. For the corresponding period of last year the receipts amounted to £E11,048 and £E22,928 respectively.

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SUDAN AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, April 17.

It is reported from Berber Province that wheat cultivation at Bouga has been most successful. Most of the wheat is being stocked by the natives, but small quantities were sold forward at PT 270 to PT 300 per ardeb of 420 rottles.

Considerable cotton cultivation is reported at Hassa, the yield being estimated at 4 kantars per feddan. Types grown here are American and Sakellarides. Owing to the distance from Berber and the lack of a siding, the railway authorities have arranged to load trucks on the spot. Cotton on Um Tereifi Island is reported as being very good. Picking has been successful on Zeidan Island.

At Damer wheat fell to PT 375 per 420 rottles, barley was PT 115 per 315 rottles, Sakia and Dhurrah Hamra PT 150, Dhurrah Feterita PT 127, and maize PT 120 per 380 rottles. Trade in live stock has been very slack, only 251 head of cattle and 3,391 sheep being sold in Damer market during March, average prices being PT 675 and PT 128 per head respectively. There has been no demand for camels, and prices have fallen accordingly.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The *Bulletin* of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in April:—

Cotton.—The weather was, on the whole, favourable, though changeable. The water supply was ample; in some localities, however, there was a shortage, due, apparently, to the rush to sow during March. In such localities the irrigation authorities took steps to relieve the situation. Ploughing, sowing, and watering the late crop, and hoeing and resowing the early-sown areas were being carried out during the month under review. A considerable amount of resowing has taken place in early sowings. Germination, except in early-sown fields, is satisfactory. Practically all the areas destined for cotton have now been sown. Very slight attacks of cut-worm, *Prodenia*, aphid, and sore-shin have been reported from some districts.

Wheat.—The weather was generally favourable. The condition of the plants is satisfactory, and the crop is rapidly reaching maturity. Rust and smut are reported from all provinces, the damage done being insignificant, except in Daqahliya province, where the attack was particularly severe. Very slight attacks of eel-worm in Sharqiya, saw-fly in Beni Suef, and aphid in Qena and Aswan are also reported. Harvesting has commenced in limited areas in some very early-sown fields. The yield is expected to be slightly above the average.

Barley.—Harvesting, thrashing, and winnowing are actively taking place. The attacks of rust and smut are reported to be insignificant. The yield is expected to be slightly above the average.

Beans.—Harvesting is general in Lower Egypt, while the bulk of the crop in Middle and Upper Egypt has been harvested. The attacks of rust and blight reported last month have since developed in Sharqiya and Qalyubiya, but the damage caused by these, as well as by broomrape, is believed to be less serious than last year. The yield is expected to be below average.

Onions.—The crop is in the last stage of growth in Lower Egypt, while harvesting is now general in Middle and Upper Egypt. The unfavourable weather in Qena during the ripening period has affected the crop. On the whole, the yield appears to be a little below the average.

Bersim.—The weather was suitable in Lower Egypt, Beni Suef, Asyut, and Garga, but rather unfavourable in other provinces of Middle and Upper Egypt. The water supply was ample, except in some localities where the demand for water for the cotton crop was heavy. The fourth cut was being taken in some provinces and drees-making continued. The crop is healthy and its condition is normal.

Sugar Cane.—Planting of the new crop was general during the month under review.

Millet (Séfi).—Ploughing, sowing, and watering were general. The area intended for this crop is expected to be larger than last year.

JAFFA ORANGE TRADE.

A report of the Imperial Ottoman Bank states that the number of cases of oranges exported from Jaffa during March was 66,400 for Liverpool and 97,800 for Egypt, Constantinople, and Smyrna. These consignments were made at from 4s. to 5s. per case.

It is regarded as being unlikely that France will receive as much corn from Roumania as has been contracted for.

According to the *Journée Industrielle*, the Roumanian Government is preparing to modify the Customs tariff with a view to protecting the native iron and steel industry, which is suffering from a lack of foundry coke.

The Algerian Exhibition Fair, which was opened on April 20 by the French Minister of Marine, has proved a great success. Among the numerous exhibits were agricultural tractors and machines of British, French, and American manufacture, this being the most important section of the fair.

MARKET FOR RUBBER GOODS IN TURKEY

No rubber goods of any sort are manufactured in Turkey. Previous to the war rubber tyres and other automobile accessories were supplied by Germany and Austria, but America, England, and France have supplanted the aforesaid countries since the Armistice, with America rapidly taking the lead and France closely following, says an American Consular report.

Distribution in general is conducted as with other accessories—i.e., importers sell directly to the wholesalers, commission men, and large retailers, giving a slight discount according to the quantity purchased. The demand for rubber tyres is proportionate to the automobiles now in use in Constantinople. Their number is increasing continuously. The most popular sizes are 30 by $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. and 30 by 3 ins.

The demand for rubber boots and shoes is limited to overshoes of a light type. Heavy goloshes and boots are practically unsaleable in this market. The terms of payment are the same as for all merchandise—namely, cash. America and England seem to have supplanted Russia in supplying rubber shoes to Constantinople.

There is also a good market here for raincoats, rubber soles and heels, toys, etc. Raincoats are imported mostly by large department stores from England, France, and Germany, the principal importers being the same as for rubber shoes. Rubber soles and heels have only recently been introduced in this market, but they have been received with favour by the local population because the city's hilly and uneven streets are very trying to the feet.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 138s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 179s. cwt.; cheese, 138s. cwt.; chillies, 97s. 6d. cwt.; eggs, 15s. 9d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon good to fine), 77s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 116s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (East India bold), 115s. cwt.; coffee (Mocha longberry), 92s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos superior), 54s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 42s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 132s. cwt.; lard, 70s. 7½d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 11d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 110s. cwt.; currants (Vostizza), 77s. cwt.; sultanas (Smyrna), 135s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 62s. 7½d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 67s. cwt.; sugar (white Java), 59s. cwt.; sugar (West Indian crystallised), 55s. 6d. cwt.; sago (small pearl), 25s. 9d. cwt.; sago flour, 14s. 9d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 16s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £5 12s. 6d. ton; tea (Indian), 6½d. lb.; tea (Ceylon), 6½d. lb.; tea (Java), 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 81s. 10½d. qr.; wheat (English white), 89s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 77s. 6d. qr.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 71s. 6d. cwt.; oxalic, 10d. lb.; citric, 2s. 6d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 8½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £20 5s. 6d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £46 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 11½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 10s. ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 139s. cwt. Potassium: Bichromate, 93d. lb.; chlorate, 53d. lb.; caustic, £47 10s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 10½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 3d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £22 10s. ton. Sodium: Crystals, 150s. ton; bicarbonate, £11 ton; bichromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 15s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 ton; hyposulphite, £23 10s. ton; prussiate, 8d. lb.; nitrate, £19 12s. 6d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £32 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 2d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 6½d. oz.; red lead, £39 ton; white dry lead, £42 5s. ton; white ground lead, £51 15s. ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulus), £32 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £72 11s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £74 ton; gold bars, 103s. 1d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 127s. 6d. ton; hematite (mixed number), 160s. ton; galvanized sheets, £22 ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 16s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 3½d. unit; molybdenite, 55s. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 340s. oz.; plumbago, £27 10s. ton; quicksilver, £11 2s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 35d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 5s. ton; tin (standard), £176 5s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 26s. 3d. box; wolfram, 12s. 10½d. unit; zinc sheets, £36 10s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 6d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 5½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 5½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb. Cows: (first), 60 lbs. and up, 5½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 5½d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4d. lb. Bulls: (first), 3½d. lb.; (second), 2½d. lb. Casualty hides, 2½d. lb.; kips (first), 4½d. lb.; (second), 3½d. lb.; (third), 3d. lb. Calcutta Market.—Prices in rupees per 20 lbs.—Arsenic hides (cows):—Agras, 5 to 12; Durhangas, 4 to 5; Patnas, 3 to 4; salted cows, 2.8 to 5; arsenic hides (buffalo), 2.8 to 6.8. Skins.—Calf, 6 to 8 per 20 lb.; goat, 200 to 230 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 8.34d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £15 3s. 9d. ton; rape (Toria), £19 5s. ton; soya beans, £11 15s. ton; palm kernels, £20 7s. 6d. ton. Oils: Linseed, £28 12s. 6d. ton; soya, £32 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £34 10s. ton; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton; ground nut, £38 5s. ton; palm, £34 5s. ton; rape (crude), £48 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3½d. gallon; turpentine (American), 95s. cwt. Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crêpe), 10d. lb.; smoked sheet, 9d. lb.; fine hard Para, 10½d. lb.

TENDERS INVITED.

[Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.]

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

Egypt.

Bicycles.—The Director-General Postal Administration, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of a bicycle and 20 to 30 tricycles. Specification can be obtained from the Egyptian Government Agent, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1. June 1.

Crane Chains.—The Inspector, First Circle of Irrigation, No. 6, Sharia Tewfik, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of two 1-in. diameter Admiralty test BBB crane chains, 11 metres long each, two 1½-in. diameter Admiralty test BBB crane chains, 9 metres long each, to be supplied to Irrigation Office at Shubra by July 30, 1921.—June 11.

General Stores.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of general stores required for the second half-year 1921-1922. June 13.

General Stores and Clothing.—H.M. Commercial Agent for Egypt reports that tenders will be received by the Director of Stores, Frontier Districts Administration, Alexandria, for the supply of general stores and clothing. The tenderer must have an agent resident in Egypt. June 14. (D.O.T.)

Rope, Etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of ropes, canvas, etc., required for the second half of the financial year 1921-1922. June 15.

Yugoslavia.

Dynamos, etc.—The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade reports that he has received an inquiry from a local contractor in regard to plant, etc., required for the electrical lighting of a town in Yugoslavia. The inquirer states that he is desirous of obtaining offers from United Kingdom firms for two dynamos of 40 kilowatts each and 50 kilometres of overhead cable, etc., for the supply of current to about 1,200 houses. The name and address of the inquiring firm may be obtained on application to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.

Motor Boats.—The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Belgrade reports a call for tenders for the supply of motor-boats, to be used for inspection purposes on the Danube and its confluent. The boats must carry five persons and be fitted with petrol motors of 20 to 30 h.p., and have a maximum draught of 50 centimetres. Movable covers to form cabins must be fitted. Hulls may be of wood or metal, and if of wood must be oak or pitch pine. Prices should be quoted for six or ten boats. Date of delivery, speed of boats in calm water, fuel consumption, drawings and photographs, and all other necessary particulars must be sent with tenders. Prices must be quoted f.o.b. works or port of despatch, and, in addition, cost of transport between works or port of despatch and Belgrade or Galatz. These last quotations (for transport) will not be binding on the contractor, but should be estimated from inquiries made from different transport agencies. The contractor whose offer is accepted must deposit, if a subject of Yugoslavia, 10 per cent., if a foreigner, 20 per cent. of the total value of the contract. It is also necessary that tenders bear a 10 dinar duty stamp.—June 4 (D.O.T.).

Dredgers, etc.—The General Direction of Waterways, Department of the Yugoslavian Ministry of Agriculture and Waters, invites tenders for the supply of two chain bucket dredgers, one tug boat, and eight lighters provided with means for discharging contents downwards through hull. The successful tenderer must deposit, if a Yugoslavian subject 10 per cent., if a foreigner 20 per cent. of the total value of the tender. All tenders must bear a 10 dinar duty stamp, and should be addressed to the General Direction of Waterways, 81, Krunaka ulica, Belgrade. June 6 (D.O.T.).

India.

The High Commissioner for India invites tenders for the supply of screw couplings. The conditions of contract may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W.1. June 2.

Pipe Lines.—The Bombay Corporation invites tenders for the construction of about 105 miles of steel and reinforced concrete pipe lines, 72 in. to 57 in. in diameter (sections 2 and 3). July 26.

Metals.—The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company invites tenders for the supply of metals (antimony, brass, copper, lead, and zinc). May 31.

The Czechoslovak authorities have decided to abolish the system of import and export licences, with very rare exceptions, as from June 1.

Travellers to the Near East

Can obtain all information as to the journey from the Manager, **Continental Enquiry Office,** Victoria Station (S.E. & C.R.), S.W.1.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, May 7.

The market continues in a state of stagnation. The preparations made in view of the resumption of hostilities in Anatolia have led to the tightening of the restrictive measures on both sides, so that the trade of Constantinople even with the neighbouring localities is interrupted. Consignments of goods for Roumania have relieved the congestion to a certain extent, but the sales have mostly been effected at a loss. We anticipate the despatch of merchandise to the Caucasus by Novorossisk and Batoum, although normal conditions are far from being established there. The financial stringency continues.

As regards manufactures, the sales of the week have been insignificant, despite the approach of the holidays. Prices continue to fall.

Produce: Sugar.—The fall in prices goes on as the result of offerings from Java, where the crop is good. Holders here are in consequence trying to dispose of their stocks, which amount to about 2,000 tons. Quotations are:—Java, July shipment, £29-30 per ton; Dutch, £39-40 per ton; in Customs, £T34½-35 per 100 kilos.

Rice.—The demand on the markets of Marseilles and Rangoon has stopped the decline in values. The price here is Ps.17 per oke.

Coffee.—The market is weak, with a tendency to fall.

JAFFA.

The report for March states:—Compared with the previous month, the market in cereals has been marked by a certain animation as a result of the permission granted by the local government for the export of the surplus stock. The approaching crops promise to be good, the climatic conditions having been favourable for agriculture up to the present.

As regards manufactures and cotton goods, the situation is practically unchanged, this being due to the position in the European markets.

Following the fall in the price of olive oil at Smyrna, this commodity has declined on our market. The jar of olive oil of 16 okes is now quoted at PT.150. Holders in this region, hoping for an increase in price shortly, are retaining their stocks.

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ON 'CHANGE.**Business Very Restricted.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

With the coal strike still with us, any appreciable improvement in the various markets is scarcely to be looked for. During the past week a dull tone has prevailed in nearly every group, and no doubt the same tale will have to be told until a settlement is reached.

In the gilt-edged group the 5 per Cent. War Loan has been a firm spot, and is closing at 88½. Consols are steady at 47½, a rise to-day of ½, while Funding Loan and Victory Bonds are respectively 71½ and 79½. The Sudan 5½ per Cent. Loan stands at 93, a premium of 1, while the new Indian loan is at a premium of 3 15-16.

Industrials have presented a neglected appearance. Business is down to the smallest dimensions, and it is evident that would-be buyers intend to hold their hands until the situation is less obscure. The result of the prevailing inactivity is to give an irregular aspect to quotations, in many cases there being a further decline on the week. The Shipping section has been rather firm, with P. and O. deferred at 339.

Oils have been dull, with the exception of one or two shares, but this market should not be long in showing activity in view of the increasing utilisation of the commodity. When the revival comes it is to be expected that there will be an appreciable rise in the leading counters. There is nothing new to be said with regard to Rubbers, which will continue to stagnate until there is a world trade revival.

Near Eastern securities have generally been firm, Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are 67½, Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1898 66½, at which there are buyers, while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are 71.

Greeks have been dull. The 5 per cent. 1881, and the 5 per cent. 1884 Loans are 38, while the 5 per cent. 1890 closes at 39. Fundings are 36, and the 1910 Loan is as low as 29. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is 34, while the 1902 Loan is 35.

Land shares have been weak. Beheras are 8½, while the preference shares are 3. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments are unaltered at 3½, and Egyptian Consolidated Lands are 1s., at which there are sellers. Delta Lands are 6s. 9d., Gharbieh Lands are 1½, and New Egyptians are 22s. 6d. Union Foncières are 2½, and Sudan Plantations are 3½.

Oils have been rather featureless. Anglo-Egyptian are 1½, Phoenix are 12s., and Roumanian Consolidated 13s. 9d. Burmahs have been done at 7, while Steaua Romana have come to business round 15s.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are 2s., while Alexandria Waters are 6½, at which there are sellers. Morums are unchanged at 11s., while Egyptian Salt and Soda are 28s., and Egyptian Markets 18s.

Banks have been steady. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are 51, while the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are 53. Imperial Ottoman Banks are 9, at which there are buyers, National Bank of Egypt are 17½, while Land Bank of Egypt are 5.

TRADE OF PERSIA.

The total imports of Persia in 1919-20 amounted to 629,792,656 krans, as compared with 476,286,793 krans in 1918-19. Total exports also showed an increase with 367,817,353 krans, as against 270,868,943 krans. Imports from the whole of the British Empire showed an increase of 65,197,576 krans over the figures for 1918-19. The principal increases were in cotton and other piece goods, cotton yarns, and clothing, etc. Decreases were recorded in sugar, tea, spices, and rice.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on May 5 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £41; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 9-16; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £3; Associated Cotton Ginners, £23-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 59; Behera Ord., £E8; Behera Priv., £3 3-16; Bonded Stores, £9 15-16; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 115; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16; Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 102 ex; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt. 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 7,700 ex; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 587; Credit Foncier 1885 Oblig., Fr. 322; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 228; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 229; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 75; Eaux du Caire Jousance, Fr. 100; Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord., 27s. 7½d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4½; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10½; Gabbari Lands, £9-32; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5 1-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2½; Kom Ombo Ste. An. de Wadi, £4½; Kom Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £35; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turc, Fr. 41½; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 274 ex; Nungovich Hotels, £6½; Ramleh Railway, £1 25-32; Salt and Soda, 27s. 9d.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 38½; Tram. d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 52; Union Foncière d'Egypte, £2 5-32; Egypt Hotels, £2 3-64; Urbaines et Rurales, £3.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 16:—

During the week ending May 7 light to moderate rain has fallen. Crop prospects fair to good generally, except in North-West Frontier Province and unirrigated areas of the Punjab, where more rain badly wanted. Bombay cotton market firm; fine M.G. Oomra, May, Rs. 267; July, Rs. 285. Cotton arrivals from September 1 to May 6 were 1,985,000 bales, as compared with 2,543,000 bales during the corresponding period of the last year. In Bombay piece goods market wholesale demand remains fair, but retail inquiry improving, particularly in prints and dyed goods. Calcutta jute and gunny markets unchanged. Weather for new jute favourable, and plants growing well. Weeding in some districts nearly completed. Rangoon Paddy arrivals fallen off during last week owing to railway strike, but rates firm at Rs. 195 to Rs. 198 per 100 baskets of 46 lb. each. With regard to white rice, no business in specials, which quality millers unwilling to sell; but rates for small mills quality ranging from Rs. 495 to Rs. 510—May delivery—per 100 baskets of 75 lb. each. At tea sale on May 10 offerings in good quality teas were few, being mostly of unattractive clearing up nature. 811,869 packages sold to date at an average price of five annas two pias per lb. Next sale will be on May 31. Survey of Ghughli-Chuiraha Railway in Gorakhpur district in the United Provinces—11 miles on metre gauge—by Bengal and North-Western Railway Co. sanctioned. No change in bank rates.

Union Foncière d'Egypte.—Dividend of 3s. per share, payable June 1.

The National Bank of Turkey has opened an agency at Pera, Constantinople.

Suez Canal Company.—The dividend on the ordinary shares for 1920 has been fixed at 243.851 frs. net (about £5 6s.).

As a result of the great success of the Prague Industrial Fair, the Czechoslovak authorities have decided to establish an Orient Fair at Bratislava (Pressburg), Czechoslovakia's principal port on the Danube.

Egyptian Markets.—First five per cent. debenture coupons No. 45 falling due June 1 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.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION

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(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, May 10.

While at Varna last week I visited the Customs and found there a great quantity of merchandise, mainly from Great Britain, Italy, and Germany. As regards the goods from Germany, it is interesting to note that almost all German merchandise destined for Constantinople and the Black Sea ports is carried by the "Franco-British" line of steamers. This line has not been long inaugurated, and it is rather ironic that, while Allied traders in Bulgaria are finding it increasingly hard, owing to the rate of exchange, to sell their goods, the ships flying the Allied flag are weekly transporting ex-enemy goods to the Balkans.

A great improvement has recently taken place in the time taken by British goods to reach this country, and last week a tractor, intended for the trials, accomplished the journey from Liverpool to Varna in nineteen days.

CORINTH CANAL RECEIPTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, May 7.

There was an increase in the profits of the Corinth Canal Company in 1920, the figures being 1,444,000 drachmæ, as against 1,081,400 drachmæ in 1919. The dividend is raised to 3.50 drachmæ, as against 3 drachmæ in 1919.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. *Olympia*, for Bombay [taking cargo for Karachi and coast ports] (Liverpool, May 31).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. *Masirah*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 8); s.s. *Imani*, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 18).

Bibby Line.—S.s. *Herefordshire*, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 8).

Clan Line.—S.s. *Clan MacTavish*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 9).

Cunard Line.—S.s. *Tyria*, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool and Manchester, June 1; Glasgow, June 6; Swansea, June 8).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. *Egyptian*, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, June 8); s.s. *Belgravian*, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 11); s.s. *Gerano*, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Liverpool, June 16).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. *City of Exeter*, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, May 27); s.s. *City of Manchester*, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 3); s.s. *City of Alexandria*, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, June 25).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. *City of Baroda*, for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, June 3).

Ellerman's "Westcott and Lawrence" Line.—Regular sailings fortnightly to the Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

Glen Line.—S.s. *Glenamoy*, for Port Said, Penang, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 2); s.s. *Glenade*,

for Port Said, Penang, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 16); s.s. *Glentara*, for Port Said, Penang, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 30).

Harrison Line.—S.s. *Electrician*, for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 2); s.s. *Professor*, for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Glasgow, June 2; Birkenhead, June 9); s.s. *Patrician*, for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 18).

Henderson Line.—S.s. *Arracan*, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 1); s.s. *Henzada*, for Port Said and Rangoon (London, June 15).

Holt Line.—S.s. *Teiresias*, for Port Said, Penang, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, June 2).

Johnston Line.—A steamer will sail from Liverpool on June 11 for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila.

Maindy Line.—S.s. *Maindy Transport* for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, middle of June).

Moss Line.—S.s. *Sitra*, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria [transhipping to Moroccan, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports] (Liverpool, May 28); s.s. *Siptah*, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 18).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. *Bosnian*, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 25).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Novara*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London, June 3); s.s. **Karmala*, for Bombay (London, June 3); s.s. **China*, for Bombay (London, June 10). *Taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden (with transshipment at Bombay) for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports.

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. **Hatimura*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 4); s.s. **Trefusis*, for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 4); s.s. **Tanfield*, for Bombay and Karachi (London, June 18); s.s. **Mashobra*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 24); s.s. **Merkara*, for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 1); s.s. **Mandala*, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 8). *Taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden; †taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar coast ports.

Prince Line.—S.s. *Soldier Prince*, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria [taking cargo for Beyrout, Jaffa, Haifa, Tripoli (Syria), Lattakia, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus ports] (Manchester, June 3).

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

There have been some interesting movements in the exchanges during the week. New York and Teheran are unaltered at 4.00 dollars and 51 kranas to the £ respectively, but Belgrade has shown a decided step towards parity, improving 13 dinars during the week. Athens has been weak, and so far the official control has not succeeded in stabilising the rate. Sofia is also a shade weaker. On the other hand, Bucharest has continued to improve, and is now 227, as against 230 last week.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25·22½	74·25-74·75
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25·22½	120-125
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·3½-1·3¾
Bucharest	Lei to £	25·22½	226-228
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·3½-1·3¾
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	493-513
New York	Dollars to £	4·86½	4·00-4·00½
Paris	Francs to £	25·22½	45·60-45·65
Prague	Kronen to £	24·02	269-272
Romé	Lire to £	25·22½	71¾-72
Sofia	Levas to £	25·22½	323
Teheran	Kranas to £	50	51
Vienna	Kronen to £	24·02	1,500-1,600
Warsaw	Marks to £	20·43	3,500-3,550

In some cases quotations are nominal.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Week ended May 13, Gernsah, 58 tons (previous week, nil); Hurgada, 3,588 tons (against 3,608 tons).

Profits in Foreign Exchange Dealings.

An expert writer has compiled for us a series of Articles explaining Foreign Exchange transactions from the English Investors' point of view. The writer explains the Exchange value of the English £, shows an actual transaction resulting in 60 per cent profit, explains the profit possibilities of the French franc, the German mark, the Italian lire, &c. This Article will be sent free of charge by

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 525.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Greece and the Dardanelles.

Greece is entitled to sympathy over the anomalous attitude of the Allied Powers. As the Athens Government shrewdly points out in a Note with regard to the neutralisation of the Dardanelles, Constantinople and the Straits have been occupied as a consequence of the war, and that occupation is now cited as a ground for the neutralisation in a continuation of the war undertaken at the Allies' request. The weakness in the argument is that the war and any mandate given by the Powers to Greece came to an end logically, if not officially, with the London Conference. From that point the Greek Government has been acting on its own initiative, but it has a grievance in the fact that the Allied Powers have not made their attitude clear, nor used their authority to end an impossible situation. It is not fair to Greece, owing to the Powers' pique against King Constantine, to leave her to retrieve her mistake alone. The present indeterminate state of affairs is benefiting no one, while it encourages the Kemalists to proceed to extremes.

The Need of a Policy.

We are unwilling, however, to believe that it is too late to secure a real settlement in the Near East. Angora has taken a step farther towards Moscow; Mustapha Kemal Pasha has dismissed Bekir Samy Bey, and has installed as his Grand Vizier General Fevzi Pasha, who headed the successful mission to the Soviet Government. But the alliance between Turks and Bolsheviks is purely artificial and a temporary expedient. For all their fulminations against the Allies in general, and the British in particular, the Kemalists want peace and settled conditions. But while we offered them terms in London, we allowed the Greeks to attack them, and at the root of the anti-British outbursts is the belief that Great Britain is helping the Greeks. The truth is, that the British Government is doing nothing in regard to the Greco-Turkish War, and both parties are as aggrieved by inaction as they would be by a definite line of policy in one direction or another. But whereas such a policy might bring the present chaotic state of affairs to an end, the habit of *laissez faire* merely aggravates it.

India and Angora.

Much has been heard during the last few years of the closeness of the ties with which Moslem India considers itself bound to Turkey, and a Moslem deputation has even journeyed all the way to England to protest against

the terms of the Treaty of Sèvres. In so doing Indian Moslems have associated themselves with Angora almost more than with Constantinople, under the impression no doubt that Mustapha Kemal Pasha and his followers stood more actively for the policy of a regenerated Turkey when once the country and people had been given a fair chance on an independent basis. The news, therefore, that an Indian has been put to death by the Angora authorities on the charge of espionage is calculated to make an unpleasant impression on Indian Moslem opinion. Of the details of the case little is likely to be known. Mustapha Saghir claimed to be an Indian sympathiser with the Turks; he came under the suspicion of the British authorities in Constantinople, but was allowed to proceed to Angora on the self-imposed task of bridging the gulf between the Nationalists and the British. The object was a worthy one, and to our knowledge has appealed to more than one Moslem British subject. But at Angora Mustapha Saghir was held to be a spy, and, in spite of the fact that no state of war exists between Turkey and Great Britain, was condemned to death and executed on May 24. Just as the general actions of the Angora Administration are causing in England a revulsion of feeling against the Nationalists after their skilful diplomacy in London, so, it would be imagined, this judicial murder will affect the attitude of Moslem India towards them. Once more it may become necessary to distinguish between the real Turkey and a handful of officials who grasp the reins of power. Until the latter acquire political sense and aspire to efficiency in administration Turkey, it is to be feared, will continue to suffer for the sins of her rulers.

The Cyprus Agitators.

The letter from our Cyprus Correspondent, which appears on another page, gives some particulars of the latest phase of the Union-with-Greece movement in that island. Our Correspondent draws attention to one of the weakest in the many weak points in the agitators' case: the refusal of the Greek members to attend the Council, where they could legitimately oppose any measures to which they object—such as that for the suppression of seditious publications. Apparently the fear of losing the occupation which has afforded them so much pleasure, and has enabled them to make such prolonged tours abroad under the most comfortable conditions, has caused the leading agitators to say good-bye to any sense of humour they ever possessed, or they would surely see how illogical is their attitude in this respect. It is to be hoped that the Government will not for a minute consider the request for a special commission to inquire into the situation. It has its accredited

representative on the spot, supported by able officials, and he and they are well able to keep it informed as to the real state of affairs. There is therefore no justification at all for incurring the expense of a Commission.

The Narodny Club.

In commenting upon the passing of the Draft Constitution by the Yugoslav Assembly, our Zagreb Correspondent referred to the Narodny Club's protest against it and even against the authority of the Assembly itself. The protest was not a very effective one; for, as that experienced politician M. Pashitch promptly pointed out, it was decidedly belated; and though the protestants might argue that they could not have expressed their considered opinion on the Draft Constitution earlier, no such argument could apply to the standing of the Assembly. Moreover, it is useful to remember that the Narodny Club cannot by any means claim to represent the whole of the Croats; for there are Croat members of the Democratic Party who voted for the Constitution, as did also the Mohammedan Croats of Bosnia. The protest, in fact, seems singularly futile, and the attitude of those who made it is, as our Correspondent suggests, hard to understand. Yet it is not to be doubted that the party contains many members whose patriotism is quite above suspicion. Probably they take the view that the country is not ripe for centralisation, and regret the disappearance of the old form of Home Rule, of Ban and Diet. It is to be hoped that the future will show their misgivings to have been entirely misplaced, and that they will soon find it possible to work wholeheartedly with their fellow Yugoslavs.

Fall of Zia ed-Din.

For some time past there have been signs that all was not well with the Persian Cabinet. Two or three portfolios changed hands quite recently, and there were other indications that Seyyid Zia ed-Din was finding his task more difficult as time passed and the first enthusiasm of the people for his policy began to fade away. Now, less than three months after taking office as Prime Minister, he has been dismissed by the Shah, and is reported to be going to Baghdad—where, it may be noted, a number of other Persian politicians and officials have from time to time drunk the waters of exile before him. According to the most trustworthy reports available at the time of writing, his fall has been brought about by Colonel Riza Khan, who advised the Shah that he was no longer trustworthy, and probably took the necessary precautions to make sure of his advice being accepted. In fact, it looks very much as if the Minister for War has brought off his third *coup*; and it is perfectly clear that he is at the present time virtually Dictator. It is reported that "he now has the support of some elements which were opposed to the reforms introduced by the late Prime Minister"; a fact which will arouse no surprise.

Underlying Causes.

In what way Zia ed-Din was regarded as being untrustworthy by the commander of the Cossack Division is not definitely stated, but it seems that the Cossacks were more impatient to get rid of the British officers and the foreign advisers than was the Prime Minister. The Soviet's representative is reported to have protested against the presence of British officers with the Persian force at Resht, and perhaps the transfer, temporarily, of some officers from South Persia to the North may have had something to do with the business; but it can only have been a minor contributing cause, and the probability is that the real clash was between military impetuosity and civilian caution in the matter of getting rid of the foreign advisers, with a considerable spice of personal jealousy thrown in. That those ex-officials and Ministers who have suffered by the vigorous operations of the new Democratic broom have contributed *con amore* to the success of this latest *coup* is not to be doubted, but it remains to be seen how far they will be able to benefit by it. For the sake of Persia, and especially of its southern trade, it is satisfactory to note that so far no disposition has been shown to demand the withdrawal of the British officers from the South

Persia Rifles. That force is young, and it has had its trials and its bad moments; but it has done some remarkably good work, too; and if its officers are given a chance we may confidently expect to see it made in time into a really first-class machine.

The Sikh Shrines in the Punjab.

The acute difficulties which have arisen regarding the wealthy endowments of the Sikh shrines in the Punjab are not going to be settled as promptly as was at first anticipated by the Government, and there is some reason to expect that this particular dispute may develop into a controversy over religious property in general, almost the thorniest question which confronts the Indian people. The story of the Punjab case is briefly that the reform party among the Sikhs, being dissatisfied with the management of the endowments, organised a movement to seize the property by force, some of the ecclesiastics in possession decided to meet violence with violence, and in one case much blood was shed in circumstances which shocked the whole country. The Government brought up an emergency Bill to appoint a Board of Commissioners with wide powers over the endowments in dispute, and hoped to pass the measure in April. Opposition however developed, the Bill was postponed for a month in the hope of securing unanimity, and when the appointed day drew near an announcement was issued which suggests that the Bill is dead, though it can still be brought before the legislature "if, after further discussion, it appears advisable."

"Proximus Ardet."

The real interest of the question lies in the nature of the opposition which developed so rapidly. The Sikh Reformers opposed the Bill because the Board of Commissioners was not packed in favour of their views, an attitude common enough in India, and indicating only the political backwardness of those who adopt it; but, apart from those immediately concerned, it became evident that both Moslems and Hindus regarded the interference with endowments as a dangerous precedent. Both communities have rich endowments of their own, and if the management of the Sikh shrines comes under public scrutiny to-day, nobody can doubt that the religious property of the whole country must sooner or later pass under some form of public control. That object is openly aimed at by many politicians, but it has not yet secured much popular support, and it has to contend with the hostility of the ecclesiastical organisations. It is quite possible, therefore, that by-and-by Hardwar and Benares may be drawn into the political field, and that the provincial legislatures may for a time be divided into parties on definitely religious lines. We should be sorry to see this happen until the legislatures have found their feet more firmly, for religious politics usually mean troubled waters, but reformers are not likely to be daunted by that consideration, and the possibility is one to bear in mind.

A Question of Taste.

It was announced last week that Mr. Oscar Asche had purposed producing "the spectacular play 'Mecca'" at a London theatre, but that the Lord Chamberlain refused to pass the play unless the title were altered, on the ground that it might wound the susceptibilities of the Moslem community. The Lord Chamberlain's decision has been criticised by a gentleman interested in the production, who professes his utter inability to understand it, and points out that it has been produced (under his own direction) in the United States. This gentleman's inability will not be shared by many people who have travelled in Moslem lands, and who know how extraordinarily susceptible is Moslem feeling at the present time. The United States have not to consider that feeling as the British Empire has and—very rightly—does. In any case, good manners should surely prompt us to avoid wounding anybody's feelings if possible; and just as we should not expect a British presentation of "The Mikado" in Japan, or in any Far Eastern British colony, so we do not expect to see a "spectacular play" of the modern type put on in London with a title likely, in such association, to cause pain or annoyance to any of our Moslem fellow subjects.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

Coal and Oil.

The coal conference has taken place. But nothing happened. It had been hoped that the informal discussions of the week before last, over which such elaborate secrecy was maintained, would have worked out the preliminary details of a settlement, but the parties were no nearer to an agreement than before when they met openly face to face. Neither had any fresh proposals to offer, both were in an equally bad temper, and it was evident that the deadlock would continue if left to themselves.

The Government, therefore, made certain proposals for a temporary settlement during which work should be resumed, to be followed by a conference which would consider permanent terms. There the matter stands at the moment. It cannot be said that the proposals are hopeful; it looks as though neither owners nor miners care a jot about the public interest, and are only concerned with ruining each other.

Meanwhile oil continues its advance; after two months' coal stoppage the train service is being improved, thanks to the conversion of electric plants and locomotives to oil. It is probable that oil will be retained as a permanent source of power, or at least as an alternative. Some business men, however, point out that it will render the financing of our trade with America more difficult, as a great part of our industrial oil will be imported from the United States, and from the point of view of national defence our increased dependence on sea-borne power is not altogether reassuring.

Ireland.

When the preliminary signs of a concordat between Ulster and Sinn Fein were announced two or three weeks ago, it was anticipated that the extremist elements of Sinn Fein would do their best to wreck any chance of a settlement by a further outbreak. The prophecy was correct. Last week the beautiful Custom House at Dublin, a triumph of Irish architecture, was burnt down by an armed gang, and the fire-station was also seized, in order to prevent the flames being put out. This act of political arson, however, has over-reached its mark; it has revolted many of the Sinn Feiners, and been roundly condemned by the Nationalists.

The Ulster Parliament has now been elected, and forty out of fifty-two members are Unionists. There are widespread stories of personation and corruption, but these probably apply to both sides. British Liberals are surprised and rather disappointed at the result, for it has always been their contention that the Unionist majority in Ulster would be rather small. The figures show that the partition of Ireland was the only possible policy at the moment. The construction of any form of national union will be a long and difficult process, but Ireland now has her fate in her own hands. She can no longer logically blame England for her troubles. But no doubt she will continue to do so.

More Postal Trouble.

The new Post Office charges announced last week will cause trouble. A postcard is now to cost three-halfpence, which is three times the pre-war rate; far too much. The public will take the remedy in its own hands, write fewer postcards, and the revenue will diminish. The newspaper rates have again been increased, which ensures a bad Press; and the Sunday service, which has made the country tolerable for week-enders, will be dropped—also the Sunday collection, which makes the Monday post useless. The bureaucratic idea is to make the public pay more for less service—a hopeful proceeding. It is proposed to make these changes operative without a debate in Parliament—which shows that bureaucracy is tyrannical as well as incompetent. Well may the advocates of nationalisation pray to be saved from their friends.

The Theatrical Slump.

The London theatres are in a deplorable condition this summer, and the coal strike seems to have given

them the *coup de grace* by cutting off suburban patrons. But the trouble has been growing for a long time past, and coal, as somebody with a taste for mixed metaphors remarked, is only the last straw of a sea of troubles. Rents have increased; so have salaries and wages. The limelight man, the stage carpenter, the "noise without" man, and all the invisible accessories want more money; the fiddler and the big drum want more; the supers want more: the leading lady (who already earned more than a Cabinet Minister) likewise demands her war bonus. But the public objects to pay more—mainly because the average show is so poor. The result is that the theatre is largely a subsidised industry, run by rich men as an amusement—not a healthy state of affairs. The decline in quality dates from the war, when audiences were anything but critical and wretched pieces ran for months without a change. Those days have gone for ever, and the theatre will have to reform itself if it is to improve its status. There is a great deal of talk, most of which is mere grumbling, but no substantial remedy is proposed.

Emigration.

One result of the European upheaval of 1914-18, and the Labour upheaval of 1918-21 is an increase of emigration. It is the historic remedy of England, which appears at the top of every wave of unrest—men of all classes are beginning to go to the colonies and protectorates. It is usually an exodus of young bachelors, although some take their wives, and others take other people's wives; and it is mainly the enterprising and energetic who do not quite fit into the routine work at home. There is no concerted or official plan of emigration, and it is by no means all directed to British possessions; South America, China, and other foreign countries are coming in for a good share. The movement has been foreseen by those familiar with English history, and it is now gathering momentum every day.

Sport.

The country seems to have forgotten its troubles in a mania for sport. This week the Derby will be run, to the accompaniment of motor-charabancs and an aeroplane patrol. Last week the American golfers, who announced their intention to come, see, and conquer, were eliminated one by one; so also were our champions, and an unknown local player won the day. At cricket we seem fated to be less fortunate. The first Test Match opened on Saturday, and England made a miserable show at the Trent Bridge ground. The Australian bowling was altogether too good for our men, and in the hundredth match of the series the Mother Country was where the Germans wanted to put her—in the dust. If the High Command at Berlin had produced an Armstrong and a Gregory instead of a Hindenburg and Ludendorff, the "break through" would possibly have been accomplished.

A Profiteer Story.

A successful profiteer recently went to buy another new motor. His eye rested longingly on various sumptuous cars with a superfluity of glass windows, but all were sold. But at last he saw in the distance the very thing he wanted—large, conspicuous, and, above all, plenty of glass, so that the mere pedestrian could see the profiteer in all his glory as he sat within. "I'll

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have that," he said, with the decision proper to great captains of industry. "I'm afraid it's hardly suitable," protested the suave but disconcerted motor showman. "Whatyer mean—can't I buy what I like?" said angrily the profiteer, justly infuriated by the suggestion that his taste was not of the best. "Well, you see, sir," stammered the showman, "I mean it is hardly suitable just yet. It is—the fact is—if you will forgive my mentioning it—it's a motor-hearse." It may have been the same profiteer who was advised by an artistic friend to buy a replica of the Venus de Milo for his drawing-room. When the replica of the famous statue arrived and was displayed, the recipient could not conceal his wrath; he forthwith wrote a strong letter to the railway company complaining that, owing to their carelessness, the two arms had been broken, and putting in a heavy claim for damage in transit. The railway company paid up. They, in turn, made a claim on the insurance company. And the insurance company paid up.

The Week's Books.

"The Memoirs of Count Witte" (Heinemann) are the remains of a posthumous autobiography. The Russian statesman's papers were ransacked after his death, and a good deal has no doubt disappeared, but much of permanent interest remains. Witte was the first great Liberal statesman who held office in Russia, and he was consequently hated and opposed by many enemies, but as the author of the first constitution of 1905 his memory is secure. It is interesting to note from these records that the Tsar's rescript of August, 1898, inviting the nations to discuss the abolition of war, was only a move in the political game against Austria, in consequence of the decision of that Power to re-arm her artillery at a moment inconvenient to Russia.

On the day when he left office in 1915, Lord Haldane, following a well-tryed example, sat down to write a book. It has occupied his leisure hours since then, and now appears as "The Reign of Relativity" (Murray). It does not follow Einstein from the wilderness of

philosophy into the refreshing oasis of the higher mathematics—indeed, it studiously avoids that aspect of the question—but it is a general summary of the principle of relativity in the universe. Perhaps the most interesting pages are those near the end, when Lord Haldane elaborates his views on ethics—with a shrewd glance at politics—and religion. Apparently the chief practical lesson that the ex-Chancellor has learnt from life is toleration—a commodity which is unfortunately not greatly in demand at the present moment. Those who appreciate a clear discussion of the Hegelian philosophy—I am afraid their numbers are not great—will appreciate certain of the middle chapters of this work.

"A History of Psychology" (Allen and Unwin), by G. S. Brett, a professor of Toronto, is the kind of book that may be either hopelessly dull or very interesting. I confess that I opened it with some trepidation. But Mr. Brett is not only an authority on his subject—he has also an admirable style and an incisive judgment. His two volumes (there is already a third, first published some ten years ago as an introduction to the subject) should become a standard work.

The many friends of "T. A. B. Second Earl Brassey" (Murray) will be glad to possess a memoir of a very diligent and upright public man who hardly obtained during his lifetime the recognition that he merited.

I have found entertainment in a new novel, "Simon Called Peter" (Constable), by Robert Keable. Simon is a padre. He falls in love. He spends a honeymoon with the lady in a London hotel. On the last morning, when going back to the front, he asks her to marry him, but she refuses. The mixture of sex and religion is sure to be popular; the hero discusses the cosmos and camisoles with equal gusto, but I think he really knows more about tea-gowns than theology. OCELLUS.

A Greek official *communiqué*, dated May 25, says:—"We have dispersed concentrations of irregulars at Ghiordiz and captured munitions, grenades, and telegraphic material in the village of Koyadjik, 15 kilometres from Ghiordiz. Calm prevails on the rest of the front."

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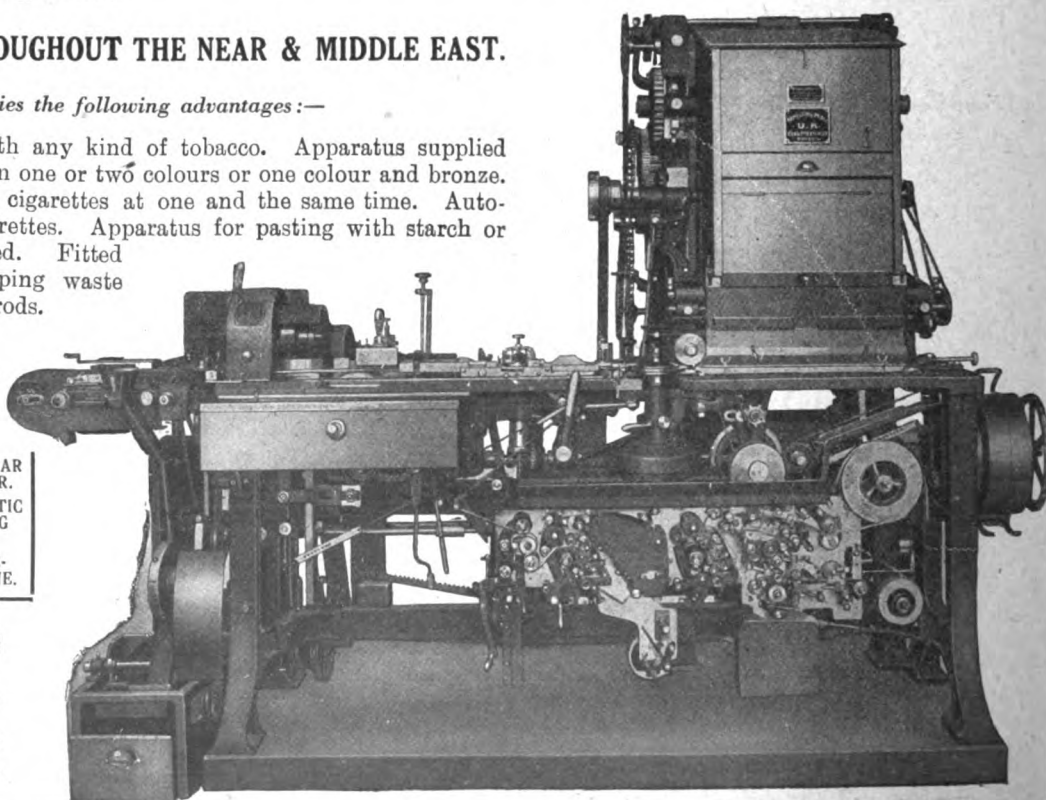
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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, May 14.

Prince George's Visit.

During the past week we have been honoured by the presence of H.R.H. Prince George, who is serving on H.M.S. Iron Duke, and who, together with a number of officers and midshipmen, paid a flying visit to Cairo. They stayed at Shepherd's Hotel, and diligently did all the sights. On the day of his return to Alexandria Prince George lunched at the Residency.

The Political Situation.

Outwardly the political situation has not undergone much change during the past week, but there is every indication that the Cabinet has further consolidated its position. While strictly adhering to regular procedure in all its actions, the Cabinet is dealing very firmly with the situation. For example, shortly after Zaghloul Pasha's return the Committee of Government Officials decided to offer him a banquet, but when Zaghloul Pasha proceeded to attack the Cabinet in such an un-called-for and violent manner these officials were informed that they must not participate officially in an entertainment to a man who had put himself into opposition with the Government on such a purely personal question as the presidency of the Official Delegation and had calumniated it in such a brazen fashion. They were, moreover, warned that if they persisted in their intentions they would run the risk of very serious consequences. The tea party duly took place, nine out of the twelve members of the Officials' Committee were present, and some of them delivered most violent attacks on the Cabinet. The latter at once took action against the nine offending officials, some of whom had engineered the 1919 strike and had ever since then been responsible for the restlessness in the Administrations. These nine men have been suspended from their posts, and are being brought before a Council of Discipline for their disregard of superior orders and their official participation in a political demonstration. Their partisans at once tried to organise a strike amongst Government officials, but so far the two or three meetings held for this purpose have not been productive of agreement on this point.

The Press Censorship.

Meanwhile, the Government has issued a statement to the effect that as from to-day the Press censorship will be removed. The censorship, a preventive one, was instituted in April last year, owing to the fact that immediately after the departure of the Milner Mission a certain section of the vernacular Press began to publish articles which were of a nature to disturb the public peace. It has been very lightly applied since, and in view of popular feeling on the question the Cabinet has done very wisely to obtain its suppression and thus redeem one of the pledges it gave on taking office.

In the same declaration the Cabinet states that it is doing its best to secure the early removal of the military régime. The abolition of martial law, about which there has been so much wild talk in local circles, cannot, of course, take place until a properly constituted legislative body is set up in Egypt to pass an Act of Indemnity protecting officials from the result of their actions under martial law, and legalise various measures which are now being applied in virtue of Proclamation. Its application in the ordinary administration of the country can, however, be considerably attenuated in the sense that recourse would only be had to it in cases where military interests are directly affected. It is in the direction of bringing about a return to the common law régime and a cessation of the introduction of legislation by Proclama-

tion that the efforts of the Cabinet are being made. An illustration of this has quite recently been forthcoming in the promulgation of the Agricultural Rent Law, the application of which to foreigners would a year ago have been secured by Proclamation, whereas the normal procedure of obtaining the assent of the Mixed Courts is being followed, and as a consequence for the time being the law applies only to Egyptian subjects.

Irrigation Projects.

Sir Lee Stack, Governor-General of the Sudan, and his staff arrived in Cairo this week. They are very shortly proceeding to London, where important financial questions connected with the execution of the development works have to be discussed. It is stated that owing to the increase in working costs and price of material the cost of these development works will greatly exceed the original estimate, and it is in order to make some arrangement for the provision of the extra money that Sir Lee Stack and Sir Edgar Bernard, his Financial Secretary, are going to England thus early in the year. The same question arises in connection with the irrigation projects which are to be carried out by Egypt on the White Nile and at Nag Hamadi, etc., in the case of which the expenditure will amount to £E12,000,000, as compared with £E5,000,000 originally estimated. The Minister of Public Works, who has recently paid an extensive visit to the Sudan, has submitted a note to the Council of Ministers approving of these schemes and urging their execution without delay, and the Ministry of Finance is examining the question of how the funds are to be provided in view of the almost complete disappearance of the reserve fund.

The country has learnt with pleasure that the Institute of Civil Engineers has for the second time conferred the Telford Gold Medal on Sir Murdoch McDonald, this time for his paper on "The Discharges of the Nile," written in collaboration with Mr. Hurst, head of the Physical Service. This honour may be regarded as a further refutation of the criticisms levelled at the Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works during the recent controversy.

The Anglican Community.

My attention has been drawn to a clerical error which crept into the account of the meeting of the Anglican Community reported in the issue of April 28. In that account it is stated that Sir F. T. Rowlatt and Mr. A. P. Bolland had been appointed sub-deans and people's wardens, whereas the correct facts were that Canon Horan has been appointed sub-dean, Sir F. T. Rowlatt sub-dean's warden, and Mr. A. P. Bolland the people's warden. The error obviously occurred through the omission of an apostrophe in "sub-deans" and the word "respectively" after "wardens."

THE SUDAN.

KHARTOUM, May 5.

Tribal Gathering and Sports at Kassala.

March 31 last was a red-letter day for Kassala Province, inasmuch as the first gathering of the tribes was held at Khashm el Girba on this date, under the auspices of the Province Governor, assisted by the officer commanding the district, and other officials.

The Shukria and Lahawin turned up in full force under the command of their Nazir Umum, Sheikh Aawd el Kerim Abdulla Abu Sin. Proceedings commenced in the morning with a parade of the whole of the camelry of the tribes, some thousand odd men participating, under the leadership of the Nazir Umum and the two Wakil Nazirs—Hamed Mohamed Abu Sin, and Ahmed Hamed Abu Sin, each khot being represented by its Sheikh. In view of the fact that these wild tribesmen have never been subjected to discipline or military training, they made a wonderful show, and kept extraordinarily good alignment, both in the slow march past and the final trot past the saluting base. It must have been fully apparent to the onlookers that here was excellent raw material which only required a short training to

turn out troops that would be infinitely superior to the Egyptian *anfar*.

In the afternoon races and sports were held, the Shukria pulling off the fifteen and ten mile races amidst tremendous enthusiasm from their backers; the short race round the parade ground was won by the Lahawiin champion. After the races there was a show of gorgeously decorated "utfas" the large saddles specially employed in carrying the harem). Proceedings were brought to a close by a series of native dances. The gathering was an indisputable success, and it is hoped that the procedure may be made an annual event.

GREECE.

ATHENS, May 17.

A Council of Ministers.

At the conclusion of last Friday's sitting of the National Assembly a Council of Ministers was held at the Ministry of Justice, under the presidency of M. Gounaris. The Council at first discussed the question of the exchange, and decided to prohibit strictly the export abroad of Greek bonds, gold, and jewellery. An order to that effect was signed during the meeting and forwarded the same evening to all the custom authorities in the country, who were at the same time instructed to search all passengers leaving Greece. The Council then discussed the question of the large stocks of unsold tobacco lying both in this country and abroad. It was resolved to instruct Greece's representatives in the countries concerned to approach the Governments of the latter with a view to exchanging tobacco with products of those countries necessary for this market. It is hoped in that way to reduce considerably the amount of money which would necessarily have to be exported for the purchase of supplies from foreign markets.

The Council of Ministers next proceeded to discuss the military situation. It was decided that, with the exception of those belonging to the 1903, 1904, 1912, and 1913a classes, none of the men belonging to the

classes recently called up should be granted temporary exemption; all men now employed at the War Office and other auxiliary services would, without any exception or distinction, be sent to the front immediately after the reservists of the two older classes, 1903 and 1904, had presented themselves. The Prime Minister pointed out that by the adoption of the above measures the majority of those Civil Servants now employed at the various Ministries, who had been granted exemption, would have to don their khaki uniforms and proceed to Asia Minor without delay. Thus, from the Ministry of Finance out of 1,076 men liable to military service, only 150 belonging to the older classes will remain. The same applies to the Ministry of Agriculture, where very few of the 420 clerks will remain at their posts. Emphasising the necessity of these measures, M. Gounaris declared that the war would not be of a long duration; three months at the very most would see the end of it.

Bulgarians in Thrace.

The High Commissioner at Adrianople has issued an official *communiqué* denying most emphatically the allegations published recently in the Bulgarian Press to the effect that numerous Bulgarians were expelled from Thrace after having previously been ill-treated by the Greek authorities. The *communiqué* goes on to say that, with the exception of a very small number of persons, whose expulsion was considered absolutely necessary owing to the discovery of secret Bulgarian organisations in Thrace, the information published in the Sofia Press was devoid of any truth.

Miscellaneous News.

The ex-Governor of the island of Chio, M. G. Papandreou, was condemned to one and a-half years' imprisonment for the publication in the *Patris* of an article entitled "The King and the Nation." In his article M. Papandreou invited the King to abdicate. The editor of the *Patris*, M. Lambrakis, has been released.

Last Sunday the Roumanian students of the School of Fine Arts and their professor, M. Stefanescu, proceeded by special train to Olympia in order to visit the antiquities there.

The new international postal tariff will come into force throughout Greece on Monday next (May 16).

The Government is contemplating the creation of three additional Ministries, viz., of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones, of Public Treasure, and of Railways.

A decree has been published in the *Official Gazette* granting a pension of 346 drachmae per month to M. A. Romanos, formerly Greek Minister in Paris.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB (undated).

The Croatian Plot.

Readers of THE NEAR EAST will doubtless remember the news of the arrest of Dr. Accurti and his wife on the grounds of plotting with Hungary for the separation of Croatia from Serbia and the rather sensational statements about conspiracies across the frontier and understanding between these parties and all the enemies of Yugoslavia.

The case for the prosecution is now complete. Altogether there are nineteen prisoners, practically all with Slavonic names, who were engaged in the plots. The case for the prosecution is that during the years 1919 and 1920 the prisoners were in direct or indirect communication with the so-called "Croatian Committee" in Budapest and Vienna—that is, with representatives and members of the "Croat Legion," which are revolutionary bodies with the purpose of destroying the union between Croatia and Serbia. They were working with the Frankovist, or Separationist party, and they proposed to bring this party into active operation in the territory of the kingdom. They were in close touch with Ivan Frank, in Vienna, who gave his name to this party. Their wives were in the plot, and one took a letter in cipher to Budapest to the "Croatian Committee" and to other agents at Graz. Madame Accurti was in direct touch with Captain Ferencz Horvath, chief of the Hungarian spying organisation in Budapest, whom she kept posted regarding the state of politics in Croatia. A mass of documents, many in cipher and others in invisible ink, are in possession of the authorities. This case will throw a flood of light upon the machinations of the enemies of the union, men who always looked to Vienna and

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Budapest as the source of honour and wealth, and are ruined by the union. It also illuminates the success of the Raditch movement among the simple peasants of Croatia. The evidence given by a witness named Marchinka dispels the suggestion that the plotters were actuated by any patriotic motives; for he describes the suggested partition of the country, which recalls the dreams of Berlin. Italy was to get Fiume and the country as far as Liubliana, and another big chunk of Slovenia up to Zidani Most. Hungary was to get Medjumurje and Prekomurje and a big piece of the Bachka. The Bulgars were in the pie, too, for they were to get Drinopolje, Montenegro, Cattaro, the *sanjak* of Novibazar and some other places. Albania's share was to be Kossovo and Skadar; Bosnia was to be independent, with an outlet at Split; while Germany was to have free transit across the Danube into the Balkans, and Hungary across Croatia to Fiume. The Voivodina was to be an independent republic under the protection of Bavaria, with Srem attached, and Croatia to be an independent republic of much reduced dimensions.

The chief prisoner is a retired university professor, and most of his associates are small tradesmen, innkeepers, commercial travellers, artisans, though one is described as a "complete philosopher."

When the union was proclaimed, a number of disappointed and discontented spirits left the country and found a refuge at Graz and in Hungary. In May, 1919, they formed a Croatian revolutionary association. The leader was Dr. Ivan Frank, a former solicitor in Zagreb, and the membership included several landowners and officers, who saw that they had everything to lose by the destruction of the old regime and nothing to gain. In March, 1920, they moved their headquarters to Budapest, where they naturally found a congenial soil among the Magyar irredentists. From there were pulled all the threads in the plot against the union which have been revealed from time to time.

Dr. Frank posed in the eyes of Europe as the representative of the Croat people, with Raditch as his right-hand man. He had plenty of money at his disposal, doubtless supplied by Hapsburgist sympathisers, Hungarians, and, possibly, the Fascist party in Italy. In the latter part of 1920 they formed a Croatian Legion in Hungary from discontented Yugoslavs and men whom they seduced by fair tales on their way home from Russia, where they had been prisoners of war. The idea was to wait till a favourable moment and then make a raid across the Drave, raise Raditch's simple, misled peasants, and "liberate" Croatia from the Serbs. The resultant Croatian republic would remain the handmaiden of Hungary. A headquarters camp was formed at Koszeg, and later moved to Zaia-Egerszeg. Their agents were very active in the country fomenting discord and spreading disruptive propaganda. From time to time arrests have been made, such as that of Dr. Accurti and his wife, which have shown that the Yugoslav police, who are very competent, have their eyes wide open.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, May 23.

Relations with Yugoslavia.

The situation regarding Yugoslavia has considerably improved during the last week, and the meeting between M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, and M. Dimitroff, Bulgarian Minister of the Interior, on May 24 at Belgrade will, it is hoped, help to clear the air yet further. It is satisfactory to record that all the sheep were handed over to Serbia a few days ago, and that the Inter-Allied representatives present noted that the Serbian and Bulgarian officials were on quite cordial terms. On the 21st, at the instance of the Serbians, the Bulgarian Government arrested a well-known man who was Military Governor of Nish during the war.

Mr. Lloyd George's Speech.

Internal affairs remain the same, and the chief topic of conversation has been Mr. Lloyd George's speech on the Allies' policy in Silesia. This has created a great impression, and all the local newspapers have been commenting on the apparent change in policy of the British Prime Minister. His speech has, however, been unanimously applauded, and belief in the English sense of justice, which has been rather inclined to lapse in this part of the world during the last few years, is once more in the ascendant.

The policy of England in the Near East has been the subject of much harsh criticism in Bulgaria, as it was not possible for the people to realise until comparatively recently the position that we were in. Our news did not reach the country owing to our newspapers not being

on sale, and even if a few did manage to drift through, they were always three to four weeks old. Now this is all changed, and one is able to buy an English paper five or six days after its appearance in London. The same remark applies to wireless news, which is now coming through in sufficient quantities to give the public at least some information on affairs at home.

It is said that we never trouble to make sufficient propaganda in foreign countries, but in times of peace it seems open to question whether the simple policy of telling the truth and thus letting the simple facts be known is not the best one.

I do not think we have lost ground in Bulgaria, and yet we have not tried very hard to gain any ground. The only matter in which it would appear advisable for us to take steps is the affair of the clearing house for Bulgarian debts. It is to be hoped that we shall do away with this institution, and thus enable an increase of trade between the two countries to take place.

The Fete of SS. Cyril and Methodius.

To-morrow, May 24 (May 11, Old Style), will be celebrated the annual fête of the two patron saints, Cyril and Methodius. It was these two brothers who, in the ninth century, instituted the Cyrillic alphabet. Their fête is observed in all Slav countries, but it is the greatest of all fête days here, and is essentially a literary one. A solemn *Te Deum* is held outside the New Cathedral, and throughout the country there are processions of schoolchildren, speeches, and other functions.

General.

M. Stambolisky has so far recovered that this morning, in company with M. Athanassof, Minister of Railways, he left for the provinces.

The King has signed a decree on the 20th convoking the *Sobranje* for June 1.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, May 14.

Greek Denunciation of Local Government.

The Greek Press publishes the memorial of the Greek Members of Council to the Secretary of State regarding the events of April 7 (Centenary celebrations). It gives at length its own version of the occurrences, laying all the blame on the Government and the police! The Government, it states, desiring to justify its attitude, pushed forward enrolment of police, and brought soldiers from Egypt, who paraded the streets of Nicosia with machine guns. But these are not the only matters that have roused the conscience of the community. "Draconian laws" have been passed by the official and Turkish Members of Council. (This refers chiefly to a recent law to facilitate the suppression of seditious publications.) Martial law remains in force, under which a distinguished journalist (M. Katalanos) has been arrested and expelled from Cyprus, without any order of a court. It accuses the administration of desiring to set up "a tyranny foreign to the liberal principles of the British nation," which recalls the odious times of Turkish subjection. The "people" find only one object in the late arbitrary proceedings, viz., that of stifling the national sentiment. If this be so, the Government action can only tend to alienate the people, and invite disorder. It concludes by asking that a special commission may be sent to hold an inquiry, in order that H.M. Government may be enlightened as to the real state of affairs.

There could not be a greater distortion of the actual situation. Not the least amazing point is the reference to measures passed by the English and Turkish members by Greeks who refuse to attend the Council, where such measures could be opposed by them. Hitherto, aided by the Church and Press, they have had their way entirely, the people

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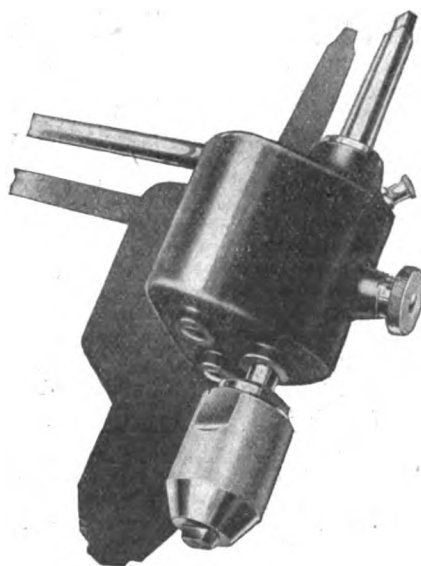
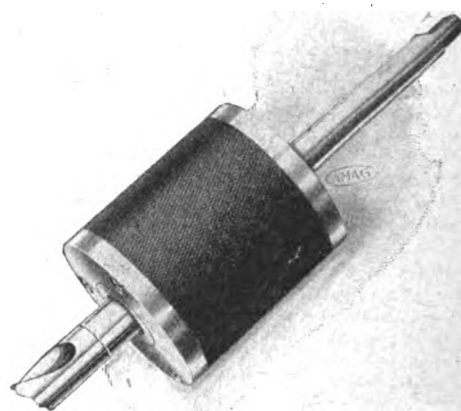
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taking their "political" opinions ready made from them.

On the other hand, there appears to be at last some trace of opposition to this leading element. There are, of course, many in the towns who disagree with the senseless course that has been taken; but they have not possessed the courage of their opinions. One paper, it is true, the *Herald* (Kiryx), at first opposed the tactics of non-cooperation, but it subsequently changed its views and followed the current. It has long been a matter of speculation how long the public would tamely submit to such dictation, since the "policy" is not only a distinct violation of duty towards voters representing a majority of the population, but is, if anything, a hindrance to their own professed aims. The underlying supposition is that the British Government, becoming weary of a persistent agitation, will allow the island to be cut adrift.

The agitators still completely ignore the real political situation, as ruled by the Allied Governments. The *Aletheia* (Truth) has published an article and letters which openly indicate that the methods which the Greek Councillors have adopted, far from being acceptable, are strongly condemned by some. If the Press emerges from a generally one-sided campaign, and publishes free and honest expressions of opinion like this, some good should be done.

ALBANIA.

TIRANA, May 22.

False Reports.

Papers outside Albania seem to be publishing a great deal of nonsense, which undoubtedly emanates from Greek sources, regarding the situation here. Albania is represented as having become a field for Kemalist intrigue, as preparing to attack Greece, as putting Greeks to death at Koritza, and so forth. Such reports are false from beginning to end, and people here are surprised that they can obtain any credence at all. There is no understanding between Albanians and Turks, or between Albania and Turkey. It is true that Albania is organising a force of militia, about 10,000 strong; but it will serve as a mobile gendarmerie, and is not intended as a menace to anyone.

As to the incident at Kortcha (Koritza), the plain facts are as follows:—Towards the close of last month some Albanian Orthodox Christians celebrated Mass in the Albanian language in the church of St. George. This procedure was displeasing to the bishop, Mgr. Jakov; but the Albanians persisted in using their own tongue in the church referred to. There was, however, neither struggle nor scene, neither any woundings nor any death. Nor is it true that Albanian Moslems and Catholics became mixed up in the business.

Greco-Albanian Frontier.

Without any good reason, Greece has magnified this small incident, and has seized upon it as a pretext for closing the frontier and for placing under arrest Albanians who happened to be in Greece for family or business reasons. Among those arrested are Hussein Vroni, a cousin of the President of the Council and Deputy for Berat, and Fehim Leskovig, Prefect of Elbasan, who were both at Janina on family visits. It is also reported here that the Greek authorities are taking rigorous proceedings against the Albanians of the Chameria.

At Chimarra.

Chimarra—the ancient Acrocerania—numbers seven villages; the inhabitants are tenacious, brave, and enjoy a certain prosperity, being skilful traders and good sailors. The Chimarriones, although Albanians, were rather Greco-philic, Greek propaganda having been very active in their country. Recently, however, a deputation of Chimarra notables waited upon the Prefect of Valona to inform him that their people intended to have no more to do with Greek politics. Albanian gendarmes are now established in Chimarra, and the Albanian flag is flying there.

The League of Nations.

Your readers may remember that Albania complained to the League of Nations against Serbian action in Albanian territory, and demanded that the Yugoslav troops should be withdrawn from that territory. It is now announced here that the League has decided to consider the Albanian representations at the next sitting of its Council, which will take place in mid-June at Geneva.

The Gaekwar of Baroda has presented two elephants to the Zoological Gardens, and they are at present on their way to Calcutta to be shipped to London as soon as transport can be arranged. Exact particulars have not yet reached London, but it is expected that the elephants are young females, suitable for riding. The Maharaja of Cooh Behar, who is a Fellow of the Zoological Society and son-in-law of the Gaekwar of Baroda, knew that the London Gardens were at present short of riding elephants, and it was at his suggestion that the generous gift was made.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

May 24.—Mr. Montagu informed Sir John Rees that negotiations between the Government of India and the Ameer of Afghanistan were still proceeding at Kabul, and that it would be impossible to make any statement regarding the results so far achieved.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that the Egyptian Delegation will consist of the following: Adly Yeghen Pasha, President of the Council of Ministers, who would also be President of the Delegation; Hussein Rushdy Pasha, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers; Ismail Sidky Pasha, Minister of Finance; Mohammed Shafik Pasha, Minister of Public Works; Ahmed Talaat Pasha, ex-Minister and President of Native Court of Appeal; Youssef Soliman Pasha, ex-Minister. The exact date of their departure from Egypt had not yet been fixed.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Commander Kenworthy that the British troops in Persia were in process of withdrawal, and that their rearguard is now at Kerind.

Lord Robert Cecil asked whether the Anglo-Persian Agreement had come definitely to an end, or whether it was in a state of suspended animation indefinitely. Mr. Harmsworth replied: "I think it can be regarded as having lapsed."

Answering Capt. Terrell regarding the present situation in Mesopotamia, Sir L. Worthington Evans stated that the country had been quiet during the last three months with the exception of slight tribal unrest in the Nasiriyeh area and among the Surchi Kurds, which have called for military demonstrations on a small scale.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Wignall that the British Consul-General at Smyrna had received a protest against the action of the Greek authorities in conscripting Ottoman subjects in Asia Minor for the Greek Army, and that he had duly transmitted the protest. Representations had been made as a consequence of this protest both to the Greek Government at Athens and to the Greek High Commissioner at Constantinople.

May 25.—Mr. Lyle Samuel asked a question regarding the present military situation in Asia Minor, and whether any negotiations in the direction of peace had taken place between Greece and Turkey. Mr. Chamberlain replied that the British Government had no information beyond what had appeared in the newspapers, and that he was unaware of any negotiations that had taken place between Greece and Turkey.

May 26.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that Lord Allenby reported on Tuesday night, May 24, that fourteen Europeans had been killed and sixty-nine wounded during the recent disturbances in Alexandria. Only one British subject (a military policeman) was injured, and had subsequently died. No anti-foreign outbreaks had been reported from other places in Egypt. Lord Allenby had constituted a Court of Inquiry to investigate the origin of instigation of these racial riots. On the motion for the adjournment, Mr. Harmsworth informed Lord Winterton that according to telegrams which were despatched from Egypt late on Wednesday night, many of the statements that had appeared in the Press regarding the degree of disturbance and number of casualties in Alexandria had been exaggerated. On Wednesday night Alexandria was reported quiet under military administration. The provinces were also quiet, but most of the telephone lines to Cairo had been cut between Alexandria and Damanhur. Mr. Harmsworth then communicated to the House a summary of Lord Allenby's *communiqué* dealing with the general political situation in regard to the Egyptian delegation.

Albanian commissions will visit Athens and Belgrade to discuss with the respective Governments questions awaiting settlement between Albania and her neighbours.

Persian works of art, the property of Sir Walter Townley, K.C.M.G., of Windsor, formerly H.M. Minister at Teheran, will be sold at Sotheby's on June 29 and following day. The collection includes early pottery from excavations made by the owner in the neighbourhood of the ancient city of Khar. It comprises specimens of gold and other ornaments, enamel, metal work, lacquer, embroideries, carpets, rugs, and illuminated MSS., ancient and modern.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Turkish Point of View.

The special correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* continues, in the issue of May 23, his examination of the Græco-Turkish problem. He endeavours to discover the Turks' attitude:—

The point of view of the Turks (who when it comes to the point are all Nationalists) needs to be put in England. The Greek case has had many able advocates, and has found a sympathetic public brought up on the tradition of the Greek War of Independence. But the "bloody tyranny of the Turk" is not a formula that fits a situation in which Greek armies are invading Turkish territory and Turkish towns and villages are getting burnt. The less widespread pro-Turk tradition seems to me also to be behind the times. It, too, is an old tradition which took shape about the period of the Crimean War, and has not kept pace with recent changes. About a year ago I heard a distinguished British soldier, speaking in England about the outlook in the Middle East, remark that "we must buttress the British Empire on the support of two friendly Moslem Powers, Turkey and Afghanistan." I do not know how the Afghans feel, but I am sure that this officer, if he found himself in Constantinople, would be startled to discover how little the Turks reciprocate the feeling he entertains for them. There is an idea, rather prevalent in the British Army, that the Turk is like the Gurkha or the Pathan—a simple soul with a primitive psychology, fierce when provoked, but easy to manage when well treated and humoured. I suppose this comes from handling Turkish peasants as kavasses or gendarmes, but it is certainly not true of the Turkish educated and governing class. For good or ill, they are not at all unsophisticated, and at present they certainly do not love us. Why should they? Before the war we made an *entente* with their most formidable enemy, Russia. During the war we destroyed their Asiatic Empire by detaching the Arabs from them and beating their army. And since the Armistice we have till recently supported the Greeks. Their present hostility is really inevitable; yet it has been a shock to me to realise, since my arrival in Constantinople, how intense it is. Though always polite, they keep one at a distance, in marked contrast to the Turks in Smyrna. I imagine the reason for the difference is that in Smyrna the military occupation is by another nation, while here it is by ourselves. The foreign military occupation of a large and overcrowded city inevitably creates ill-feeling. There are many personal complaints about the system of requisitioning houses, there are the deportations to Malta, and there is wounded national pride. For all these reasons it is both difficult for English people to learn the Turkish point of view and important for them to understand it.

The principal points in the Nationalist programme are all, I think, expressions of one fundamental motive—the desire to be on an equality with Western nations. Equality does not mean identity. The Turkish nation has certain traditions that are better than those of many other nations, and, like every nation, it does not under-estimate the number of its special virtues. Mere imitation of the West has led the Turks into many pitfalls already. But I think the Turkish consciousness is feeling its way towards something better than that. It aspires to a moral equality supplemented by the common ground of custom necessary for international relationships. If I am right in this diagnosis, then the present attitude of the Turkish governing class, however violent and intransigent some of its manifestations may be, is at least profoundly different from the attitude of its predecessors, who simply regarded Moslems as inherently superior to Christians and thought it right to assert

this superiority by force. No doubt this old prejudice still has a strong hold on the Turkish mind, probably a stronger hold than the complementary prejudice about Christian superiority has upon our own. Nevertheless, it is a hopeful sign if the dominant party in Turkey are basing their policy on a new ideal which, if genuinely accepted and translated into practice, would make satisfactory relations between Christian and Moslem peoples possible for the first time in history. At any rate, it seems worth trying to meet the Turks on such ground by attempting to work towards this ideal from our side.

Moreover, he does not find the Turks more practical than their Christian neighbours, and states his opinion that in the actual claims of the Nationalist Government at Angora (which are almost universally approved by the politically-conscious part of the Turkish nation) there is nothing fanatical. In conclusion he says:—

The last point I want to make about the Turkish national movement is that it is sincere. None of the Turks with whom I have spoken are light-hearted about the present war, nor do they regard it as an investment that will bring in a return or as a satisfaction to their national vanity. They are all war-weary. They know quite well that their treasury is bankrupt, that half Stambul is burnt down, that the only provinces untouched by the Great War are being ravaged by this one, and that the courtyard of every mosque is crowded with refugees. They do not disguise from themselves that this war after ten years of war is a disaster for their nation, yet, rightly or wrongly, they do believe that they have no choice but to wage it. I have found this spirit among reserve officers who had all been from four to six years on active service, and several of whom now found themselves prisoners for the second time. "We want peace," they said with unmistakable conviction, "but the war cannot stop so long as Greece occupies Smyrna." I have heard the same feeling expressed in other forms; for instance, "We accept the consequences of defeat up to a point, but not when they are a death sentence." But the most characteristic expression of the Turkish attitude seems to me to be the following:—"You must either exterminate us or treat us as equals." Clearly we do not intend the first of these alternatives, but in that case is not the only reasonable policy to choose the other?

Constantinople.

In the *Nineteenth Century* of May Mr. R. B. C. Sheridan writes on "The Sacrifice of Greece," or "The Story of a Scrap of Paper." Having attributed the revision of the Treaty of Sévres to that "large percentage of unthinking persons in all the Entente countries who have a sneaking regard for the Turk," to the "great army of cosmopolitan financiers known to be favourable to Turkey," and to the pro-Turkish interests of the populations of India, he proceeds to state that the "main blot in the original treaty, the provisional retention of the Sultan in Constantinople, is now confirmed and rendered more obnoxious and intolerable, if possible, than before."

No student of Near Eastern questions who, having a clear perception of the racial and religious issues at stake, is justified in expressing an opinion, can possibly expect a Turkish Constantinople to be a durable feature in the Near East. The city never has been, and never can be, accepted by the Balkan nations as a Mahomedan capital. Writers who emphasise the importance of retaining it as the seat of the Khalifate ignore, or perhaps are unaware of, the fact that it has for over one thousand years longer been the seat of the Œcumenical Patriarchate of the Orthodox Church. While the Greek and Armenian populations of the city (counted in hundreds of thousands) are obliged to call themselves subjects of the Sultan, and might, under the revised proposals now offered to the Greeks and Turks, be left at the mercy of a Turkish soldiery inflamed by their diplomatic mastery over their victors in the Great War, it is idle to speak of a lasting settlement. Neither in its traditions, which are superabundantly Christian and Greek, nor in its geographical position as the capital of Thrace, can it be said to be linked with the Ottoman race, whose future is in Anatolia. To leave under the Turkish flag both the city of Constantinople and the great cathedral of St. Sophia is to violate the ideals for which we entered the war, and to which the Armenians and Greeks (who probably still, after centuries of deportations and massacre, form a majority of the population) looked confidently for deliverance. As long as this city remains the adopted seat of the Khalifate it will inevitably serve as the symbol of Turkish imperialism and encourage the Ottomans, who must have expected to lose it, to persist in their hopes of renewed expansion, and to rely upon the well-tried expedient of massacre whenever opportunity offers or can conveniently be created.

To saddle the League of Nations with a Turkish Constantinople at the outset of its career, and to expect it to maintain that complexion for the town in the face of the displeasure of the Christians of the Balkan peninsula, is to doom the League to discredit and impotence.

British troops are to be withdrawn from the islands of Lemnos, Imbros, and Tenedos, in the Ægean.

The Ottoman Congress, which meets annually, has concluded its sessions at Lausanne after discussing the emancipation of women and the introduction of modern hospitals into Turkey, and means to persuade Turkish youths to frequent foreign universities.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"THE DIARY OF A YEOMANRY M.O." By Captain O. Teichman, D.S.O., M.C., Royal Army Medical Corps (T.F.). (London: Fisher Unwin. 12s. 6d.)

II.—"STORIES OF THE EAST." By Leonard Woolf. (Richmond: The Hogarth Press. 3s. net.)

I.—AN M.O. IN PALESTINE.

Most of us have by this time made our own classification of the literature of the Great War, dividing the myriad books composing it into certain broad sections of which the most familiar are, first, the apologia of unsuccessful generals; next, the printed treacheries of disloyal public servants; and, last but not least, the mass of personal impressions, good, bad, and indifferent, of minor actors in the great world tragedy. "The Diary of a Yeomanry M.O." deserves to be placed among some of the best books in the third category, and not the least of its merits is to be found in its simple directness of style, which gives to the narrative just that baffling touch of realism one always associates with Defoe. As one reads the author's plain, straightforward descriptions of the battles in which he took part, one is irresistibly reminded of the "Memoirs of a Cavalier," and one feels that if Defoe had been recalled from the Shades to tell the story of the war in Palestine he would have given us something much on the lines of the "Diary of a Yeomanry M.O." In recording his personal experiences day by day during four years of hard service in the field, the author was probably quite unaware that he was making a serious contribution to the history of the Great War, but he has succeeded in doing so, nevertheless, and his book deserves the close attention of all who seek accurate information regarding the series of operations which, opening on the Suez Canal with the repulse of the invading Turkish armies, ended in Syria with the downfall of the Ottoman military power.

This war diary starts at Gallipoli in the later phase of the campaign, when the author arrived with his regiment, the Worcestershire Yeomanry, and the rest of the dismounted cavalry division which earned undying laurels in the battle of the 21st of August, 1915. The massacre of that splendid division in its advance on Chocolate Hill deprived the army of a host of its very finest fighting men, and their sacrifice was barren of military results; but who, after reading the lyric passage in Sir Ian Hamilton's despatches quoted by the author, in which is described this glorious episode in the history of the British Army, could say these brave men died in vain? As long as the fighting spirit of our race survives, the tradition of the disciplined heroism of the Yeomanry division at Chocolate Hill will be preserved as something typical of our national military genius. A few days after taking part in this memorable battle the author was severely wounded, and perhaps nothing in the book brings home to one more forcibly the unspeakable horrors of modern war than his simple account of his removal from the firing line to the beach through an inferno of bursting shells. A year later he was destined once more to tread the *Via Dolorosa*—this time on the Egyptian front—when, wounded before Katia on the day following the battle of Romani, after undergoing the agony of a long ride with a broken leg, he went through the terrible ordeal of a night journey in a "hospital train" of a pattern unknown on the Western front, to which for sheer suffering even Mesopotamia at its worst could hardly produce a parallel. One realises, as one reads the author's record of the daily events on the Palestine front in the long campaign which culminated in Lord Allenby's final victory, the extraordinary difficulty of the operations and the magnitude of the task achieved. Many and bad mistakes were sometimes made by generals and lesser luminaries; oftener than not the luck was dead against us, but one never detects in the pages of this diary the slightest indication that the author, any more than a host of men less observant and thoughtful serving with him, doubted for a moment the ultimate success of our enterprise. One wonders whether it was so with the enemy. Certainly, in 1916, when his command of the air was absolute, and when, after defeating us at Gaza, he enjoyed the advantages of position and superiority in numbers, he had surely every reason for hoping that the end of the war would find him with his grip on Palestine unshaken, even if his experiences at Romani and on the Canal the year before might have raised doubts in his mind as to the possibility of his achieving the conquest of Egypt. Our army, however, learned its business thoroughly in those painful years, notably the cavalry, which, it is easy to see from the author's chronicle of its daily work, very soon reached the highest standard of efficiency, and when the antagonists came to close grips in 1917 they were very well matched. The Turks and their German and Austrian allies put up a good fight to the last, and it will redound to the credit

of our arms for all time that we were ultimately victorious over an enemy of the quality we encountered in Palestine.

Returning home in June, 1918, the author was not destined to take part in Lord Allenby's final advance, and his next experience of fighting was on the Italian front, where he served with the 22nd Infantry Brigade in the operations on the Piave in the last days of the war. This Italian chapter of his book is not devoid of interest, and gives a good account of the capture of the island of Papadopoli by our troops; but it does not seem to fit in well with the rest of the narrative—one cannot succeed in associating the author with infantry fighting after following him through three years of cavalry warfare, and it is quite painful to think of him away from his beloved regiment, the Worcestershire Yeomanry. The regiment still exists, but it lies, we believe, under sentence of death, like most of its fellows in the Territorial Cavalry, and it is not unlikely that the "Diary of a Yeomanry M.O." may be fated to serve as the obituary notice of a very gallant regiment of horse. We hope this may not come to pass; but even if the name of the Worcestershire Yeomanry disappears from the Army List, it will be long before its exploits in Palestine are forgotten; and long after the Tank has been relegated to the museum, we know there will be men living responsive to the glamour of the mounted arm to whom this book will irresistibly appeal. Among these, one likes to think, will be some proud to claim descent from the West Country Paladins of the last crusade whose deeds in Palestine have been so faithfully recorded by the author.

E. H. B.

II.—TALES OF CEYLON.

The author of this book, who was for several years in the Ceylon Civil Service, has here written three curiously unequal stories. In the first, "A Tale Told by Moonlight," there is such poor, hackneyed psychology as almost to check desire to read the other stories. Its raconteur is the usual travelled man who denies the romantic novelist's conception of love; and he explains the rarity of the real existence of love by taking as exceptional what is, in fact, a stock case with decadent realists. One really cannot understand why, if love can occur in a Colombo brothel, it should not also have occurred in many similar institutions.

But in the second tale, "Pearls and Swine," there is a very fine and keen art. Mr. Woolf's pictorial gifts are intense, amounting to genius, and this story of a degenerate white man dying of delirium tremens in the pearl fishery equals the work of Conrad. The setting of it is not too happy—it is the outcome of a heard conversation between an ignorant English stock-jobber who wished to rule the East with a "strong hand" and an equally foolish arch-deacon, who wished—without violence, of course—to "awaken" the Eastern peoples—for it acquires a political significance which detracts from it as a work of pure art. This astonishingly vivid story, in which the picture of the fishery literally paints itself before the reader's eyes, could and should have stood by itself; but for its cadre it would be a masterpiece.

There is a quiet and unexpected humour in the third tale—"The Two Brahmins." We like well the whimsical malice with which the losing of caste and the subsequent efforts to negate it are related; and here again is shown the extraordinary sharpness of the author's pictorial vision. Mr. Woolf is a writer of considerable gifts, and at times he rises to much beauty and justness of expression. His second story will certainly live in the memory, and it is all the more pity that this in particular should have been rather carelessly printed.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Highway of God: a Study in Some Contemporary Movements in Africa and the East." By Kathleen Harnett and William Paton. (London: United Council for Missionary Education. 3s. 6d., cloth; 2s. 6d., paper.)

"A Method for Measuring the Length of Cotton Hairs." By W. Lawrence Balls, M.A., Sc.D. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 3s. 6d. net.)

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MUSICAL NOTES.

Koussevitsky.

Of the genius of M. Koussevitsky's conducting in Russian music I have written before, but it was very strikingly proved at the first Russian Festival Concert given at the Queen's Hall on May 27. There are to be three of these concerts, and at them we are promised the performance of some of the best Russian works, in particular some of the symphonies of Scriabin, the composer about whose orchestral compositions M. Koussevitsky knows more than anyone else in the world. This conductor has in his interpretation of Slav works an irresistible and unique fascination; there are in his readings that vivid intensity, that noble and childlike simplicity, and that elemental vigour which are at the bottom of his nation's soul. He could have chosen no happier things in which to display his genius than Moussorgsky's "Night on the Bare Mountain," the introduction to "Khovanchina," and Liadoff's "Kikimora." These realistic paintings pulsate with a weird, unearthly beauty; their other-world attraction comes as with the overwhelming loveliness of Roerich's pictures. In Moussorgsky particularly M. Koussevitsky showed to what heights the individual Russian spirit, basing its efforts on common-folk experience, may attain. The next two concerts of the series—to be given on June 3 and 10—will be attended with very curious interest.

The Catterall Quartet.

This string quartet, which plays chiefly in the North of England, comes to London too seldom, for its performances at Miss Marjorie Sotham's concert at the Wigmore Hall on May 24 were notable. There could be no mistaking their enthusiastic reverence for Brahms' Quartet in A minor (Op. 51, No. 2) or for Mozart's Quartet in G minor; and, though occasionally lacking the tone, balance, and finish of some other combinations better known in the South of England, they played with such spontaneity as to leave an unusual impression. It is true that their attack was a little hard, especially the leader's, and that they were not skilful in tossing melodies from one instrument to another (an absolute essential in Mozart), but they gave us the spirit of the thing, a fact which cannot be too gratefully recognised. Mr. Arthur Catterall is a most accomplished violinist, and it was a thousand pities that his exquisitely musical sense was so poorly supported by Miss Sotham at the pianoforte in Busoni's sonata (Op. 36a). Miss Sotham has very much to unlearn in the matter of pedalling and of tone; at present she is far too ambitious.

A New Trio.

The marked increase in the number of combinations in chamber music is a welcome sign in London musical life, but a new trio—consisting of Mlle. Kontrovitch (violin), M. Ostcharkoff (cello), and M. Krish (pianoforte)—which played at the Wigmore Hall on May 26 has very far to develop in the essential matter of balance and unanimity before it can take an assured place. Without any doubt, the violinist is an artist, and the 'cellist appeared to be both capable and refined; but whether M. Krish will ever subordinate his rather unpoetical individuality for the sake of an ensemble I doubt. They played three trios—Jongen's in B minor, a tuneful, very British thing in one movement by Norman O'Neill, and Brahms' in C major. Jongen's work is well set out for the instruments (particularly it gave M. Ostcharkoff a chance to display his excellent tone), but it is dull, for there is little development in it. The Brahms is just one of those compositions that his opponents may worthily seize upon and hold up to tepid scorn (and I am not sure that M. Ostcharkoff did not think so too).

The Negro Tenor.

To listen to a recital by Mr. Roland Hayes is to have an uncommon musical experience. For not only does he sing operatic stuff extremely well, but he sings his own negro "spirituals" in an unforgettable way. His keenness and passion for the tunes of his folk are obvious; and it may interest readers to know that his ambition is to collect the folk-songs of his people in Africa, particularly, I believe, in West Africa and in the Sudan. At his concert at the Wigmore Hall on May 27 he sang, so that one will always remember them, "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," "Shout All Over God's Heaven," "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," and "I'm a-Singing with a Sword (Bible) in My Hand"; and among numerous encores, the strangely moving "Go Down, Moses." That a certain sentimentality and over-stressed emotion should occasionally creep into his interpretations is perhaps inevitable, but he is a singer of indubitable genius.

ANDANTE.

It is officially reported that in Mesopotamia a new road from Baiji by Fatha (123 miles north of Baghdad) to Shergat (50 miles south of Mosul) has now been completed along the right bank of the Tigris.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

June 2 (New Style).
May 20 (Old Style).
Ramadan 25, 1339, of the Moslem Calendar.
Iyar 25, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Queen Olga of Greece has arrived in Paris from Athens.

Lord and Lady Inchcape have returned to London from Paris.

Lord and Lady Howard de Walden have returned to London from East Africa.

Mr. T. Hohler, British High Commissioner in Hungary, has arrived at 4, Albemarle Street.

Sir Gerald Strickland and the Misses Strickland have returned to 24, Eaton Place from Malta.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir A. T. Wilson sailed for Canada on May 25 in the s.s. Empress of Britain.

The Maharani of Baroda and Prince D. Gaekwar of Baroda have left Claridge's Hotel for Paris.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala has laid a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe.

The American Ambassador was last week visited by the Bulgarian Minister and the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires.

The Bulgarian Minister in London left London last week for Brussels to present his letter of credence to the King of the Belgians.

The Hon. Lady Lloyd is expected to arrive in London from Bombay to-day. Her address will be 14, Bryanston Square, W.1.

The annual Burma dinner is being held to-day (June 2) at Princes Galleries, Piccadilly. Mr. Harvey Adamson, K.C.S.I., will preside.

General Wrangel will arrive in Yugoslavia towards the end of this week, and will take up his residence about 30 miles north of Belgrade.

Monsieur Michel Boeresco, Roumanian Minister in London, has had conferred upon him the insignia of a Commander of the Star of Roumania.

The Prince Regent of Yugoslavia, who has arrived in Paris from Belgrade, will visit several of the French seaside resorts before leaving for England.

The annual meeting of the Indian Church Aid Association is to take place on June 22 in the Hoare Memorial Hall at the Church House, Westminster.

The annual Sikh Brigade dinner will be held this year on June 13. All inquiries should be made to Major H. R. Hadow, United Service Club, Pall Mall.

The Colonial Secretary, Mr. Winston Churchill, is to be the guest of the British Cotton-growing Association at a banquet in the Midland Hotel, Manchester, on June 7.

Cables received in London on May 25 announced that Sir Murdoch MacDonald, Adviser to the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works, has resigned, and that he has left Egypt for England.

Major J. Carey Evans, I.M.S., whose appointment as surgeon on the Staff of the Viceroy we recently announced, has proceeded to Simla with Mrs. Carey Evans, daughter of Mr. Lloyd George.

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The annual dinner of the Indian Political Service Dinner Club will be held at the Grand Hotel on June 15. Applications for tickets should be addressed to Mr. Austin Low, C.I.E., 54, Parliament Street, S.W.

At a reception held on May 25 on board H.M.S. Iron Duke, off Jaffa, the guests included the Emir Abdullah, who was invited to remain on board until the vessel reached Haifa.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between Lieut. Edward Watson, R.N., son of the late Francis Watson, of Colombo, and Mrs. Watson, and Freda Margaret, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Harrison, 6, Swan Walk, Chelsea.

The members of the Commission appointed to inquire into the recent disturbances in and near Jaffa by the High Commissioner of Palestine are Sir Thomas Haycraft, the Chief Justice; Mr. H. C. Luke, Assistant-Governor of Jerusalem; and Mr. Stubbs, of the Legal Department.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place in Jerusalem, between James, youngest son of the late Rev. James Lee Warner, Thorpland Hall, Fakenham, Norfolk, and Margaret Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the late Rev. A. M. Hewlett and Mrs. Hewlett, of Horsham, Sussex.

Countess Curzon of Kedleston, who was received by the Serbian Minister and Mme. Gravitovitch and Mrs. Curvington Wilde, opened last week an exhibition and sale of artistic articles from Serbia and Bosnia at 5, Cromwell Road, the object being to revive industries which the war suspended. Sir Arthur Evans, Mrs. Seton-Watson, and the Hon. Lady Whitehead have lent various antique articles of interest. The display was an interesting one, and attracted a good deal of attention.

An engagement is announced between Kathleen, younger daughter of the late Captain T. A. Fischer, of the Indian Army, and of Mrs. Fischer, 11, Zenobia Mansions, Queen's Club Gardens, West Kensington, and Mr. Louis Campbell Byrne, D.S.O., M.C., the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, eldest son of Dr. Benjamin Byrne, New Malden, Surrey.

The engagement is announced between Captain Philip Bateman, London Irish Rifles and R.A.F., son of the late Alfred George Bateman and Mrs. Bateman, of 7, Queen Anne Street, and Feltham Court, Middlesx, and Marie Louise Blanc, eldest daughter of Mme. Irène Procopiu, Lady-in-Waiting to H.M. the Queen of Roumania.

The following have been nominated to the Indian Civil Service under the Indian Civil Service (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1915: Lieut. G. G. Hooper, M.C., and Captain A. S. Larkin, Bengal; Captain A. V. Askwith, Punjab; Captain R. P. Ward, M.C., D.F.C., Bihar and Orissa; Major G. H. Forty, M.C., Central Provinces. Captain A. H. Seymour and Lieutenant G. N. Martin are allotted to Burma.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (May 14):—

The Chief Secretary, Mr. C. Fenn, has left for England on leave.

Major W. H. Flinn, O.B.E., has been appointed as Assistant to the Chief Secretary.

Dr. E. Corsellis, D.M.O., will act as Chief Medical Officer.

Mr. W. A. Bowring is appointed Inspector of Fisheries, and Mr. C. F. Lee as Assistant Postmaster.

Captain W. Bradburn, L.C.P., is appointed Visitor of the Central Prisons.

The Duke of Connaught was present at the dinner given (on May 27) in honour of Viscount Chelmsford by the India Office at Claridge's Hotel. Among those present were:—The Lord Chancellor, Lord Lytton, Mr. Churchill, Lord Inchcape, Lord Donoughmore, Sir George Roos-Kepell, Sir George Barnes, General Sir Edmund Barrow, Sir Hamilton Grant, Sir Murray Hammick, Sir George Lowndes, Lieutenant-Colonel H. Austin Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel R. Verney, Mr. Alan Parsons, Captain A. Lascelles, Mr. S. K. Brown, Mr. Goodenough, Sir Malcolm Seton, Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Charles Roberts, Mr. E. S. Montagu, Mr. Chamberlain, M. S. Sastri, Lord Cromer, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, Lord Stamfordham, Sir Robert Horne, Sir Sahibzada Abdul-Quaijun, Lord Meston, Sir Charles Bayley, Sir Archdale Earle, Mr. Howard, Mr. Aftab, Sir J. Brunyate, Syed Ameer Ali, Sir William Meyer, Sir Sankaran Nair, and Lord Pentland. Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Lord Morley of Blackburn, and Mr. Balfour were unavoidably prevented from attending.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Delyanni, Greek Consul-General in London, having been transferred to a similar post at Tunis, M. D. Inglessis, acting Secretary to the Greek Legation, will take charge of the Consulate.

The King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Samuel Wilberforce, I.C.S., to be a Puisne Judge of the Lahore High Court in succession to Mr. L. H. Leslie Jones, I.C.S., who is retiring from the Bench.

Pending confirmation of the newly-created Moslem Council, the High Commissioner of Palestine has appointed Haj Amin Husseini Effendi to be Acting Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. His Eminence is brother of the late Grand Mufti, Kamil Husseini Effendi, who died on March 20 last.

OBITUARY.

The death of Mr. Herbert Barfield, general manager of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin, is announced in a Reuter telegram from Smyrna.

The death has occurred, at the age of 79, of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Arthur Knyvet Wilson, V.C. He entered the Navy in 1855, and served as a midshipman in the Algiers during the Crimean War, receiving the Crimean and Turkish medals with the Sebastopol clasp. He assisted at the bombardment of Alexandria in 1881, and in 1884 was present with the Naval Brigade at El Teb, where he won the Victoria Cross. His extremely distinguished career included service in many other waters.

M. MILENKO VESNITCH.

M. Vesnitch, Yugoslav Minister in Paris, died suddenly in that city last Saturday, May 28, from heart failure. The loss will be a very heavy one for his country; for he had served it faithfully and well both at home and abroad over a long period of years; and his reputation as a diplomatist was deservedly high. He was Serbian Minister in Rome for three years and then (1904) in Paris. In 1912 he was one of the Serbian representatives for the negotiations for the Peace of London; a few years later he was in Washington on a special mission; and just a year ago he became Prime Minister of Yugoslavia and held the position for about six months. But all these labours may be said to have been merely temporary, and it was in Paris that most of his work was done. Nevertheless, in taking office as Prime Minister at a time when political rivalries were acute and party manœuvring had brought about a deadlock, he probably served his country better than in any other way. As our Belgrade Correspondent made clear, his tact and suavity carried him and Yugoslavia through troubles and over difficulties which had proved too much for the more robust methods of other politicians, and he was able to see the newly-united kingdom safely past what looked at one time a very awkward corner. He was of a type that is rather rare in the Balkans, and his loss will be regretted not only in Yugoslavia but in all circles interested in that region.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1921.

EGYPT'S LIMITATIONS.

In all probability a variety of causes helped to produce the recent riots in Alexandria. A pro-Turkish demonstration, which irritated the Greeks of the Hamamil quarter, may have started the outbreak, but it is evident that there was a quantity of inflammable material in the town, on which the demonstration acted as a spark. The Greeks had to bear the brunt of the attack, as they would be the first to be encountered by a mob emanating from that part of Alexandria, and, if it be true that they used their revolvers rather prematurely, they would naturally be singled out for vengeance. But there was clearly some organisation behind the rioting, which was directed against foreigners in general. Even if the hand of Angora were discernible, it would not have been attracted there, unless the ground had been regarded as being particularly suitable. At the root of the trouble, therefore, is the ferment into which Egypt has been thrown by the quarrel between the Prime Minister and Zaghloul Pasha. In this duel neither the local British authorities nor the British community have any part, and inasmuch as Zaghloul Pasha has protested against his policy being styled inflammatory it may be as well to recall the course of events. Some two years ago misgivings did exist among Egyptians in regard to the intentions of Great Britain for the future government of the country. A draft constitution had been drawn up without reference to Egyptian opinion, which was considered by an important section of the educated classes as falling short of legitimate Egyptian aspirations. The issue then was between the Egyptians and the British, and the only method of urging their case that commended itself to the former was to indulge in disturbances throughout the country aimed at the British inhabitants and the British troops. It may not have been a wise policy to adopt; but at least it had precedent behind it. To-day, however, it is not a question of Great Britain's thwarting Egypt's wishes—an agreement was negotiated and accepted by Zaghloul Pasha himself to form the basis of the new treaty which will determine Egypt's future status. When, after accepting the terms of the agreement, he sought to introduce fresh reservations, the British Government showed its readiness to meet him by declaring publicly its recognition that the term Protectorate had to be abandoned. At the present moment, therefore, there is no real grievance between Zaghloul Pasha or the Egyptians and Great Britain. The issue is solely and entirely between Zaghloul Pasha and the Egyptian Prime Minister as to the composition of the delegation which is to negotiate the final terms of the treaty between Great Britain and Egypt. But in the furtherance of his cause Zaghloul Pasha has encouraged a recrudescence of the disturbances that served his purpose two years ago. His followers—now almost exclusively students and a street mob—have resorted to the same tactics. He protests,

however, that the painful events in Alexandria have nothing to do with politics, and asks that a nation should not be condemned on a fortuitous incident. Whatever local colouring the Alexandria riots may have taken, there can be little doubt that behind them was in part the same influence that led to the riots in Tintah, and has organised demonstrations in Cairo and elsewhere. Moreover, it is not a question of condemning the Egyptian nation. The sympathies of all thinking people go out to it at this time; blame is reserved for a leader who does not hesitate to enlist the low passions that can be found in most nations and to prejudice the future of the country in the furtherance of a personal quarrel with one of his own countrymen.

Great Britain, it would be well for Zaghloul Pasha and the half-baked students who do his bidding to understand, is not concerned with the composition of the delegation that is to negotiate the treaty between the two countries. That is Egypt's affair. Zaghloul Pasha's protestations fall somewhat flat in view of the fact that he was invited to be a member of the delegation. If he had accepted, no one would have thought of suggesting that the delegation had not the country's confidence or was not qualified to speak on its behalf. Egypt to-day is disturbed from one end to another, and Egyptian blood is being shed in the streets of various towns simply because the vanity of Zaghloul Pasha was hurt at his not being offered the leadership of the delegation, which had of necessity to go to the Prime Minister. He has taken advantage of his popularity to make with the unthinking section of the people a national issue of a purely personal question. That way lies neither statesmanship nor patriotism, and it is not a matter for surprise that the saner among his own followers as well as all level-headed onlookers have lost faith in a man who can serve his country so ill. Zaghloul Pasha would have the world believe that only a delegation in which Egypt as a whole has full confidence can negotiate a treaty with any prospect of success. The contention does not hold water. The outlines of the treaty have already been agreed upon by Zaghloul Pasha himself; all that remains to be done is to fill in the details in accordance with the principles laid down in London. Those principles have been accepted by the Egyptian people as a whole, and no one would have thought of challenging Adly Pasha's right to head the delegation which is to draw up the final treaty if Zaghloul Pasha had not done so from mere personal jealousy.

It is inevitable that the events at Alexandria should be considered in many quarters in the light of the proposed change in the status of Egypt. The recently formed British Union has pointed out in a memorandum to the High Commissioner that, as the experiment of leaving Egyptians in control, which was rightly made, has proved a failure, in that the disturbances could not be quelled by the Egyptian police and army, the duty of maintaining order rests with the British Government. Behind this obvious contention there is the *a fortiori* argument that the duty of protecting Europeans will be still more incumbent upon Great Britain when the experiment of leaving Egyptians in control is made on a much larger scale. Unfortunately, those who are inspiring the unrest do not realise that they are prejudicing the very cause that they have at heart. It matters not who forms the delegation to negotiate the treaty when every thinking person, whether Egyptian or not, must realise that Egypt's case has lost ground since Zaghloul Pasha returned to the country. It is conceivable that there should be a point in connection with the unrest at which the British Government might have to take up the attitude that it must postpone indefinitely the treaty negotiations. We do not believe that such a point has yet been reached; but the action of Zaghloul Pasha suggests that he would rather face that eventuality than abandon his personal quarrel with the Egyptian Cabinet.

THE RIOTING IN EGYPT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, May 22.

Zaghloul's Responsibility.

Unfortunately the forecast made in my letter of April 30 that as a consequence of Zaghloul Pasha's attitude we should in all probability again have demonstrations and trouble has been realised this past week, which has witnessed scenes in Cairo and Alexandria reminiscent of what took place two years ago. The details will have already been conveyed to you by cable. There is, therefore, little need for me to describe them here; but they are deserving of some serious comment.

In the minds of all sensible people, be they Europeans or Egyptians, there is not a shadow of doubt that Zaghloul Pasha and his supporters are responsible for the disturbances that have taken place. Ever since his return we have had demonstrations. These at first consisted in the main of students, and the Government scarcely interfered with them. But as the political situation developed as a result of Zaghloul's disagreement with the Cabinet, and as his attacks assumed a more and more violent tone, so the character of these demonstrations changed. Students took less and less active part in them, and the majority of the participants have been riff-raff and the scum of the cities. When they became a direct menace to the public security the Government had to take severe action to preserve the public peace; and its first relatively lenient measures having had no restraining effect, the authorities have had to have recourse to force and firearms in the interest of the community at large, whose welfare was seriously menaced.

Whether the student demonstrations could be regarded as an outward sign of public feeling in regard to the political controversy is a matter which permits of argument, but no sensible-minded man would maintain for one moment that the scenes which we have witnessed during the past week had any connection with the political situation, beyond the fact that they were deliberately organised by those who have every interest in making the position of the Cabinet untenable. The "demonstrations" which took place here and in Alexandria consisted in the main of roughs and the low-class element. There was, it is true, a sprinkling of the student class, but they were very much in the minority, and their role seemed to be to efface themselves as soon as the mob had been sufficiently excited. The fact that these demonstrators came armed with all manner of weapons, and that instead of trying to "demonstrate" in the recognised fashion they deliberately attacked the Police and the Caracols is clear evidence that it was a thoroughly organised attempt to create a sort of revolution and bring about, if possible, the overthrow of the Government.

The Mob's Idol.

It is idle for Zaghloul to repudiate all responsibility. There are his speeches and his interviews to prove that he has been steadily inciting the country against the Cabinet, and the serious feature in his own personal attitude during the past week has been the series of telegrams addressed to the Sultan in which by implication, clearly understood by the people, with whose mentality he has been well acquainted since the days of "Arabi," he has endeavoured to draw the Sultan into the political arena.

That his opposition to the Cabinet can only be personal is self-evident from the letter proposing the formation of the Official Delegation addressed by Adly Pasha to the Sultan, in which the Premier makes clear that the objects for which the negotiations are to be undertaken agree with all the conditions which up to a short time ago Zaghloul himself imposed as essential, with the exception of the presidency. Since it was Zaghloul who said he must himself control the Official Delegation, and since until he voiced this view nobody had dreamed of any other President but Adly, it follows that Zaghloul's opposition to the Cabinet is at bottom due to the refusal to accept his point of view; though since then he has characteristically increased his demands, including the

definite abolition of the Protectorate before any negotiations are entered upon.

What makes Zaghloul's attitude all the more unpardonable is his abuse of the position he holds amongst the masses. He knows that a large proportion of the population has blind confidence in him. They are not in the habit of reasoning; they have come to identify him with the claim for complete independence, which they believe means personal liberty and in fact an "Eldorado" for themselves; and they think he can do no wrong. The responsibility reposing on Zaghloul is therefore all the greater, and he cannot absolve himself of the accusation that because of personal ambition he has taken advantage of the childlike confidence which the large mass of his uninstructed fellow countrymen have in him and has deliberately set himself to throw the country into a state of anarchy in order to bring about the downfall of the Cabinet and gratify his *amour propre*.

Europeans' Attitude.

The events of the past weeks have not unnaturally alarmed the foreign communities, although the latter have not directly suffered. When, however, with British control still here, such scenes as have been witnessed are possible, one can understand that the foreign residents are now more than ever disinclined to view with a favourable eye the prospects of a self-governing Egypt without the guarantee afforded by the presence, though in their barracks, of British troops. Indeed, the tactics adopted by Zaghloul and his supporters have done the Egyptian cause more harm than anything else could have done. This is recognised by the more far-seeing and instructed Egyptians, who have appealed to him to express his disapproval of these mob demonstrations. But, far from disapproving, Zaghloul, in his latest communication to the Sultan, has tried to explain away these regrettable incidents by imputing the blame to the Government, whom he accuses of preventing the people from giving expression to their disapproval of the Cabinet and support of himself. The falsity of these allegations is patent to all who have inquired into the matter and who realise the true facts of the situation.

Zaghloul's attitude and what has happened during the past week have, indeed, constituted a challenge to authority which no self-respecting Government can ignore, and the Cabinet is, in the opinion of all European residents, as well as well-advised Egyptians, fully justified in taking the extreme measures which it proposes to take. Apart from the necessity of avoiding the risk that such riots might rapidly develop into attacks on the European element, there is the obvious fact that any weakness or concessions at this juncture would mean that Zaghloul would become dictator and mob-law his hand-maiden.

The Cabinet recognises that it is only by restoring order and enforcing respect for the Government that the confidence in the ability of the Egyptians to manage their own affairs, which the events of the past five weeks had shaken, can be re-created: and in its measures to attain this end it stands assured of the support of the whole European community and of every rationally minded Egyptian.

THE LATE BISHOP BLYTH.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Many of your readers may like to know that a memorial is to be placed in St. George's Collegiate Church, Jerusalem, in memory of the late Bishop Blyth. It will consist of a carved oak altar, for which, as well as for the reredos and sanctuary paneling, beautiful designs are prepared.

Bishop Blyth always acted on the basic principles which underlie the Anglican Communion. He set his face steadily against proselytising from the Eastern Churches, and in consequence soon obtained their goodwill. The "great work which he did in bringing together East and West" is borne witness to by British administrators. None of the buildings which he erected were injured by the Turks during the war. He did much to push men forward towards the Christ-like ideal of "doing to others as we should like them to do to us," and remembering that "those who are not against us are for us."

Any of the undersigned will gladly receive donations. They should be sent to 12, Warwick Square, London, S.W.1. Cheques should be crossed "Bishop Blyth Memorial Fund."—We are, etc.,

R. S. COPESTON,	REGINALD WINGATE,
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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

—OMAR KHAYYAM.

The following incident was described in the *Balkan News* during the campaign in Macedonia. The A.P.M. and some military police were searching a Greek village for stolen British uniforms and other Government property. In the absence of the *mukhtar*, the village priest received them, and offered every assistance, thus greatly facilitating their task. He pressed them to search his house, too, so that there should be no charge of favouritism; and, of course, they came across nothing. The worthy priest then led them to his outbuildings, and insisted on their searching thoroughly, even in his loft. To open the door of the loft the old pop's wife climbed up a ladder in advance, thus innocently revealing, to the astonished gaze of the A.P.M. and his men a pair of British cavalry riding breeches beneath her ample skirts! What happened to the lady, her husband, or the garments, I am unable to say.

A friend tells me that an Anglo-Greek, whose knowledge of his ancestral language was derived more from English public schools than from his motherland, was engaged as officer interpreter with a brigade operating in Macedonia during the war. He had occasion to write an official note to the local Greek gendarmerie officer, which he managed in Greek of the classical style until he came to the signature. "What the dickens is the Greek for liaison officer?" he asked himself, and looked up the expression in a dictionary. But such works contain pitfalls for the unwary, and the astonished Hellene came hurrying to call upon the British officer who signed himself:

ὁ ἀνομικὸς τῶν ἀνεπιτρεχόντων σχέσεων

That is—"Officer of Illicit Connections."

Here is a charming specimen of "English as she is wrote." A Serbian interpreter employed with a native labour battalion in the Salonika force sent the following delightful chit to his O.C.: "Sr kepten—Plis tis leber men nugodno tabaka ken ai tek sam end meches for tis chaps. ef yu van. In san ir Respekli Zhivojin," which, being interpreted, means: "Mr. Captain.—Please. These labour men have got no tobacco. Can I take some and matches for these chaps. If you want [i.e., wish].—I am, yours respectfully, Zhivojin."

I heard the other day a new version of a story which I seem to remember hearing, in another form, many years ago in Constantinople. In case it may be new to some readers, I give it. A certain angelic visitor came to earth, and had during his stay three servants: a Frank, a Jew, and an Armenian. His mission on earth completed, he wished to reward these three; and accordingly called them to him, one at a time. First came the Frank, who when asked to choose a gift for himself, promptly replied: "Power." "Good," said his master. "Power is yours henceforth." Next he called the Jew, who quickly asked: "Is there any Money in it?" "Yes, you may have Money, if you wish for it." "Then I choose Money." "So be it." And last came the Armenian. "What have the others chosen?" he asked; and was informed regarding their selections. For a moment he looked downcast, and murmured: "Money's gone!" Then he brightened up. "All I ask," said he, "is a little knowledge." "Very good indeed! Certainly you shall have it. What do you desire to know?" "Which of the other two has the Money." And there can be no doubt that the tale accurately depicts the view of the average Turk, Kurd, or Arab, regarding the three races.

CORSAIR.

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THE KING EDWARD STATUE.

Their Majesties the King and Queen visited the Burton Foundry at Thames Ditton on Saturday afternoon to inspect the equestrian statue of King Edward VII. by Sir Thomas Brock, R.A., which is to be erected at New Delhi. Their Majesties congratulated the sculptor on his work, pronouncing the likeness to be excellent, and they also complimented Mr. Burton on the successful way in which the work had been cast in bronze.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Half the employees in the China Mill at Bombay resumed work last week after being on strike since May 17.

Mamduh Chocket Bey, the representative of the Anatolian Government to Azerbaijan, has arrived in Baku.

Bulgarian business men have been invited to take part in the national fair which is to be held in Gotheburg, July 4 to 10.

Rakheem Seapot (50), an Indian seaman, was sentenced at West Ham Police Court recently to thirty-one days' imprisonment for being in the unlawful possession of opium.

It is declared in Athens that complete agreement exists between Serbia and Greece on the subject of Albania, and that the Albanians will shortly send a delegation to Athens.

The Albanians, says Reuter, have presented a fresh ultimatum to the town of Chimarra, demanding that it shall accept Albanian control of the Customs and shall fly the Albanian flag.

Information has been received in London to the effect that the Kemalist Turks have surrounded the Armenian stronghold of Zeitun, in the eastern Cilician mountains, forty miles north of Marash.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* writes (May 27):—The Commission for Cultural Relations between Italy and Yugoslavia, appointed under the Treaty of Rapallo, has begun its sittings here. The respective chairmen are Senator Ruffini, who presided over the Congress of Oppressed Nationalities in 1918, and Count Louis Voynovitch, of Ragusa, who represented Montenegro at the London Conference of 1913.

At the annual meeting of the League of British Jews, held at 38, Fitzroy Square, W., lately, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That the Executive of the League be instructed to approach the Government with a view to obtaining a modification of Clause 129 of the Treaty of Sevres, so as to prevent any British subject from being compelled to surrender his citizenship as a consequence of his residence in Palestine."

Dr. Weizmann, the Zionist leader, and Professor Albert Einstein, who are on tour in America, lately visited Boston, where a great Jewish demonstration took place, at which 200,000 dollars (£50,000) were promised for the Palestine Foundation Fund, and 20,000 dollars (£5,000) for the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Handicapping Trade.

The proposed new postal increases came as a shock to the business community. While no hopes were entertained that there would be a move in the direction of pre-war rates in the immediate future, the view was universally held that there would be no further increase. However, the Post Office now anticipates a heavy deficit, and, as is the way of bureaucrats, can conceive no better way of meeting it than by a further rise in rates. Most people looking at the swollen establishment of the Post Office would imagine that there was another and a more obvious alternative; but evidently economy will only come into serious consideration when all other things fail, and meanwhile, unless better counsels prevail—a not impossible contingency in view of the attitude of the business world to the proposals—commerce is to be further handicapped at a time when it is essential that it should be as free as possible from unnecessary restrictions.

Effect of Proposals.

The most serious aspect of the proposals is their probable effect on our foreign trade. It is impossible to justify the additional tax on enterprise entailed in the increase in the foreign letter post, and from the point of view of revenue it would undoubtedly be a far sounder policy to decrease the rates. Another and a more vital question is raised by the increase in the rates for printed matter. The extension of British trade enterprise depends very largely on the circulation of trade journals and newspapers abroad, and the result of this increase will inevitably be that there will be a reduction in the distribution of these publications abroad, with a corresponding effect on trade. One can only suppose that this aspect has escaped the attention of those responsible for the proposal, otherwise the policy would be unintelligible, and it is to be hoped that in this respect at least wiser counsels will prevail.

Export Credits.

A further development of the British export credits scheme is marked by a Bill which has just been introduced by the Board of Trade under the title "Overseas Trade (Credits and Insurance) Amendment Bill." The scheme as it stands at present is designed to further the development of trade with countries which have suffered through the war, such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Balkan countries, and under the Act of 1920 £26,000,000 may be utilised for this purpose, of which up to the present it appears that only £8,000,000 has been required. Presumably because the Ter Meulen scheme has been officially approved, it would appear that the authorities consider that the time is coming when it will be necessary to find a wider field for the British scheme, and the new Bill proposes to enlarge its scope to include all parts of the British Empire, including Protectorates and mandated countries.

Why?

Whether an export credits scheme can render any considerable service to Imperial trade as a whole would seem to be a matter for considerable doubt; though I imagine that it might prove useful in connection with the development of trade with the mandated territories. But—and this is the crux of the position—if I am right in assuming that the adoption of the Ter Meulen scheme is the reason for this step, it can only be said that the authorities are taking things very much for granted. I have dealt at length with the Ter Meulen project in recent issues, and I do not propose now to recapitulate my views regarding it. But I must say that when, as apparently is the case in the present instance, the adoption of a scheme depends on the energy with which voluntary propaganda is carried on, it is, at any rate, somewhat optimistic to assume that it will come into operation at all on a considerable scale.

Burmah Oil.

The proposed final distribution on the ordinary shares of the Burmah Oil Company of 4s. per share, free of tax, making 30 per cent. for year, marks a considerable reduction on last year's dividend, which amounted to 50 per cent. It has to be remembered, however, that a year ago the ordinary share capital was increased by a bonus share

distribution from £2,857,500 to £5,143,500, and the dividend is actually equal to 54 per cent. on the original capital. At last year's annual meeting the chairman emphasised the point that it would be impossible to maintain the rate of dividend on the increased share capital, which, of course, prepared shareholders for a considerable reduction. Besides the reduction of the dividend, it is proposed to reorganise and increase the preference share capital. There are at present two classes of preference shares, both 6 per cent., but of the denomination respectively of £1 and £10.

Increase of Capital.

It is proposed to raise the yield on both classes to 6½ per cent. and to divide the £10 second preference shares into £1 shares, thus making them a first preference issue, though the existing holders will have certain rights reserved to them. It is further proposed that power should be taken to create an additional £1,000,000 first preference shares, and that the authorised capital should be increased by the creation of £5,000,000 8 per cent. preference shares, the bulk of which it is proposed to issue in the immediate future. The new capital is required in consequence of the rapidity with which the company's business has developed, but it strikes one as rather surprising that the eventuality was not foreseen at the time of the issue of the bonus shares. The Burmah Oil Company is, of course, in an exceptionally favourable position, since, apart from its own properties, it has a one-third interest in the Anglo-Persian Company, from which it is certain to derive increasingly satisfactory results as the years go on, and during the past twelve months it has further strengthened its position by the acquisition out of revenue of the preference and ordinary shares of the Assam Oil Company at £2 per share. In the circumstances it is perhaps not surprising that the reduced dividend and the proposed new issue of shares should have had little appreciable effect on the quotation of the company's shares.

An Interesting Scheme.

The depreciation of the drachma has naturally had an effect on Greece's purchasing power abroad, and with a view to overcoming this difficulty the proposal has now been mooted that endeavours should be made to exchange the large stocks of unsold tobacco in Greece and abroad for goods which the country requires. This, in other words, is the proposal of barter as a remedy for the exchange. There is much to be said in favour of the project, if it were feasible, but it has yet to be explained how barter can be effected between countries without a common basis (i.e., money) by which values can be fixed. The merchant selling at this end will still want payment in sterling, and Greece will still have difficulty in selling enough goods to obtain that sterling. There is, indeed, in regard to tobacco the further difficulty that at present stocks of tobacco here and elsewhere are very large, and the problem will be to find a customer for the tobacco from whom at the same time they can draw the required supplies.

COMMENTATOR.

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GENERAL THE HON. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LIEUT.-COL. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

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

Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

GREECE.

ATHENS, May 17.

The Depreciation of the Drachma.

The sudden and rapid depreciation of the drachma at the beginning of this week was a phenomenon in the financial history of Greece. It seems almost incredible that at 3 p.m. on one day the pound sterling should be worth 72 drachmæ, and that at noon on the following day it should jump up to 95 drachmæ. That these figures were not in any way an indication of the actual value of Greek currency was proved a few hours later.

As stated above, at twelve o'clock the banks were buying pounds at 95 drachmæ, while privately as much as 105 drachmæ were offered. At 3 p.m. the banks would not give more than 90 drachmæ, and at 3.30, with the exception of one solitary bank which for about a quarter of an hour was buying at 85 and subsequently reduced the rate to 80, the remainder would not give more than 78. One bank refused point blank to buy pounds!

What was the cause of this financial crisis? Some—and these represent the majority—attribute it to speculation, which has been rife of late, and others to the financial boycott of Greece by the Allies. The latter opinion is shared by M. Eftaxias, a member of the Constituent Assembly and ex-Governor of the National Bank of Greece.

The Government, realising the seriousness of the situation, and in order to prevent a repetition of last Monday's financial panic, decided to take exceptionally drastic measures. While the Government papers announced in large type letters that the Allies had consented to allow Greece to draw the unused credits in England and America granted to M. Venizelos's Government, hurried Councils of Ministers and conferences with the bank directors, the president of the Commercial Syllogue and other financial authorities followed one another. Long discussions ensued at which everybody volunteered to give advice and all sorts of remedies—most of them impracticable—were suggested. The Government finally came to the conclusion that speculation was the main cause of the trouble, and it was decided that the banks should be invited to form a "Consortium," which would concentrate in its hands the entire import and export movement of moneys, bonds, etc. The Bill will be voted at to-morrow's sitting of the National Assembly, and I hope to be able to give full particulars of the scheme next week.

Trade with Egypt.

The value of the goods exported to Egypt during January amounted to £E116,575, as against £E164,803 during the corresponding period last year. The imports from Egypt to Greece during the same month amounted to £E18,494, as against £E50,780 in January, 1920. The following are the principal goods exported to Egypt during January:—Olives, £E16,069; olive oil, £E9,237; cognac, £E2,241; apples and pears, £E4,590; wines, £E4,563; resin, £E1,528; dry figs, £E1,730; soap, £E2,735; cheese, £E5,752; tobacco, £E59,886. The value of tobacco exported in January, 1920, was £E130,962. The principal goods imported from Egypt were the following:—Cotton, £E2,162; hides, £E3,400; sesame, £E4,572; phosphorus, £E2,184.

SYRIA.

BEYROUT, May 13.

The Beyrout Fair.

Since the arrival of General Gouraud the work on the Beyrout Fair has been pushed on energetically. All the buildings of the fair, the pavilions in the Garden of the Place des Canons, the restaurant north of the old Seraglio, and the monumental archways at the entrances of the fair, are designed in fine Moorish style, and at night, when brilliantly lighted with electricity, these scattered groups of buildings, together with the numerous stands in Allenby Street, look like a fairy city, strongly reminiscent of city fairs in France. As a Frenchman said, it is a little corner of France. The Gallicising process is especially noticeable in the transformation of the bare old Moslem cemetery north of the Seraglio into a trim esplanade, with an elegant restaurant where the military band performs every afternoon. The site is unique, dominating the harbour and the hills; and at night, with the glittering lights of the warships and merchantmen, the scene is strikingly beautiful.

It is now being realised that it was the personal influence of General Gouraud that brought the fair into being, and that it was thanks to his personal interest rather than to the expected economic results that so much money and energy have been spent on this undertaking, to which the French Government has accorded the importance usually conferred on European exhibitions. Thus M. Fernand David, Senator of the Haute Savoie and an ex-Minister, has been delegated by M. Briand, the French Premier, and by M. Dior, the Minister of Commerce, to represent the French Government, while M. Grandguillot, Director of the Offices of the Levant, has been appointed by the Minister of Commerce to act as his delegate at the fair, which thereby acquires an official character.

M. and Mme. Fernand David, Deputy and Mme. Soulié, and other visitors of distinction have, since their arrival by the s.s. Sphinx, been entertained by the High Commissioner, the Governor-General of the Greater Lebanon, the President and members of the Administrative Commission, by a group of Syrian notables, and by the Syrio-Lebanese Touring Club, an offshoot of the Touring Club de France, which aims at developing the unique resources of the Lebanon as a summer and health resort. The fair seems to have been meant more as a *trait d'union* between France and Syria than as a purely economic undertaking. It is what might be called a *reclame*, and, politically speaking, it has been, from the point of view of its promoters, a success. Everything has been done to contribute to this result. Thus there have been reduced fares from and to Marseilles, exemption from Customs duty of exhibited goods, special railway trains to and from the interior with reduced return tickets, also special motor services, etc.

Economically speaking, if we are to believe the comments of the Press, the venture would appear to be also a success, and yet so far there have only been 35,000 visitors. According to some private statements, however, some of the representatives of French firms have done such poor business that they have packed up and returned. Of course, this is a far from propitious time. A world crisis like the present one weighs very heavily on a poor country like Syria, which for the last two years has been importing large quantities of goods and exporting next to nothing. It is said that the fair may be resumed in the autumn, when economic conditions may be more normal.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, May 23.

The Financial Position.

May is now drawing to a close, and the leva, which made a feeble upward spurt ten days ago, is back again at 325 levas to the £1. Speculators have only one fact to go on, and that is the performance of the leva last year; twelve months ago it was approximately what it is to-day, but during June and July it steadily rose until about the middle of July it reached 170, from whence it went as steadily back again to its present rate. The rise last year was attributed to the good harvest, and as the 1921 crop promises to be equally good, it is to be hoped a rise will soon ensue.

But what is concerning the leading financiers of the country is that day by day Bulgarian capital is slowly leaving the country. Some goes out in lawful ways, some in unlawful ways, and in the first category may be mentioned the capital that foreign banks are collecting in

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deposit receipts and other forms of banking business. The bank "Bulgar-Italian," founded only some two years ago, has deposit receipts amounting to 200 million levas. Where do all these levas come from? The answer is simple. They are levas which the average Bulgarian is afraid to entrust to a purely Bulgarian bank. He fears that his money may be expropriated in some shape or form. It would seem that this matter should interest the Reparations Commission, whose duty it is to exact money from the country. They will not be able to succeed in their task if present developments continue.

ALBANIA.

TIRANA, May 22.

Discovery of Coal.

North-east of Tirana the discovery has been made of extensive coal-bearing seams, which it is hoped will prove to be very rich. The existence of lignite in Albania has been known for a long time, but this is the first time that coal has been found.

Goods Needed.

British traders will be interested to know that Albania needs cotton and woollen goods, leather goods, glassware, and hardware. The country also requires agricultural machinery, such as carts, reapers, small threshing machines, pumping machines, also paper and printing machinery.

The printing industry, which is of very recent origin in Albania, is growing, and already twelve papers are appearing in various towns.

END OF

RATORIUM.

We give below the text of the Bulgarian Law bringing the Moratorium to an end.

1. The Law of the Moratorium of July 28, 1914, amended and completed by the Law of October 24, 1914, and by the Temporary Order of September 26, 1915, is hereby revoked, and the run of the periods of terms, which were suspended, are revived from the date on which the law shall enter into operation.

Note 1. No interest shall be paid during the moratorium period for the moratorium obligations towards private banks and persons from July 28, 1915, till the date on which this Act shall enter into force. Note 2. All moratorium obligations

agreed to be paid in gold shall be paid in gold bank-notes instead, instead.

2. Debtors who have suffered in property through the war, invalids (disabled soldiers), and heirs of debtors, killed in the war, who have not got enough means to pay at once all their obligations which are now required to be paid, may be granted a postponement by the court, according to the amount of their debts and their means of payment; but this postponement must not delay the complete payment of their debts for more than one year after the date on which payment was due.

3. The appeal for postponement of payment is to be addressed to the court at which the creditor has addressed his request for payment of his claims, and which is entitled to pronounce a judgment. The appeal could be made to the Judiciary Sheriff, charged with collection of the debts, who, after arranging all that is necessary to safeguard the creditor's claims, but without undertaking any other executionary actions, shall transmit the appeal to the court which has issued the executory judgment order. In this case the appeal for postponement of payment is to be considered and decided by the court, which is obliged to do this at its first sitting, before beginning to consider any other cases, and after hearing both sides, if they have appeared, giving a judgment only on evidence, which has been produced at that particular sitting. The decision of the court shall be final, and there shall be no further appeal.

4. This law is to enter into force at the expiration of three months' time after the date of its publication, and in regard to prisoners of war—in six months after the date of their return and in no case earlier than that.

Note.—With regard to payments of debts of Bulgarian nationals due in Allied and Associated countries, according to the Treaty of Peace of Neuilly, this law enters into force from the date of its publication in the *State Gazette*. Postponement of payment and the way in which this is to be done is left free to voluntary agreement between debtors and creditors.

We order this Law to be stamped with the State Seal, and to be published in the *State Gazette*, and to be put into force. The Ministry of Justice is being charged with the execution of this Law.

Issued in Tzarska Bistrizta, May 6, 1921.

(Signed) BORIS III.

The annual meeting of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, which was postponed owing to the coal strike, is to be held on June 16 and 17.

Mr. Alfred Silley, trading as Messrs. Silley and Co., of Constantinople, has admitted his son, Mr. Cecil C. Silley, as a partner, and the firm will henceforth be known as Alfred C. Silley and Son.

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OIL IN EGYPT. POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

In the now almost forgotten period before the war, when coal was readily available at a cheap price, there was no necessity for countries which lacked that fuel to concern themselves unduly as to whether or not they possessed extensive oil deposits, and the policy pursued in Egypt as regards petroleum mining was restricted until recent years to the grant of authorisations to prospect for petroleum in specified areas. This policy, it is pointed out in a recently issued brochure,* was based upon the consideration that petroleum mining is an extremely speculative venture except in well-proved fields, and it is generally recognised that such an enterprise is not one upon which a government can properly embark. The position was vitally altered, however, when coal became neither cheap nor accessible, and when developments at the Hurgada field threw a different light on the prospects of the discovery of oil in Egypt in adequate quantities, and the Government's policy has accordingly gradually developed from a passive attitude to undertaking the actual prospecting for oil itself.

When the work of development was left entirely to mining companies the Government was assured of a substantial return without any risk in the event of oil being found in paying quantities. The nature of the risk of loss may be estimated from the fact that the capital expended by mining companies without result before the war is believed to have amounted to not less than three-quarters of a million. On the other hand, private enterprise in regard to the search for a commodity such as oil is bound to have its limitations, for companies cannot continue to prospect indefinitely without results, while a government is in a specially favoured position to carry out the work, and it is not handicapped as regards expenditure. For a country situated as is Egypt it is essential, in view of developments, that the search for oil should be carried on without delay and over as wide an area as possible. For that result, Government participation is essential.

In the past there has been criticism of the policy of the Government in limiting prospecting areas, and in refusing to acquiesce in a monopolistic position being attained by any particular group. It is maintained that this policy has been fully justified by experience, and that the areas accorded under licence for prospecting have been ample, but that the Government has throughout maintained the greatest objec-

tion to considerable tracts of unexplored territory being steadily squatted on by companies on the plea that these areas provided hypothetical petroliferous reserves. A certain uneasiness has been aroused among companies already engaged in the search for petroleum in Egypt by the decision of the Government to undertake prospecting itself, the view being taken that the arrival of the Government in the prospecting field limits the already restricted territory available for investigation, and that the Government will retain the best areas for itself. Needless to say, there is no foundation for this view. So far an almost negligible portion of land in Egypt has been thoroughly examined for petroleum, and it scarcely needs demonstration that the Government for many years to come will need all the assistance that mining companies can give it in the task of developing the country's oil resources. In brief, public enterprise here cannot be a competitor of private enterprise.

As a matter of fact, so far from limiting the activities of mining companies, the Government's participation will have the effect of increasing the area for enterprise, for the Government's research organisation will in the course of time explore the whole extent of Egyptian territory in preparation for prospecting whether by the Government or by companies. Naturally, the Government, in its research operations, will mark down certain areas for its own investigation, but it is obvious that the extent of territory that it can undertake thoroughly to prospect in a reasonable time is very limited, while, as a result of its research work, mining companies will have at their disposal increasing information as regards the localities most favourable to the occurrence of petroleum.

The Note points out that Egyptian opinion still displays considerable hostility to and suspicion of foreign companies, chiefly on the grounds that they have often acquired a monopolistic position and have made unduly large profits. It is emphasised that it is of the first importance to the country that Egyptian opinion should realise that the aid of a certain number of first-class mining companies is indispensable if an exhaustive search for petroleum is to be conducted throughout Egyptian territory. Doubtless, it is added, the benefits accruing to the country if a mining company finds petroleum are not so great as if it is found by the Government itself; but the benefits are none the less considerable. Moreover, it is infinitely preferable that petroleum should be found by mining companies operating in Egypt than that its discovery should be long postponed or should not take place at all.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields production for the week ended May 20: Gensah 52 tons, Hurgada 3,349 tons.

* "Notes on the Programme and Policy of the Government with regard to the Investigation and Development of the Petroleum Resources of Egypt." By E. M. Dawson, C.B.E. (Cairo Government Press. P.T. 10.)

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PAID-UP CAPITAL ... £9,003,718 RESERVE ...	9,003,718

(31st DECEMBER, 1920.)

Current, Deposit and other Accounts	£305,380,814
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ENGINEERING TOPICS.

By our Engineering Representative.

Electric Cranes.

Present methods of production, and the growth and development of machine and engine designs and construction have caused the electric crane to become increasingly popular in all foundries and engineering workshops, where large masses of material, heavy castings and similar weighty or bulky bodies have to be moved.

There are a number of electric cranes and appliances of a similar nature in use; but practically all possess their principal features in common, in that they consist broadly of three units—the bridge, trolley and cage, containing the actual winding machinery controls and accommodation for the operator. The bridge is composed of the truck ends, the necessary girders, and the bridge equipment, in addition to which there are the electric winding motors and the footwalks. All of these demand attention from the "safety first" point of view, and the safety features which safeguard the workmen are now consequently a recognised part of the design. Naturally, one of the first steps towards safety is to see that all parts bearing strain are properly proportioned and that no part of either the crane itself or its mechanism is likely to break down. Taking the footwalk first, it is essential that it should be floored with stout boards which cannot be displaced and which are amply strong, and that it should be fitted with stout hand-rails and secondary rails, so spaced that no person could squeeze his body between them. The floor boards should be protected on either side with a stout iron angle piece running all round the footwalk, and at the least 6 in. in height to prevent tools or loose parts being kicked off the walk into the shop below. The question as to the provision of footwalks on either side of the girder can only be determined by reference to the particular crane and its purpose. Generally speaking, double footways are seldom necessary, but where they are, owing to the design of the crane, their provision is imperative.

As regards the trolley, which comprises the trolley sides, gears and gear boxes, the winding drums, and the electric motors, the greatest safety feature is the limit switch, although the totally enclosed gears are of almost equal importance. Mr. N. Prakken has laid it down that the safest type of upper limit switch is that which opens the hoisting motor circuit through a relay. This switch consists of a weight, a cable, a weighted sheave, and a connection box. An insulated arm that closes the relay circuit by the weight attached to the cable is mounted on the weighted sheave shaft. One of the hoisting cables passes through a loop fastened to the suspended weight. Irrespective of the swinging of the load, the load block in its upper travel will carry the suspended weight upwards, allowing the weighted sheave to open the relay circuit. This, in turn, opens the motor circuit and brings the machinery to rest.

The cage contains the controllers, resistance grids, switchboard and foot control and other levers to start and stop the bridge. A new safe location has been found for the grid resistances which are mounted on a sub-floor underneath the floor of the cage. This floor is provided with trap-doors by means of which the grids can be inspected if required, and the switchboard is placed at the back of the cage, in a closed case. The doors of this are large enough to admit a workman, but by virtue of the enclosure it is impossible for him to stumble and fall to the floor beneath. There is no possibility of even the most heedless or careless of men getting into any position where there might be the risk of an accident.

One of the chief troubles in the past has been to find a method by which the crane could not be started whilst under inspection or repair. Accidents have happened in the past, to men engaged on such work, by thoughtless workmen who have switched on the current without stopping to make certain that all was clear. Just as in the past many a man has been scalded to death with live steam through the action of some brainless mate who has opened the connection between a live boiler and one under repair, so has many a man been killed or maimed by someone throwing over the motor controller without thinking. Now many methods, all of them good in their way, have been adopted to prevent any accidents of the kind occurring. One of the best of these is the breaking of the main electrical circuit in three different places by means of sockets, and closing these with plugs so as to provide the necessary continuity. When repair work is necessary it is usual to send a gang of three men on to the crane, one to repair and overhaul each of the three main parts. The three plugs are removed and one given to each man with the instruction that he is to replace it in position as soon as his share of the work is over. In this way the main cable cannot be made "alive" until all the plugs are in place, which would show that each man had finished his task and was out of the way.

Another method is to place the main switch in an iron-clad case and to keep it locked, entrusting the key to some responsible person on whom dependence may be placed. In the case of a temporary breakdown it is the duty of the crane attendant to report the matter to the maintenance man, who has to visit the key keeper to get the current cut off. As soon as the repairs are completed he is informed and it is his duty to see that everything is clear before he unlocks the case and switches on the current. To the writer this method appears to have little to commend it; there seems no adequate reason for a maintenance man to trouble to report a minor breakdown to the key keeper, and in all probability he would attempt to carry out the repair whilst the current was on rather than go to any trouble over finding a man to unlock a main switch case.

Imported Motor Cars.

I am informed that, as the result of representations made by the Automobile Association to His Majesty's Customs, the association is able to announce that the Commissioners of Customs and Excise are now prepared to allow chassis imported with temporary seats, for the purpose of having bodies built in England, to be admitted on the production of triptyques issued by the Automobile Association or on the deposit of duty. A further important concession is that the cars may be used for touring purposes in this country before re-exportation. The triptyque can be discharged or the duty refunded, as the case may be, when the car is re-exported, provided that the period for which the car is left in England does not exceed that of the validity of the triptyque.

A Combination Tool.

A useful tool for dealing with refractory tyre valves of either the Schrader or the standard type has been recently placed on the market, and from what I have seen I should say there are many times in the life of a motorist when the possession of such a tool would save a good deal of annoyance. Everyone has experienced the difficulty of dealing with a bent or knocked-up valve stem, when pliers, however carefully used, either slip or accentuate the damage. The new tool is specially designed to meet any kind of valve trouble, and by its aid the rubber pin with its holder or the centre plunger can be removed, the seating recut or trued-up, the thread recut on any part of the valve, or the nuts run through with a tap to ensure an easy fit.

Impulse Starters.

Several types of impulse starters are now on the market, and as the modern tendency appears to be setting in the direction of inducing car sales by cutting down costs to a minimum, it is possible that on next year's models the electric starter may be found absent, in which case the impulse starter may fitly take its place. In its simplest form such a starter consists of an arrangement of dogs, ratchets, and a clock spring, and the principle on which it works is that under its action, when the engine is stopped, the armature of the magneto is held back from the clearance gap in the polepieces, so that the lines of force are unbroken. The spring mentioned, which is fairly strong, is under tension, and when the starting handle is moved up once or twice and the cylinders have been filled with mixture, the release of a catch or button flicks the armature smartly over the dead point and produces as hot a spark as it is capable of giving out. It is said that even with dirty plugs good results are obtainable.

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One of these little appliances, known as the S.A. impulse starter, has just been placed on the market by Messrs. Brown Bros., and forms what might be called, a standard fitment to any magneto. It is easily fitted, and occupies no more space than the ordinary magneto coupling. The construction is so simple that it appears to me unlikely that any part would get out of order, and once the engine is started the action is that of an ordinary coupling. In order to prevent any misapprehension, it may be emphasised that the appliance is of a mechanical and not of an electrical nature, and that neither accumulators, batteries, nor any other source of electric energy is required with it. Concisely stated, the action of this impulse starter is as follows. The magneto armature is temporarily arrested by the action of pulling the pawl into engagement with the armature plate, which is attached to the armature spindle. The action of arresting the rotation of the armature causes the spiral spring inside the starter to be wound up, and as a result energy is stored in the spring until such time as the cam on the cam-casing disengages the pawl from the armature plate. As soon as this disengagement takes place, the energy stored in the spring imparts a rapid impulse to the magneto armature, which is equal to revolving the armature at about 500 revolutions per minute. This naturally produces an intense spark, which will fire even the weakest mixture. The pawl-operating mechanism is so arranged that immediately the engine revolves under its own power the pawl is thrown out of action. The design of the pawl is such that it is impossible for the impulse starter to come into operation after the engine is running, due to the pawl being arranged in such a manner that it comes under the magnetic influence of the magnets of the magneto, which holds it in position until such time as it is operated by the pull button provided.

Aerial Photography.

Photographs from an aeroplane have presented a new aspect of the science of photography. The results are interesting and novel in effect. I have just received an aerial view showing the great Rolls-Royce works at Derby, which clearly illustrates the vast capacity of this great factory. This factory holds the distinction of having produced the car which has become known as "the best in the world," and the aero engines which hold the wonderful records for reliability, having flown across the Atlantic and from England to Australia, India, and South Africa.

The first aerial flight in the Republic of Honduras has now been effected by a British pilot on a British aeroplane. The machine was a "Bristol Fighter," a type famous in the annals of the air war, and now being extensively converted to use in commercial aviation. The route traversed was between San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa, a distance of some 200 miles, and the time occupied in the flight was 1 hour 37½ minutes, an average speed of 110 m.p.h. It is interesting to record that in the course of the flight an altitude of 18,000 ft. was attained.

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 (new style January 14 to April 13), 1921.

	Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper Naxos emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross receipts, March, 1921	4,611,619.90	5,245,396.00
Do. do. 1920	5,332,765.90	5,989,892.45
Estimated receipts for 3 months (Law of Control)	7,225,000.00	2,675,000.00
Actual receipts for 3 months, 1921	14,444,687.87	13,714,902.65
Actual receipts for 3 months, 1920	14,520,101.70	15,818,315.90
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 3 months	1921 +7,219,687.87	+11,039,902.65
	1920 +7,295,101.70	+13,143,315.90

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 on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

TENDERS INVITED.

[Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.]

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

Egypt.

Uniforms and Boots.—The Secretary-General, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of uniforms and boots for second six months 1921-22. July 5.

Grey Cotton Calico, Brushes, Khaki Cotton Handkerchiefs.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of (1) calico, cotton, grey (50,000 yards), June 9; (2) handkerchiefs, cotton, khaki, June 13; (3) brushes (blacking, brass and polishing), June 13. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1.

Clothing.—The Direction-General of Customs, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of clothing required for the personnel of the Customs Administration for the winter of 1921-1922. June 15.

Oils and Paints.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of oils and paints required for second six months of the financial year 1921-1922. June 27.

Timber.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of timber required for second six months of the financial year 1921-1922. July 12.

The Sudan.

Pumping Machinery.—The Superintending Engineer, Department of Agriculture, Sudan Government, Atbara, invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery, consisting of Diesel or semi-Diesel engines and direct-coupled centrifugal pumps capable of lifting 1,200 litres of water per second against a static head, varying between 2.5 and 8 metres, and the latest date for delivery of machinery at Khartoum North is to be February 28, 1922. June 30.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge. Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be redirected to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

110. An engineer-architect in Bulgaria would like to get in touch with British manufacturers of flour-milling machinery who are prepared to consider the opening-up of business in Bulgaria.

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

112. An Alexandria firm wish to enter into business relations with United Kingdom firms dealing in the following exports:—Beers and stout; salmon, sardines, tinned fruit and vegetables; coconut oil; gunny bags; pepper, rice, flour and soap.

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

114. Importer in Karachi (India), travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers, and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs, dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples, with prices and terms.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Only a small business has been done in currants, and prices are accordingly easier. Sultanias have been in strong request at firm rates. Apart from these commodities there has been little doing in the market.

Sugar.—Home refined is unchanged. West Indian crystallised has come to business at 53s. to 56s., and American granulated is unaltered at 61s. 6d. Czechoslovakian has been done at 32s.

Coffee.—The futures market has been steady. Quotations are:—May, 40s. 6d.; July, 42s.; September, 42s. 6d.; December, 43s. 6d.; and March, 43s. 9d.

Oilseeds.—A firm tone has prevailed. Indian linseed at 18s. 6d. has gained 6d. Rapeseed is steady, with Toria unchanged at 20s. 6d. and bold Ferozepore 6d. up at 19s. 6d. Cottonseed is unsteady, with Bombay at 10s. 9d., an increase of 1s., and the Egyptian black variety 3d. lower at 12s. 6d.

Oils.—Prices have been variable. Linseed oil is 12s. up at 32s. Rape oil is higher, with crude at 54s. and refined at 62s., increases of 2s. in both quotations. Refined cotton oil at 42s., Egyptian crude at 34s., and deodorised at 48s. are unchanged. Turpentine has shed 7s. during the week at 93s.

ABUNDANT DHURRAH CROP.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, May 5.

Kassala Province reports that, as a result of the abnormal flood in the Gash last year, crops are unprecedentedly abundant. The dhurra crop has been exceptionally good, as evidenced by the following official returns (in ardebs) from the various districts, the corresponding figures for 1920 being given in brackets:—Kassala, 150,000 (40,000); Gedaref, 85,000 (40,000); Meftaza, 85,000 (12,670); Butana, 36,000 (4,000); Gallabat, 8,000 (14,000); total, 365,000 ardebs, as compared with 110,670 ardebs for 1920.

It will be remarked that the results from Gallabat are 6,000 ardebs less this year, in spite of the abnormal amount of water available. This very disproportionate yield is attributed to the "Andat," which caused enormous damage in all districts where the rainfall exceeded 50 inches. Certain areas in the Kassala and Gedaref districts were also affected, but not to so great an extent.

ALBANIAN HARVEST OUTLOOK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TIRANA, May 22.

This year's harvest is expected to be very poor, as a result of the drought, and it is feared that there will be a famine. Much of the country, of course, produces practically nothing. Fortunately, the plain of Muzéké has not been greatly affected. The production of olives is almost nil.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 23:—During the week ended May 14 crop prospects fair to good generally, except in Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, where rain is badly wanted. Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomra May Rs. 259, July Rs. 273. Cotton arrivals from September 1 to May 13, 1921, were 2,067,000 bales as compared with 2,664,000 during the corresponding period of the last year. Bombay piecegoods market quiet. Calcutta jute and gunny market quiet but steady; jute mills have extended the four days' short time working agreement up to end of September. The original period was to expire on June 30. Gunny market unaffected. Rangoon paddy arrivals fair by boat but nothing coming in yet by rail; prices firm at Rs. 203 to Rs. 206 per 100 baskets of 46 lb. each. White rice has considerably advanced in prices, 10,000 tons specials having been sold at rates from Rs. 505 to Rs. 525 per 100 baskets of 75 lb. each, for June and July delivery. The imports in February, 1921, were 2,500 lakhs of rupees, which fell to Rs. 2,400 lakhs in March, and again rose to Rs. 2,600 lakhs in April. There has been no change in the exports during these three months, they being steady at Rs. 1,800 lakhs. This was a drop from the January figure of Rs. 1,900 lakhs, but in that month the imports were Rs. 3,100 lakhs. No change in bank rates.

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CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 138s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 197s. cwt.; cheese, 141s. cwt.; chillies, 115s. cwt.; eggs, 15s. 9d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 77s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 116s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (East India bold), 115s. cwt.; coffee (Mocha longberry), 93s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos, superior), 54s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 37s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 130s. cwt.; lard, 68s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 10½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore black), 3½d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 110s. cwt.; raisins (sultana, Smyrna), 140s. cwt.; currants, 77s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 61s. 7½d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 66s. 3d. cwt.; sugar (white Java), 58s. cwt.; sugar (West Indian, crystallised), 54s. 9d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 25s. 3d. cwt.; sago flour, 16s. cwt.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 16s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), £5 17s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 3d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 6½d. lb.; tea (Ceylon, common to good common), 6½d. lb.; tea (Java, common to good common), 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 82s. 4½d. qr.; wheat (English white), 89s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 78s. qr.; barley (malting), 67s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 45s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata), 28s. 6d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 46s. 9d. qr.; flour, 66s. 6d. sack.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 10½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 6d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 8½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £20 5s. 7½d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £45 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 11½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £20 10s. ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 138s. 6d. cwt. Potassium: Bichromate, 9½d. lb.; chlorate, 5½d. lb.; caustic, £47 10s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 9d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £22 10s. ton. Sodium: Crystals, 150s. ton; bicarbonate, £11 ton; bichromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 15s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 10s. ton; prussiate, 7½d. lb.; nitrate, £19 10s. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £32 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 2d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 6½d. oz.; red lead, £39 ton; white dry lead, £42 15s. ton; white ground lead, £53 5s. ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulus), £39 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £74 13s. 9d. ton; copper (electro), £75 15s. ton; gold bars, 102s. 9½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 130s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 160s. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G.), £22 ton; lead (soft foreign), £24 1s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 3½d. unit; molybdenite, 50s. unit; nickel, £190 ton; platinum, 340s. oz.; plum bago, £27 10s. ton; quicksilver, £11 2s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 33½d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 12s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £182 ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 26s. 3d. box; wolfram, 12s. 10½d. unit; zinc sheets, £36 10s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer: (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 8d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb. Cows: (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb. Bulls: (first), 3½d. lb.; (second), 2½d. lb.; casualty hides, 3½d. lb.; kips (first), 5d. lb.; (second), 4d. lb.; (third), 3d. lb. Calcutta Market.—Prices in rupees per 20 lb.—Arsenic hides (cows): Agras, 5.8 to 11; Durbhargas, 4 to 5; Patnas, 3 to 4. Salted cows, 2.8 to 5. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 2.8 to 7. Skins.—Calf, 6 to 8 per 20 lb.; goat, 200 to 240 per 100 pieces. Morocco.—Butcher's sheepskins (wool) are quoted at 120 to 130 frs. per 100 kilograms.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 8.15d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £16 2s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £20 ton; soya beans, £11 17s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £20 12s. 6d. ton; cotton (Egyptian), £12 7s. 6d. ton. Oils: Linseed, £31 10s. ton; soya, £34 ton; cotton (crude), £34 10s. ton; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton; ground nut, £38 15s. ton; palm, £34 5s. ton; rape (crude), £50 10s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 3½d. gallon; turpentine (American), 99s. 6d. cwt.

THE WINE INDUSTRY OF YUGOSLAVIA.

According to a memorandum submitted to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, states the Belgrade journal *Epoha*, the area of vines under cultivation in the Serb, Croat, Slovene Kingdom is as follows (in hectares):—Serbia, 34,322; Croatia and Slavonia, 47,852; Bosnia and Herzegovina, 5,900; Vojvodina, 63,244; Dalmatia, 63,424; Slovenia (a) Carnolia 9,837, (b) Styria 62,252—72,089. Total area, 286,831. The annual production of wine is five to six millions of hectolitres, of which three millions are required for home consumption, leaving a surplus for export of a value of 1 milliard of dinars.

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COTTON AND COTTON GOODS.**SUDAN OUTLOOK.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, May 5.

The estimated cotton crop is given as 45,000 cantars of 100 rottles, which is expected to yield some 665 tons of lint. The types being cultivated are Sakellaridis and Affi-Assili. The lack of communication by rail is sorely felt in these regions, which are practically entirely dependent on camel transport, so that the problem of moving the crop is somewhat difficult. Arrangements have, however, been made to transport 345 tons of lint to Suakin and Atbara by land, and the balance by barges, as soon as the River Atbara rises sufficiently. The cotton is of good quality, and some of the samples are of exceptionally long staple.

The Government have been occupied for some time with the question as to whether a larger area of land can be cultivated in the Gash region, and as a result of recent surveys it is estimated that it is fully possible to place a total area of 200,000 feddans under cultivation in this district. The present scheme of irrigation has been found to be unsatisfactory, and a very large amount of reconstruction is now in progress. It is hoped that the new works will be fully completed by the beginning of June, in ample time for the floods of next season.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

The conditions prevailing throughout the market during the past week can be described as quiet. Although a fair inquiry has been about actual transactions have been few and far between. The continuation of the coal strike is the one big factor that has had to be reckoned with, and it is a sheer impossibility to report any increased activity until the miners are back at work, for with the present shortage of fuel it is not possible for manufacturers to guarantee dates of delivery. The wages question in the cotton trade is not causing any great amount of uneasiness, and although the operatives have definitely refused to accept the proposed reduction on present-day wages of about 6s. in the pound, it is expected that the dispute will be settled without reverting to either a strike or a lockout. With regard to cloth, buyers for Egypt have been about, but only occasional sales have resulted. Reports from the other side have been distinctly better, but no increased business can be reported until the labour situation here is much brighter. Shippers to the Levant and Constantinople have been slow in raising rates, and only isolated transactions of small weight have occurred. Quotations for Egyptian yarns have been well held in price, but the offtake has not been satisfactory. Spinners, however, are not losing any ground. It is reported that a large order has been placed for extra hards for the Near East. Cloth inquiry for India, although it has been fairly extensive, has not resulted in many actual transactions. Sales have taken place chiefly for Madras and Bombay. Recent reports from China have been a little more encouraging, but buyers have been slow in entering into contracts. South America still lags behind. Prices for American counts have remained steady, but the offtake has been patchy.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended May 26:—

The stagnation noticeable in our market during the past few weeks still prevails owing to the many adverse factors, political and industrial, which rule the situation at the moment. It would seem, however, as if we were on the eve of developments at last. The fact is no secret that many spinners have large requirements to meet, and are only waiting for a definite assurance of fuel for their mills before they start buying. We do not, however, look for any boom in prices. The public is tired of booms, and there is plenty of cotton here immediately available, and still more in Egypt, to meet anything but a very extraordinary demand. The political situation in Egypt has latterly become very serious, and it is possible, if this state of things continues for any length of time, and the settlement of the coal dispute coincides with it, we might see a disposition locally to push up the price of the raw material beyond its actual level. If this occurs, we advise holders to take advantage of it and meet the inquiry, as we hold the view that order in Egypt will be speedily restored, and with an uninterrupted flow of cotton to this country prices would be bound to react. The Alexandria General Produce Association reports that the new crop, both in Upper and Lower Egypt, is now doing well after a somewhat late start, the area sown being approximately 25 per cent. less than last year. In Upper Egypt an increased quantity of Zagora cotton has been planted, to the detriment of the pure Ashmouni seed, and in Lower Egypt Sakellaridis has been almost universally sown. The spot inquiry here has been of a very meagre description, and has been almost entirely confined to Sakellaridis about type 39. Prices have remained very steady. Thirty bales of Sudan cotton changed

hands at about 12½d. Manchester reports, considering everything, have been quite encouraging, and rather more c.i.f. business has been transacted. Total sales, 600 bales (four days). Quotations unchanged. Fully good fair Sakellaridis, 16,000.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

Reuter's Agency states that the Egyptian Council of Ministers, in response to requests from practically all the provincial councils, proposes to extend for a further two years the law limiting areas sown with cotton to one-third of each owner's holding. The effect of this law will be to establish triennial rotation, which is advantageous both to the yield and the quality of the cotton.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S CLOTHING TRADE

During the last six months Prostějov, the chief centre of the Czechoslovak clothing industry, has exported goods to the value of over sixty million crowns. The largest consignments were sent to Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland, and Roumania, but Austria, Holland, Turkey, Egypt, and Greece also made considerable purchases. For some time the clothing trade has been very brisk, and large orders have been placed, especially in Slovakia. A "Free Syndicate for the Clothing Industry" has just been established at Prostějov. It is under the management of the Czechoslovak Commercial Bank, and provisionally comprises six large undertakings with an aggregate capital of about 100 million crowns. The chief aims of this syndicate will be to carry on trade with the Balkan countries, and its activities in this direction will be facilitated by the fact that the Czechoslovak Commercial Bank is in close touch with Roumanian and Yugoslav banks.

FRENCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT SOFIA.

On May 19 a French Chamber of Commerce was opened at Sofia in the presence of Count de Cherisey, President of the Inter-Allied Commission, the Bulgarian Minister of Finance, General de Fourtoul, head of the Military Commission, M. Charlot, delegate of the French bondholders, and many French and Bulgarian notabilities. M. Georges Picot, French Minister in Bulgaria, made an eloquent speech, expressing the general satisfaction at the realisation of a cherished plan. "We all," he concluded, "wish peace in this country. Whoever attempts to work against this peace will be strongly opposed by France and the Allies. France and Bulgaria shall work together to pacify the Balkans."

GREEK EXPORT PERMITS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, May 17.

The Ministry of Supplies has authorised the export abroad, excepting to Bulgaria and Albania, without previously obtaining a permit from the Ministry, of all local and European products, with the exception of sheep, cattle, goats, salt, flour, bread, boots and shoes, haddock, petrol, condensed milk, rusks, potatoes, cereals, wool, sugar, pastries, fuel of any description including charcoal, coffee, metals, rice, paraffin oil, matches, poultry, gunpowder, cheese, butter, and eggs. Goods in transit which were originally destined for other countries may be exported without special permits.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25·22½	65·00-68·50
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25·22½	120-125
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·38-1·3½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25·22½	230-240
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·38-1·3½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	505-525
New York	Dollars to £	4·86½	3·85-3·89
Paris	Francs to £	25·22½	46·60-47·30
Prague	Kronen to £	24·02	265-275
Rome	Lire to £	25·22½	74-75
Sofia	Levas to £	25·22½	325
Teheran	Krans to £	50	50½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24·02	1,550-1,650
Warsaw	Marks to £	20·43	3,800-4,000

In some cases quotations are nominal.

Profits in Foreign Exchange Dealings.

An expert writer has compiled for us a series of Articles explaining Foreign Exchange transactions from the English Investors' point of view. The writer explains the Exchange value of the English £, shows an actual transaction resulting in 60 per cent profit, explains the profit possibilities of the French franc, the German mark, the Italian lire, &c. This Article will be sent free of charge by

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SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

DAMAS, March 31.

The abundant rain and the cold during the present month have benefited the cereal crops, and strong hopes are now entertained that there will be a good harvest.

Some arrivals of wheat and barley from Palestine of a quality inferior to the production of our country have had the effect of reducing prices here by 10 per cent.

The commercial situation is much the same as in the previous month. Our merchants hope for the resumption of relations between Syria and Anatolia which will give rise to a movement profitable to Syria.

STAMBOUL, May 14.

No improvement can be recorded, and the depression continues. The sharp fluctuations in the exchange in the last few days have had an unfavourable effect on commerce. In consequence of large consignments of merchandise made to Roumania that market has become congested with goods, and sales have notably diminished.

Prices of manufactures continue to fall. Sales and arrivals are insignificant. The want of supplies is very marked in Anatolia, but the present situation prevents transactions.

Produce.—Sugar.—The Java crop is reported to be very good, and as offerings are numerous prices continue to fall. The quotation for June-July shipment from Java is £25 per ton, but importers hesitate to deal even at that rate. A vessel has arrived from Amsterdam with 1,000 tons of sugar, and another is on its way from Hamburg with 50 wagons. Dutch sugar has fallen to £37-38 per ton. The rate for sugar in Customs is £T31 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—The price continues to fall, and buyers are holding aloof. Rio No. 1 is offered at 50s.

Rice.—The demand is maintained, and prices are sustained. The quotation for prompt shipment from Marseilles is 98-100 francs per 100 kilos, while Rangoon is quoted at £16 per ton.

Oil.—Prices continue to decline. Quotations are Ps.300-310 the bidon, and Ps.20 per oke for oil in barrels.

MAMOURET-UL-AZIZ.

The report for March states:—During the month 1,500 marten skins and 1,200 fox skins were exported, representing a total value of £T2,500. There is nothing else to record in the way of exports.

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ON 'CHANGE.

Dullness and Irregularity.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

There have been no particularly favourable developments during the past week, and as a settlement of the coal strike is not yet in view, it is not surprising that markets should for the most part present a dull and featureless appearance. Here and there bright spots have been in evidence, pointing to the probability of buoyant markets as soon as better conditions obtain.

Gilt-edged stocks are closing on a rather weak note. War Loan Fives are 88½, Victory Bonds 79½, and Consols 46½. The Indian 7 per cent. Loan is now 311-16 premium, while the Sudan 5½ per Cents. are 92½. *En passant*, it may be noted that Ceylon will be issuing a loan here in the near future. Foreign bonds have been fairly firm, in particular Japanese issues.

Industrials have been very irregular, and the firm spots have been few and far between. Oils have been rather dull, but this characteristic is bound to be merely a passing phase, and it is certain that there will be a general and appreciable improvement once business begins to improve. Interest in mining shares is concentrating on the West African group, and there is talk of an approaching boom in these shares, this being inspired presumably by the reported discoveries of gold. Rubbers continue to stagnate, and I shall be surprised if the market does not see much lower values yet before the tide turns. Certainly this is no time to enter this market.

Near Eastern securities have been firm. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are 67½, while Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1889 are 66½, at which there are buyers, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 are 71.

Greek shares are lower on balance. The 5 per cent. 1881 and the 5 per cent. 1884 loans at 37 are each a point down, while the 5 per cent. 1890 is a like amount lower at 38. Fundings are unchanged at 36, and the 4 per cent. 1910 Loan is unaltered at 29. The 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is 1 down at 34, but the 5 per cent. 1914 Loan is unchanged at 24.

Land shares have been featureless. Beheras are unchanged at 8½, while the preference shares are the same at 3. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments at 3½, Egyptian Consolidated Lands at 1s., Egyptian Delta Lands at 6s. 9d., Gharbieh Lands at 1½, and New Egyptians at 22s. 6d. are all unchanged. Union Foncières at 2½ are the same as last week, but Sudan Plantations are ¼ lower at 2½.

Oils have been weak. Anglo-Egyptians have shed 1-16 at 113-16, while Phoenix at 11s. 6d. are 6d. lower. Rumanian Consolidated are unchanged at 13s. 9d., and Steaua Romana are the same at 15s., but Burmahs are ½ lower at 6½.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are 2s., while Alexandria Waters are also unchanged at 6½. Morums are 1s. lower at 10s., and Egyptian Markets at 18s. 6d. are 6d. lower, but Egyptian Salt and Soda are unchanged at 28s.

Banks have been firm. Agricultural 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds at 51 and the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds at 53 are unchanged. Imperial Ottoman Banks are 9, National Bank of Egypt 17½, and Land Bank of Egypt 5.

According to official statistics, Czechoslovak imports for the third quarter of 1920 amounted to 12,408,250 quintals. The exports during the same period amounted to 15,893,493 quintals.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on May 13 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 1-16; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6½; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £27½; Associated Cotton Ginners, £4½; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 52½; Behera Ord., £E7 13-16; Behera Priv., £3 3-16; Bonded Stores, £9 15-16; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 100; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16; Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 102 ex; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt. 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 7,700 ex; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 600; Credit Foncier 1835 Oblig., Fr. 226½; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 229; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 232; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 76; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 101; Egypt and Levant S.S. Ord., 28s.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4½; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10½; Gabbari Lands, £11-32; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5 1-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2½; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £4½; Kom Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £33 9-16; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turc, Fr. 43½; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 225 ex; Nungovich Hotels, £6½; Ramleh Railway, £1 25-32; Salt and Soda, 27s. 6d.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 38V; Tram. d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 50V; Union Foncière d'Egypte, £2 15-16; Egypt Hotels, £2; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 15-16.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

An interim dividend of 10s. per share has been declared on the shares of the Nile Storage Company.

The directors of the Egyptian Markets announce a final dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, for year 1920 on ordinary shares, payable forthwith at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clements Lane, E.C.

The directors of the Oriental Telephone and Electric announce a further dividend of 6 per cent. on ordinary, free of tax, making 10 per cent. for year 1920, plus a bonus of 2 per cent., free of tax.

The British Overseas Bank announce an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year to April 30 last on "A" ordinary shares.

The net profit of the Tata Industrial Bank for the year ended March 31 was Rs.22,97,481, plus Rs.3,08,324 brought in. The directors have transferred to reserve Rs.10,00,000, provision for income-tax and super-tax Rs.3,74,156, and recommend a final dividend of 10 annas per share, free of tax, carrying forward Rs.2,20,004.

The Franco-Romanian Petroleum announce a dividend of 20 per cent., making 100 lei per share. Shareholders have the option of taking up dividend in cash or in new shares in proportion of one new share for five old ones.

The profit of the Anglo-American Nile and Tourist Company for the year to March 31, after providing for depreciation and maintenance, was £E5,786,399 mil., less dividend of 4½ per cent., leaving £E29,297, plus amount brought forward, £E8,571,822, making £E8,601,119. Supplementary dividend of 2 per cent. absorbs £E2,558,712; forward, £E6,042,407.

Astra Romana.—At the general meeting at Bucharest on June 6 an increase of the capital from 135 to 270 million lei will be proposed.

The Imperial Bank of Persia announces an interim dividend for the half-year ended March 20 at 3s. per share, free of tax, payable June 15.

The P. and O. Banking Corporation recommends dividend of 3½ per cent., less tax, for the nine months to March 31, equal to 5 per cent. per annum.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended May 21 amounted to £11,521.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended April 30 amounted to £E10,343; total for year £E29,317. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E11,895 and £E34,823.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the shareholders of the British Cotton-growing Association will be held at the offices of the Association, 333-350, Royal Exchange, Manchester, on Tuesday, June 7, at 3.15 p.m.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

PIRÆUS CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, May 19.

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during April (O.S.) amounted to 5,095,764.10 drachmæ in paper and 207,010.65 drachmæ in gold. Compared with the receipts during the corresponding period last year, there is a decrease this year of 1,579,674.80 drachmæ in paper and 269,486.50 drachmæ in gold.

SHIPPING AT THE PIRÆUS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, May 19.

There were 502 arrivals of various steamers at the Piræus during April (O.S.) of the following nationalities:—Greek, 416; Italian, 35; British, 21; Roumanian, 6; American, 4; French, 3; Russian, 3; Swedish, 2; Egyptian, 2; Inter-Allied, 2; Dutch, 2; German, 2; Norwegian, 1; Spanish, 1; Danish, 1; Belgian, 1. The number of sailing vessels which entered the port during the month was 484, and of these two were Italian and one Inter-Allied.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia, for Bombay [taking cargo for Karachi and coast ports via Bombay] (Liverpool, June 13).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masirah, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 15); s.s. Imani, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 18).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 8).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan MacTavish, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 9); s.s. Clan Robertson, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, June 9).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Tyria, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool and Manchester, June 1; Glasgow, June 6; Swansea, June 8).

Byron Steamship Line.—A steamer will sail from Liverpool on June 10 and June 24 for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Andalusian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, June 8); s.s. Belgravian, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 11); s.s. Gerano, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Liverpool, June 18).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Newcastle, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 17); s.s. City of Alexandria, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, June 25).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of Baroda, for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, June 3).

Ellerman's "Westcott and Laurance" Line.—Regular sailings fortnightly to the Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenamoy, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 2); s.s. Glenade, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 16); s.s. Glentara, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 30).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Electrician, for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 2); s.s. Professor, for Port Said, Port Sudan, Aden, Mombasa, etc. (Glasgow, June 2; Birkenhead, June 9); s.s. Gladiator, for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 18).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Arracan, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 1); s.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon (London, June 15).

Holt Line.—S.s. Teiresias, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, June 3); s.s. Cyclops, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, June 10); s.s. Keemun for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, June 10); s.s. Eumæus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 17); s.s. Calchas, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 17).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Portinglis, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, June 11); a steamer will sail from Liverpool on July 9 for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila.

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, early June); s.s. Maindy Transport, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, end of June).

Moss Line.—S.s. Siptah, for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 18).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Asturian, for Malta and Alexandria [taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Haifa, Mersina, Jaffa, Port Said, and Cyprus] (Liverpool, June 18); s.s. Bosnian, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 25).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Novara, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London, June 3); s.s. *Karmala, for Bombay (London, June 3); s.s. *China, for Bombay (London, June 10); s.s. Nellore, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London June 17). *Taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports.

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. †Hatimura, for Bombay, Karachi, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 4); s.s. †Mashobra, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 24); s.s. *Merkara, for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 1); s.s. †Mandala, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 8). *Taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar Coast ports; †taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden; ‡taking cargo for Persian Gulf, Malabar Coast ports, Port Said, Suez, and Aden, also calling at Port Sudan.

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria [taking cargo for Beyrout, Jaffa, Haifa, Tripoli (Syria), Lattakia, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus ports] (Manchester, June 3).

NEW STEAMSHIP LINE.

Messrs. Stephandis, Denas and Co., of 17, State Street, New York City, general agents of the American-Black Sea Line, have inaugurated a new service of steamers between New York, the Piræus, and Constantinople.

Motor-omnibus services in Algeria now operate over 5,840 miles. The Alexandria Autumn Horticultural Show is to be held on November 5 and 6.

An Italian company is inaugurating an aerial passenger and mail service between Brindisi, Corfu, Crete, Derna, and Alexandria.

Arrangements have been made by the Italian State Railways for through bookings from London to Bombay by the Trieste Lloyd Line.

It is reported that a Dutch-German company will shortly organise an aerial service between Constantinople and Berlin by way of Sofia and Belgrade.

Four hundred and twenty-one thousand four hundred and forty-seven tons of coal were imported into Alexandria from January 1 to April 30 last, of which 54,126 tons were Welsh, 12,918 tons Scotch, and 354,403 tons other qualities. For the corresponding period of last year 39,260 tons were imported.

The Simplon-Orient Express now comprises through carriages daily between Calais, Paris, and Constantinople, and Paris and Bucharest; between Paris and Athens on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; from Athens on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays; and daily between Ostend and Constantinople via Milan.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 526.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Boulogne Meeting.

If as a result of its meeting at Boulogne next week the Supreme Council comes to a right decision in regard to the Turkish question, the merit will belong to France. But we should prefer to see the right thing done from a proper appreciation of the problem rather than from motives of self-interest. As far as the French press allows us to judge, the reason actuating the French Government in standing by the Turkish Nationalists and in refusing the resources of the Allies to be placed at the disposal of the Greeks is that thereby French interests will be promoted better than by any other policy. If there is foundation for the report that the British Government is anxious to help the Greeks to try further conclusions with the Turks, it must be admitted that such a course is in the interests of neither Great Britain nor Greece, and does not hold out the prospect of establishing peace on any footing, permanent or otherwise, in the Near East. It is difficult, therefore, to understand how such a proposal could be made, and we shall hope to find that there is no truth in the statement that it is to be formally submitted to the Supreme Council.

Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

Any step that makes for good relations between the various Balkan States is to be welcomed, as their future, individually and collectively, depends on their pulling together and by some form of co-operation, political and economic, advancing abreast on the road to material prosperity. It is, therefore, good news that a member of the Bulgarian Cabinet, M. Dimitroff, Minister of the Interior, and M. Stambolisky's right-hand man, has met M. Pashitch, the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, in Belgrade, and has expressed himself satisfied with the exchange of views. Diplomacy in the Balkans does not invariably feed upon honeyed words, and, although M. Pashitch has not in the past adopted towards the Bulgarians the uncompromising attitude of his military party, he would have belied his reputation if he had not told M. Dimitroff just what Serbia thought of her neighbour. There is some reason to suppose that the verbal assurances of Bulgaria's intentions and the proofs of the correctness of her attitude given by M. Dimitroff appealed to M. Pashitch, just as similar statements and ocular evidence have satisfied the Great Powers that Bulgaria is fulfilling her undertakings.

A Hopeful Augury.

Hitherto the only danger spot in the Balkans since the signature of the Treaty of Neuilly has been Serbian mistrust of Bulgaria, which has been so carefully nourished by false reports that for a few days there was the risk that the Serbians would attempt an armed invasion of Bulgaria to exact "sanctions" on lines applicable to a recalcitrant and aggressive Germany. Belgrade apparently overlooked how these fits of nerves on the part of a people fourteen million strong dealing with a neighbour one-third as numerous would be regarded in Europe, and for the saner views that now prevail the Yugoslav State may be thankful to the lead given them by its Western Allies, and to the steady influence of Croats and Slovenes, who do not countenance the extreme attitude of the Serbs. It is to the credit of the Yugoslav Government that a formal *démenti* has now been given to some of the cruder Serbian reports about Bulgaria's hostile acts and intrigues. This, with the meeting between M. Pashitch and M. Dimitroff will, it is to be hoped, mark the opening of an era of better relations between the two countries. We do not overlook the past causes for bitterness—by no means acting on one side only—and do not advocate any attempt to force the pace in regard to the re-establishment of the sense of comradeship which existed before 1885, the year of the Battle of Slivnitza; but it is desirable that there should be a complete absence of pinpricks and "nerves" on both sides, in order that the strong pull of common interests and economic interrelation may have free scope in the joint interests of both countries.

The Little Entente.

The visit of M. Take Jonescu, Roumanian Foreign Minister, to Belgrade is expected to round off the understanding known as the Little Entente by a formal alliance between Roumania and Yugoslavia. When the question was first mooted, the Roumanian Government could not see its way to entering into an agreement as hard-and-fast as that which bound Czecho-Slovakia and Yugoslavia, and M. Take Jonescu himself favoured a more comprehensive *entente* which would include Poland and Greece. The more practical course to adopt was to form the nucleus first and allow it to expand when circumstances were favourable. This course would now seem to have commended itself to Bucharest, and if the Yugoslav Government is able to accept the Roumanian proposals, the Little Entente, in the form of a triangular agreement between Czecho-Slovakia, Roumania, and Yugoslavia, will have become a force

to be reckoned with in Central and South-Eastern Europe. We trust, and believe, that its activities will be wholly in the cause of peace.

A Lull in Egypt.

There has been no rioting either in Cairo or in Alexandria since May 23, the date on which the British military authorities were called on to restore order in the latter city. Zaghloul Pasha's supporters would seem to be busy in the provinces, whence deputations and telegrams continue to arrive in support of him and his pretensions; but it looks as if the storm has blown over, for the time being, at any rate. It would be too much to hope that the extremists are learning wisdom, but it may be that they are acquiring caution; and if the Government maintains a firm attitude, and its supporters show a little more courage in making their views public, the situation will soon become nearly normal again. Unfortunately, while "demonstrations" of the marching-mob type have not been in evidence for the past fortnight, another weapon in the extremists' armoury has been refurbished up and given another trial; for, on June 1, in Cairo, an attempt was made upon the life of Bedr ed-Din Bey, of the Egyptian Public Security Department. The would-be assassins failed to achieve their purpose, but it is unsatisfactory to have to record that at the time of writing no arrest has been made in connection with the outrage. Bedr ed-Din Bey took an active part in breaking up and bringing to trial the so-called "Vengeance Gang," so that the reason for selecting him for the attempt is not far to seek.

Zia ed-Din's Successor.

The suddenness with which Ministers may rise and fall at the caprice of their royal masters has long been a favourite theme of Oriental stories; and the fate of Zia ed-Din and his successor suggests that it may hold its own for some time yet with the professional storytellers of the bazaars and coffee-shops. True, those entertaining gentlemen may, if they wish to keep up to date, have to introduce a new character—the Power-behind-the-Throne—but Prime Ministers and Grand Viziers appear to be no more secure in office than they were in the dim and distant pre-democratic days. A few short weeks ago Seyyid Zia ed-Din became Prime Minister of Persia, at the bidding (we were told) of the Shah (who was prompted by Colonel Riza Khan), and all good Persians, having agreed that the Anglo-Persian Agreement must go, settled down to develop, so to say, on the most approved democratic lines. To-day Zia ed-Din is in Mesopotamia, and possibly not at all sorry to have got safely across the Persian frontier; and his successor in office is Kayam es-Sultaneh, an ex-Governor of Khorassan, who was lately cast into prison, with a great many other officials, big and small, on charges of peculation. The Teheran correspondent of *The Times*, in forwarding the news, remarks that the situation is somewhat anomalous, as the new Prime Minister's official accounts are "still being examined in Meshed, the capital of his former satrapy." The comment is almost unchallengeable.

Persia and Gt. Britain.

These sudden changes of Minister can hardly tend to the benefit of Persia, but, after all, they concern chiefly the Shah and his subjects; and Great Britain is evidently determined to follow a policy of not interfering in any way in the country's internal affairs. But in the present state of the Orient we cannot afford to play into the hands of our opponents, the Bolsheviks, at any point; and it is to be hoped that those responsible for our policy in that part of the world will keep a close watch not only on the main developments, but also on the personal details, which count for so much in Oriental countries. The Teheran correspondent quoted above reports that Mushaver el-Mamalik will probably become Persian Foreign Minister, and adds that it was largely due to his having imbibed Moscow with the belief that Seyyid Zia ed-Din was a pronounced Anglophil that the latter fell from power. The correspondent goes on to show that the Mushaver el-Mamalik's undoubtedly unfriendly feeling towards this country must be attributed to the lack of consideration

shown him by British statesmen and diplomatists in 1919, when he was in Paris for the purpose of submitting Persia's case to the Supreme Council. Into the merits or demerits of that case there is no need to go; but it is obvious that no harm could have been done by treating Mushaver el-Mulk with ordinary courtesy; and if *The Times* account is correct, it is equally obvious that he was not so treated. It seems to have been much the same story as that of Rushdi Pasha's request to be received in London, the refusal of which did so much to bring about the trouble in Egypt; and it may cost us very dear. For Mushaver el-Mamalik, who has been to Moscow since then as special envoy, has learned to look to Moscow for help and guidance, and is likely to do so in the future also.

Sedition in India.

The announcement made last week by the Government of India furnished on the whole a satisfactory reply to those critics who have been asking whether the statesmanlike sentiments uttered by Lord Reading at Simla were to be translated into action, or whether inflammatory talk was to be overlooked and punishment reserved for its dupes. The explanation of the apparent inactivity is that the Government had actually determined to prosecute Mahomed Ali and Shaugat Ali, the leaders on the Moslem side of non-co-operation, but that action was suspended in view of a remarkable statement which those gentlemen issued to the Press. The gist of the statement is that they never intended to incite anyone to violence, but, having been convinced by their friends that some of their speeches might be read in that sense, they apologise for what they may have said, and undertake to avoid similar expressions in future. The realisation of the effect of their speeches, which were widely reported in India, has taken some time, but the non-co-operation movement as a whole has not been characterised by that rapidity of intellectual perception which is so common in most Indian circles, and perhaps we may hope that the practice of clear thinking, now that it has started, may be cultivated with vigour and success.

The Indian Frontier.

If it cannot be said that the speakers in the House of Lords threw much fresh light on the question of the Indian frontier, the debate of last week served at least to emphasise the fundamental elements of the situation. For tranquillity on the frontier we require cordial relations between a tranquil India and a tranquil Afghanistan, and it cannot be said that even one out of these three conditions is in existence at the present moment. The political unrest in India is quite sufficient to set the tribes thinking that the good old days have returned. Afghanistan will not be tranquil until the menace of the new Russia is finally removed; and the negotiations at Kabul still drag their slow length along. The duration of these adverse conditions cannot be predicted and so long as they continue there is nothing for it but to maintain a vigilant watch, and, as opportunity serves, to extend and strengthen the communications with our outlying posts. A time may perhaps come when the tribes shall decide for modern civilisation, but at present they seem to appreciate only its most lethal weapons, and in that respect India is bound to retain the lead, however costly it may be.

Burma.

The members of the Standing Joint Committee of Parliament have dealt with the question of Burma very much on the lines we recently suggested. The provision of a constitution has become an urgent matter now that the Indian provinces are so handsomely equipped, and the Committee press for immediate legislation to establish the principle of dyarchy, leaving the division of subjects and the rules for the franchise to be worked out after further inquiries on the spot. On the other hand, they clearly see no reason for hastening the decision of the question whether Burma shall continue to form part of the Indian Empire, and they have expressed no opinion on the matter beyond the suggestion that dyarchy will introduce no fresh obstacles, and may conceivably facilitate ultimate separation, if that course

should prove to be desirable. We trust the Government will act on the lines laid down by the Committee, and so give Burma a chance of saying what she wants; when she has spoken, it will be time enough to settle the question of separation, in regard to which her wishes are really the most important factor.

Mount Everest.

Even at this distance from the scene of operations, imaginations must be stirred by the opening of the campaign for the scientific conquest of Mount Everest, the highest peak of the mountain mass between Nepal and Tibet. The undertaking is amply justified by the hope of adding to the world's stock of knowledge, for the maps of that part of the country are somewhat vague, and we should not ourselves care to express a confident opinion on the question where Nepal ends and Tibet begins; but the interest for ordinary people lies chiefly in the mere physical achievement, the hope of establishing a new and final "record" in terrestrial altitude. If that hope is realised, possibly this year but more probably in 1922, it will be the result of teamwork of a very high order. Members of the Alpine Club and Tibetan coolies, British sappers and Chinese mules, all have their parts to play; the organisation appears to be perfect, and what is wanted now is just that turn of fortune which can be deserved but cannot always be commanded.

Indian Honours.

So far as India is concerned, the Birthday Honours List may be described as conventional. A reasonable number of High Court judges receive well-earned knight-hoods; the higher ranks of the Indian Orders are filled chiefly by Members of Council, Princes, or political notabilities, and the lower by a selection, on the whole satisfactory, of secretaries, heads of departments, and officials serving in various provinces and states. In the unofficial world, the outstanding names are Sir Percy Newson, the Governor of the Imperial Bank of India, who becomes a baronet, and Sir Arthur Pickford, of Calcutta, whose knighthood has been earned by a large amount of public work. The military list of the Order of the Bath contains a rather larger proportion than usual of officers who are serving, or have recently served, in India; and, taking the *Gazette* as a whole, it may perhaps be said that the claims of public service have been adequately but not extravagantly recognised.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

More Industrial Trouble.

There was a time when England was the workshop of the world. We are now rapidly approximating to a stage in which we propose to live by refusing to take in each other's washing. Coal is followed by cotton, and there are rumours of engineering troubles to come. The only people who are really busy are the reporters, who describe the appearance of industrial towns without any industry, and the professional sportsmen, who play to vast crowds who are out of work, either voluntarily or compulsorily. The train service improves, thanks to oil, but fewer people than ever are travelling, and the deficit on the railways, which will have to be met by the Government, steadily increases.

Political economy has been banished to Saturn for the time being and we read every day in every leading article that we are ruined. Then one turns to the financial pages, and discovers that new issues are coming out every morning, and are reasonably well subscribed—which looks as though the captains of industry and the investor did not quite believe these apocalyptic imaginings.

The main trouble in most trades concerns the cuts in wages. Here I cannot think that Labour is very wisely led. When factories are running at a loss, it is clear that the employer does not mind a lock-out or a strike very much; he loses very little by closing down. In bad times the policy for Labour is to make the best terms it can consistently with keeping its job, but, above all, to keep its job; it is in good times that it can afford

to risk its job, because higher wages merely come out of the consumer's pocket. One of the mistakes Labour has made is in not recognising that it is the consumer who has really gone on strike.

It must be admitted that those who hoped for a higher ethical standard in industry have been disappointed. For two years after the war Labour delivered ultimatums to the employers; now the employer is delivering ultimatums to the employees. A little more goodwill on both sides would have avoided these things; in the trades where the goodwill has been shown—and they are many—matters are going on well. Naturally one does not hear very much about them, because the news element is lacking.

The Coal Subsidy.

The root of the coal trouble remains the same as before; the miners are still hankering after a larger subsidy. But there was a very unpleasant episode last week, when it was reported that the Government had threatened compulsory arbitration to settle the dispute. The public would prefer voluntary to compulsory arbitration, but if the two parties show no inclination to come to terms, there would not necessarily be any objection to a touch of compulsion to bring them to their senses.

As it happens, however, the Government made no such threat, and those who spread the report must have known that it was untrue—unless one accepts the only alternative theory, that they were incompetent to understand the English language. However, the report stiffened the resistance of the miners, as it was presumably intended to do, and the hopes of settlement diminished. It is to be assumed that the Miners' Federation understand their own business better than the outsider, but the prolongation of the dispute now that it is clear that better terms cannot be obtained from either Government or owners strikes one as very doubtful policy. The miners must be in a desperate financial position, and the funds of the Union are apparently exhausted. The owners have lost nothing, as there was no prospect of profit for them for some months; the real loss has fallen on the community, and its actual extent will only be measurable when next year's Budget is introduced. It will be interesting to see who pays the taxes in 1922.

Oil Fuel.

The new oil-driven locomotives are working well. Here and there the driver or stoker does not quite understand the new fuel, and feeds the furnace with too much; as oil requires oxygen to make it burn, the result is that it gives off clouds of smoke. One day last week I happened to be on an express train on the Great Eastern Railway where this happened; the slower we went the more smoke we raised, until at last we produced the finest smoke-screen I have ever seen in war or peace;



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even a barrister fighting a losing case in the law court, could hardly have raised so stupendous a fog. But coming back to town a day or two later the stoker had got used to the job; the smoke had vanished, and only the smell remained, as a novel attraction of the breakfast-car.

Parliamentary Expenses.

Members of Parliament are not to have their travelling expenses paid after all. After a rather acrimonious debate, in which Labour and Independent Liberal fought each other like cat and dog—a joy to the unregenerate Tories who saw the “progressive” parties biting off each other’s tails—the railway vouchers were rejected; and the exemption from income tax was also negatived. But this was dropped for a reason; members are to be allowed to charge their expenses against their salaries, and it does not require much prescience to see that they will contrive to make their expenses total the full £400 a year. I doubt if the means justifies the end, and it certainly involves the income-tax collectors in endless trouble, for the ordinary man is not allowed to deduct his expenses, and he will argue that if the Inland Revenue can turn a blind eye to the politician’s bills, it should in equity do the same to the man who pays the politician.

Quite clearly the law as to expenses will have to be altered. Nobody is allowed to charge travelling expenses except Members of Parliament, but schoolmasters are, I believe, allowed to charge books purchased for the purpose of their studies as necessary expenses. On the other hand, journalists are not, either because they get review copies or because the Government thinks they know too much already. A clergyman told me that he deducted his bookseller’s bill from his income tax, and the assessor said he would allow it if the parson could prove they were theological works necessary for edification in the pulpit; but, as the wily tax-collector knew full well, they were works on fly-fishing—and even the plea that parsons were fishers of men did not melt his heart.

The Derby.

There were no trains to Epsom this year. The crowd, therefore, went by road, by motor, bicycle, trap, or on foot. The police were rather afraid of blocks in the traffic, particularly at Ewell, where the street is narrow, but an airship flew overhead and reported the congestion to the officers below by wireless telephone. The day was perfect, the great race was exciting—won by a neck—and the innovation of the King going down, like everyone else, by road, was immensely popular. It will probably become a regular feature of the Epsom week.

The Cricket Disaster.

England was soundly and solidly beaten in the first Test match, by ten wickets, and by all reports our men made so wretched a show that they were lucky to get off as lightly even as that. We were outclassed in batting, bowling and fielding; our men looked like losing from the start, and to judge by the shaking of heads in the pavilion we shall never win another game. There can be no doubt that we have struck a really bad patch, but half the trouble is that our men are so impressed with the strength of the Australians that they do themselves less than justice. It might almost be better to pick an eleven that had never met the Australians at all—a team composed largely of University men, who are not at all overwhelmed with the prestige of their opponents. Such an eleven could hardly do worse than our picked men, and it might do better.

Australians v. Champion County.

Nothing daunted by the fact that the Armstronglians had beaten Surrey, the M.C.C., Cambridge University, and the first English Test team, and drawn with Yorkshire, I regarded the “Lord’s” fixture on Saturday, June 4, 6, and 7 as the equivalent of a Test Match, and saw some astonishing cricket. The match was over with an hour to spare on the Monday, and thirty-two wickets had then fallen for 404, less 30 extras. Middlesex gave a sorry batting exhibition, scoring 111 and 90 in their two innings, and the Armstronglians won comfortably, without any batting “to write home about,” by eight wickets. Oddly enough, the losing side produced the two highest individual scores of the match—Hearne 45 and Hendren 35. The question of the cricket-day

in England is whether the Armstronglians’ bowling is to prove invincible this tour. Up to date, Armstrong, by himself, appears sufficient to unhinge the nerves of any eight or nine batsmen in any Test or county side. His record for this match was 17 overs, 9 maidens, 33 runs, 8 wickets, and he was so childlike and bland over it all that he might have been a Chinaman instead of the greatest cricket-captain since “W. G.” It is well to mention that our visitors’ victory was received without the trace of a grumble, and with a vast amount of self-depreciatory chaff. “I’ll larn ye to be a toad.”

The Birthday Honours.

Some rude person recently compared the honours list to a tar-spraying machine on the public highway, it is becoming so difficult to escape it; this appears to apply more particularly to the owners of Coalition newspapers in the provinces, among whom a perfect epidemic of titles breaks out periodically. The latest list is no exception to the rule, but, apart from these victims to public duty, there are no noteworthy names in the new nobility, although Lords Curzon and Birkenhead each take a step upward in the peerage. The stage, however, laments that there are no actors in the Birthday Honours; it had almost come to expect one new knight of the footlights a year.

Church Reunion.

Projects for the reunion of the Churches are still under discussion. The various branches of Wesleyan Methodists are debating a return to uniformity; and last week a meeting was held in Scotland to debate the reunion of the different Scottish Churches, whose fissiparous tendencies were very marked in the nineteenth century. This particular conference was attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who discussed at some length in a very able speech the possibility of co-operation between the English and Scotch churches. His advice amounted to this: Go forward, but go slow. There are a good many prejudices and vested interests to be overcome, and this is a matter in which persuasion offers the only possibility of success.

Liberal Disunion.

The politicians might reasonably take a leaf out of the ecclesiastical book, for in the Liberal Party the breach between Independents and Coalitionists gets steadily worse. The National Liberal Club is purging itself of most of its Coalitionists, and matters have now come to such a pitch in that respectable institution that if a member’s second cousin ever spoke to a Coalitionist the whole family is suspect; few indeed in a once-democratic institution are considered as *sans reproche* by the autocratic committee. But at the Reform the sheep and the goats sleep happily side by side.

The policy of exclusion and ostracism may be politically wise, although one doubts it; these drastic remedies are rather apt to weaken the system. But from the financial point of view they must be disastrous. Most of the clubs are in debt, some have great difficulty in carrying on, and new members are the rarest of rare birds. The fact is that entrance fees and subscriptions have been put up too high; the annual whip-round to make up the inevitable deficit has become a nuisance; the old members are dying off; and the young men about town are looking out for jobs. Apart from that, the high cost of wines and smokes has reduced the coffee-room takings and even the card-room revenue has fallen off.

OCELLUS.

The following is an extract from *The Times*:—

Distinctive stamps are again to be supplied for use by the British post offices in Turkey, under civil administration, presumably in the form of the present home series overprinted or surcharged as before. The British Post Office at Constantinople was originally established during the Crimean War, but owing to the inefficiency of the Turkish postal service was continued for the convenience of British residents in the Ottoman capital. Since the Armistice a number of the British post offices in Turkey have been reopened under military control, but until now special stamps have not been provided. The four known copies of the rarest British postage stamp, the 10d. (Emblems watermark) of 1867, a copy of which sold at auction for £260 recently, was issued from the British Post Office at Constantinople, whence was dispatched the whole of the small supply printed in error on the obsolete Emblems watermarked paper instead of the normal Spray of Rose. All show the cancellation “C” in a barred circle.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, May 18.

By-Elections.

The Parliamentary vacation, which has lasted for a whole month, has come to its end. Parliament reopened on the 16th inst. The first two sittings were mostly taken up with the usual preliminaries. Many of the members residing in the province have not yet returned to the capital. It must be acknowledged that the politicians have not been idle during this vacation; they have been very busily engaged in party propaganda, in view of the two by-elections which have taken place during this time. The first one—for a seat in the Lower Chamber—which took place last week at Orevitza, Banat, was more or less of local importance. The contest, although very keen, was only between the Government candidate and one of the National Transylvanian party. The result was 2,800 votes for the former, who was elected, to 2,300 for the latter.

Far more important was the by-election for a seat in the Senate, which took place on the 15th inst. at Constantza. There were four candidates, amongst whom we must specially mention M. Al. Marghiloman, the chief of the Progressist Conservatives, and M. Const. Bratiano, the brother of M. I. Bratiano, chief of the Liberals. The two other candidates, although of only recent political standing, have been fully supported by their friends. Needless to say, great activity has been displayed by all parties during the last few weeks. The result of the ballot was:—

	Votes.
M. C. Bratiano (Liberal)	4,000
M. Al. Marghiloman (Progressist)	3,700
M. Sachetti (Federationist)	3,000
M. Gherghel (Government Party)	1,800

Communism.

A fraction of the Socialist party formed a Communist group. They held a congress, in which they passed a resolution affirming their unconditional affiliation to the Third International of Moscow. The Government considered this declaration to be seditious and against the security of the State, and ordered that all those who signed it—73 in all, including Members of Parliament—should be arrested. There were among them also some Transylvanian Magyars, on whom were found Hungarian Irredentist manifestoes. This movement is supposed to be financially supported by Budapest and Moscow, for obvious reasons.

In consequence of the political treaty concluded between Roumania and Czecho-Slovakia, the negotiations concerning the definite fixation of the frontier in Marmoreash have been resumed at Prague. The Minister for Foreign Affairs now announces that Roumania has obtained a rectification of the frontier, gaining over 150 square kilom., and a large number of villages, and over 7,000 inhabitants.

A Turf Scandal.

Last Sunday, when the Roumanian Derby was run, the turf was the scene of a scandal. The two horses which were the favourites of the public, being heavily

backed, were easily defeated, remaining at a great distance behind the others. The public, suspecting foul play, protested violently, causing a great tumult. An examination made at once by a veterinary surgeon disclosed the fact that the two horses had been given a very large quantity of very cold water just before being led out to the race, which, of course, made them unfit for the contest. The police have so far arrested one trainer and one jockey.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, May 24.

The Bomb Outrage.

In my previous letter I mentioned a procession of school-children organised each year on the Fête of SS. Cyril and Methodius. As the children were passing to-day along the Boulevard Dondoukoff a small bomb was thrown by someone whose identity has until now remained a mystery. As a result of this brutal outrage eleven children were taken to hospital with bad wounds, and another twenty adults and children were slightly hurt. The incident naturally caused a sensation, and was attributed at once to the Communists, who a few days previously had announced their intention to use force. As a consequence of the affair the crowd went in a body to the local Communist Club and gutted the whole premises.

SOFIA, May 31.

Up to the time of writing the author of the recent bomb outrage has not been caught, and the affair promises to remain one of the many Balkan mysteries. Two of the victims have died as a result of the wounds inflicted on them, and public feeling throughout the country has been greatly aroused over the senselessness of the crime. Many theories have been advanced regarding the identity of the criminal, who is supposed in turn to be a Russian Communist, an ordinary Anarchist, a dismissed Bulgarian school teacher, and so on, while it is even said that the Government itself was responsible for the outrage, with the object of discrediting the Communists in the minds of the general public. There is nothing to prove the truth of the above theories, but one cannot help imagining that even the Communist Party would not be so ill-advised as to approve an act which had as its sole aim the deaths of innocent children and spectators.

It is, however, certain that the Communists have become very unpopular throughout the country, and a great many of their leaders have been thrown into prison. To-day, May 31, is the fête of the poet Boteff, generally styled as the "Revolutionary Poet," but no parallel incidents have marred the holiday.

Relations with Yugoslavia.

The feeling between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia is growing gradually better, and although the interviews between M. Pashitch and M. Dimitroff have not yet taken place, owing to the illness of the former, it is to be hoped that it will eventually help to smooth out matters. One is awaiting with a certain interest the result of the struggle in Asia Minor between the Nationalists and the Greeks, and if it should go unfavourably to the latter, it is to be feared that in the autumn a recrudescence of *komitaji* activity will take place in Thrace, and this activity will be following on Serbian relations with Greece over the much vexed question of Salonika. As it is, there are reports of great activity on the part of the Turks in Eastern Thrace, and this may well lead into a more general movement later on.

There is no reason why Yugoslavia and Bulgaria should remain on bad terms for long; it is only the recent war that has made the situation strained. They have no economic quarrels, and, as nationals, being both Slavs, are closely allied. A *rapprochement* is very greatly to be desired.

The Customs House.

Having heard a great deal about the system in vogue at the Sofia Customs, and wishing to see personally if all that had been told me was true, I went down one morning last week in order to claim a small box which had arrived from England. I knew one of the Controllers personally, and he gave me all possible facilities, so that I might speedily adjust the affair. Thus, at about 11 o'clock, I began my rounds, and until 12.15 was busily engaged in filling up various forms and satisfying officials that I really

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was the person whose name was on the invoice; at this period it was necessary to adjourn for lunch, as the *douane* closes from 12 to 2.

Returning shortly after 2 o'clock, I spent 2½ hours visiting innumerable offices, answering innumerable questions, and watching clerks going through abstruse calculations. A good deal of this work was mere checking, and, finally, at about a quarter to five, when I sat in my phaeton with the small box beside me, I wondered if it had all been worth while, and whether I would not have been better to go without the contents of the box. I want, however, to make it quite clear that all the officials I came in touch with were very polite, and there was no attempt at obstruction; but it is the system, which is approximately the same that was in use in Russia before the war, that is at fault. For example, as far as could be seen, no use was made of copying paper, and thus right away the work is doubled or even trebled, and one shudders to think what the cumbersome machinery of the Customs must cost Bulgaria each year. One has read in the papers lately that an import duty is shortly to be imposed on certain goods entering Great Britain, and one can only hope that for the peace of mind of the average citizen the system at home will be as simple as is consistent with accuracy.

General.

M. Karadjoff, Director of the Consortium, has resigned, and has been replaced by M. Georghieff, also a Deputy.

Owing to lack of money, the Government have decided to postpone the issue of new banknotes.

For a long time the lives of pedestrians in Sofia have been considerably endangered by the great speed that automobiles indulged in, but a somewhat crude, though eminently satisfactory, measure has been adopted. If a gendarme sees a car going too fast, he fires a rifle shot in the air above it; if it does not stop, he fires a second shot at the wheels; and, as all the gendarmes are not first-class marksmen, the result can be imagined.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 23.

East or West?

The most important event that has occurred since the failure of the last Hellenic offensive is the change in the Nationalist Administration of Angora. When Bekir Sami Bey resigned, despite all Nationalist assertions to the contrary, it was clear that the balance of political power had changed in Anatolia, and that the moderate policy of the Nationalist delegate to the London Conference had been repudiated. When the entire Nationalist Council also resigned, it became evident that a political crisis had occurred which involved deeper issues than the confidence or otherwise of the Great National Assembly in Bekir Sami Bey's conduct of affairs during his stay in Europe. For some time it has been a secret for no one that a bitter struggle has been in progress in Anatolia between the advocates of a moderate policy and the powerful group of Unionist Extremists whose principal obsession is a bitter hatred of Great Britain. There is now no question as to what has happened during the last few weeks, for the delirious hostility of the Anatolian press to Great Britain is in itself sufficient evidence of the triumph of the Extremists. The question at issue was recently summed up by Yunus Nadi Bey in a leading article in his paper *Yeni Gun*, when, under the heading "East or West," the pursuance of an "Asiatic policy" was asserted to be the sole means of ensuring the liberty and independence of the nation. Like the pro-German policy of the Unionists, the "Asiatic policy" is simplicity itself. It consists of sitting on the tail-board of the red chariot of Bolshevism, in the hopes of being carried in triumph over the mangled remains of the British Empire, just as the Unionists hoped that the chariot of the Hun War Lord would carry the Crescent to Cairo and Calcutta. The appointment of Yusuf Kemal Bey, who successfully carried out the negotiations for an alliance between Angora and Moscow, as Foreign Commissioner in place of Bekir Sami is also of ominous portent, and it is to be feared that there is no longer any room for doubt that yet again, as in October, 1914, the die has been irrevocably cast. Once again the gamblers are in control, and another period of bloodshed is inevitable.

Among the first-fruits of the revolution (for that is what the change amounts to) have been the impossible

demands of the Angora Administration that the Turkish southern frontiers should be extended to include Alexandretta and Aleppo, and that all French privileges in the provinces of Sivas, Mamouret ul Aziz, and Diarbekir shall be cancelled. Already the good friends of the Nationalists—the Italians—have been called upon to renounce their claims to preferential treatment in the area ear-marked for Italian enterprise by the Sevres Treaty, and if nothing much has been said about the renunciation by Great Britain of Palestine and Mesopotamia, it is because that is regarded as a *sine qua non* part of the programme.

The result may be regarded as a triumph of Bolshevik diplomacy, for there can be very little doubt as to which hand has been pulling the strings.

The Hellenes in Anatolia.

The much-advertised third offensive has not even yet been commenced in Anatolia, and as time wears on it becomes doubtful whether it will be commenced at all. As might have been foreseen complications are multiplying upon the long frontier which stretches from the Adriatic to the Black Sea, and in the newly conquered territory in Europe. It has become patent to the most enthusiastic partisan of Pan-Hellenism that Greece cannot possibly carry out the task of subduing Anatolia without considerable material and moral assistance, and that even then it would be no easy undertaking. Two years ago, the few who had the courage to condemn the Anatolian adventure were stigmatised as traitors to the cause of Christianity and civilisation, but it has been proved abundantly that those who were convinced that certain powerful interests would form an insuperable obstacle to the realisation of the dream of Pan-Hellenism had judged the situation far more accurately than even M. Venizelos himself. Could the situation to-day be more satisfactory from the point of view of those who are opposed to Hellenic expansion upon economic and political grounds? Was it so difficult to understand that there would be opposition, apart from anything the Turks might be able to do? Was it not also quite manifest

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that the necessity of preserving an united front against the arch enemy in the West would prevent that opposition from being overcome? Has the situation changed materially? Perhaps the Hellenes are waiting to see whether Europe will yet realise that union and force are quite as necessary to ensure peace in the East as in the West. In a sense the situation is slightly more hopeful in this respect, for as has been indicated above, the Nationalists have thrown down the gauntlet to the Allies separately and collectively, and the only alternative to accepting the challenge is abject surrender, or something very near it, and almost equally dangerous. Perhaps now that the very interests which ruined the dream of M. Venizelos are themselves menaced, there will be a change of policy, but it is extremely doubtful, for there are reasons to believe that the situation in Europe is not so entirely unconnected with the Near Eastern Question as many so naively imagine. There are no water-tight bulkheads in the foreign policy of any Government.

Brigands and Komitajis.

When is a brigand not a brigand? When he commits arson, rape, and murder for the greater glory of his nation or creed. He then becomes a noble *komitaji*. Three or four days ago a combined force of French and Turkish gendarmerie rounded up a fine crowd of some hundreds of these Balkanic Bayards in the neighbourhood of Hademkeuy, but there are still plenty left to maintain the highest traditions of Balkan chivalry. About the same time a Commission of Enquiry sent by the Allied authorities to the Yalova district, which received honourable mention in THE NEAR EAST last year, reported that although there had been some exaggeration, Moslem complaints were not altogether unfounded. As a matter of fact, if Shelley had been on that Commission he might have stated that "Hell is a place very much like Yalova."

PORT SAID.

PORT SAID, May 16.

The Canal Bridge.

One of the most significant things which has been announced lately in this part of the world is that the railway bridge across the Canal which connected the Egyptian Railway system with the desert railway and Palestine has been completely removed, and that now the Canal Company can get on with the much-needed dredging in that part, which they have not been able to do for nearly seven years. Passengers to and from Palestine now walk across the floating bridge between the east and west stations at Kantara, but goods are brought across without breaking bulk by means of a floating transporter, which can take two or three trucks at a time.

A Late Season.

Everyone is commenting on the extremely late season here. We had half a day's heavy rain squalls last week, and many of the trees in the place are not showing a single sign of life, although we are practically within a month of Midsummer Day. Few men are in summer clothing, though of course a good many of the ladies are; but then they are always more robust in the way of being able to do without clothes than men are.

Coal, Oil, and Sailors.

The coal strike at home is having a considerable effect on the number of ships passing through, and those using oil are congratulating themselves. A large new installation will soon be in working order here, of which more anon. Owing to the slump in shipping, it will probably not be long before there are drastic reductions in wages, which are now at such a height that a ship, except in rare instances, cannot possibly pay expenses. Overtime payment aboard the ship for the crew, which was wrung from the owners, owing to their shameful exploiting of the sailor in years gone by, has been equally abused by the sailor now that he has got it. A beginning has been made, for an American ship recently came through here with the overtime clause deleted from the articles. However, things can never go back to the bad old times when responsible ship's officers were getting in pay less than what is an "out-of-work donation" now.

At present the Iron Duke, the flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet, is in port, but is leaving shortly for Jaffa and Haifa, where the crew will have an opportunity of visiting the Holy Land.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, May 18.

The Greek "Unionists."

The Greek leaders, having despatched their memorial referred to last week, will now probably await a reply before proceeding to any fresh manoeuvre. It is the first time that the Greek "Unionists" have ventured on so audacious a step as this last, in accusing the Governor and local government to the Colonial Office. The reply of the Secretary of State will no doubt be, as all sensible persons anticipate, such as the circumstances and the nature of the document call for. If any Commission were sent to the island (not, of course, as a result of the memorial, but for any other reason), it would probably arrive at conclusions and recommendations very different from those which the memorialists profess to desire. The present is manifestly a time when the efforts of all leading men should be earnestly devoted to promoting the material interests of the island. Had the Greek members of Council worked honestly and loyally with the Government, there can be little doubt that they would have given much valuable help in legislation, instead of obstructing the course of business during, say, the last twenty years. As a writer in a local paper has remarked, the Legislative Council is not the place in which political questions are to be dealt with, nor is the High Commissioner the person from whom the Cypriots await a solution of their "national question." The Greek members have persisted in the attempt to make the Council an arena for the introduction of political propositions and wranglings.

The Holy Synod.

This body is again divided against itself. Owing to some differences that arose, the Bishop of Kyrenia has been for some time excluded from its meetings. It was hoped that these would be settled, and the Bishop was invited by a telegram from the Archbishop to attend a recent meeting. He complied, but, unfortunately, fresh difficulties arose, and the "scandal" still continues, to the regret of his flock and of the Orthodox Church in general.

General News.

The Indian troops that were quartered at Limassol have left, being relieved by a detachment from Egypt. The Government is importing a supply of silver coins, especially of 1s. and its fractions, and the paper currency, which is in a deplorable condition, is to be withdrawn.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, May 23.

The Smyrna British colony entertained Mr. Van Uijé Petersée, Dutch Consul-General, and his collaborators, Counts Edmond and Daniel de Hocheplid, to a luncheon in the Cercle de Smyrne on May 20, to show their appreciation of the work done by the Dutch Consular staff for the welfare of British subjects while under the protection of the Dutch Consulate-General.

Sir Harry H. Lamb, K.C.M.G., representative of the British High Commissioner, as chairman, in suitably proposing the toast of Mr. Van Uijé Petersée, called upon Mr. Herbert Whittall, who recalled the excellent and tactful help which the British colony had derived from Mr. Van Uijé Petersée and his collaborators. The toast was enthusiastically drunk. His British Majesty's Consul Gary leading the singing of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." After Mr. Van Uijé Petersée and Count Edmond had suitably responded, and emphasised the fact that their work for the British colony was rendered comparatively easy and certainly very agreeable by the untiring efforts of Mr. Herbert Whittall and his committee (members of the British colony), Mr. L. Le Bouvier proposed the health of Mr. Herbert Whittall, which was enthusiastically received by the representatives of both colonies. In reply, Mr. Whittall expressed his profound appreciation of the kind manner in which the toast had been received, and after eulogising the work done by members of his committee, especially by Mr. Frank Hatton and Mr. Alfred Hadkinson (whose healths were also drunk), he took this opportunity to place on record the fact that the ex-Governor-General of Smyrna, Rahmi Bey, had in innumerable ways throughout the trying period of the war assisted the British colony to the very limit of his power. The company present loudly cheered this grateful recognition of a Turkish statesman who has always been a friend to the Smyrna British colony.

An Afghan Mission, under Mohammed Vali Khan is visiting Europe to announce the forthcoming coronation of the Ameer and to invite the European States to enter into diplomatic relations with Afghanistan.

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BENGAL UNDER LORD RONALD SHAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—A volume reproducing the speeches delivered in 1920-1 by the present Governor of Bengal is an exception to the rule that political oratory in book form is "stale, flat, and unprofitable." They cover an immense extent of ground. The political revolution now in progress, village self-government, sanitation, Buddhism, co-operation—these burning questions and many others are handled with insight and broad sympathy. His Excellency's view of the Khalifate agitation cannot fail to interest your readers. Addressing a Mohammedan Association in July last, he said:—

You have reminded me that the fate brought upon Turkey by the folly of those who persuaded her to throw in her lot with the enemies of our common empire is a source of profound sorrow to the Mohammedans of India; and I hasten to say that I have the deepest sympathy with every Moslem in Bengal whose heart is stricken with grief at the thought of his co-religionists in their hour of abasement and trial. But I cannot for a moment sympathise with those who are seeking to induce the Moslems of this country to set foot upon a path which, while it cannot possibly lead to any amelioration of the fate of Turkey must inevitably end in leading them down the slope of disaffection to ultimate disaster.

The Mohammedans of Bengal, numbering 24,000,000 at the last census, are ordinarily peaceable folk; but ignorance, credulity, and high emotional capacity render them liable to fits of unreasoning fury when the cry "Religion in Danger!" is raised. These characteristics are played upon by designing men, whose falsehoods Lord Ronaldshay had no difficulty in demolishing. For example, it was rumoured on the strength of newspaper statements that the Sheikh-ul-Islam had been deported by the British from Constantinople. As a matter of fact, the banishment of an undesirable who had once filled that high office was demanded by the *Turkish Government*. Another statement of the kind gained wide currency; it was that the sacred Kaaba at Mecca had been destroyed by British guns. Lord Ronaldshay told his hearers that the Kaaba has been damaged and nine worshippers slain by a shell from the citadel, wherein a *Turkish* garrison was besieged by the Sherifian troops. Well might he ask:—

Who is best discharging his duty towards God and Man—he who moves over the land, stirring the muddy waters of hatred and strife, or he who fearlessly and honestly performs the duty which lies to his hand, co-operating gladly with all who have for their object the welfare of their fellow-men?

Bengal, under Lord Ronaldshay's rule, has made far greater strides than during the preceding quarter of a century; and turns a deaf ear to agitators who aim at rendering Britain's position in India untenable.—I am, etc.,

London, June 6.

F. H. S.

THE DODECANESE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—On March 1 the Island of Kastellorizo, with a population of 12,000 Greeks, was ceded to Italy by France according to the spirit of the ill-fated Sèvres Treaty and the Triune agreement on the Dodecanese. Italy, however, has not evacuated the Twelve Islands, although the Greek flag is rehoisted in the Dodecanese, and Dodecanesian passports are available "until the cession to Greece." Patriotic feeling has never been so high in the Dodecanese as it is now, and the islanders are not only preparing for a hearty God-speed ceremony on the day when the Italian Army will leave the Dodecanesian shores, but they have also opened a fund for the Greek wounded in the Anatolian War, to which Rhodes alone subscribed more than 200,000 drachmas.

This much-delayed evacuation is incomprehensible to the Dodecanesians. When in October last the Italian Minister at Athens, Signor Montania, was approached by the Dodecanesian Delegation with reference to the cession of the islands he answered emphatically: "We are on the eve of the evacuation." We are still waiting for this doubtful "veillée de bonheur."

Count Sforza wrote recently in the centenary number of the *Manchester Guardian*, May 5:—"Italian influence is in no way to be construed as meaning oppression to other people's rights." We gladly welcome this promising news, and hope that this new orientation of the Italian Government may bring nearer the day when the Dodecanese will cease to wait and see and to watch and pray for her national re-establishment, the union with Greece.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE D. MOSCONA,

Dodecanesian Delegate at the Peace Conference.
32, Oxford Street, Manchester, June 2, 1921.

DALMATIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In the article entitled "Some Notes on Dalmatia" of your number for May 19 your Zagreb Correspondent has made a slight mistake in the second column, 36th line—that is, he has written Vladika Peter II. instead of Vladika Peter I. Sveti (the Holy). Vladika Peter the Second (or better known as Vladika Rade), successor to the latter since 1830, was indeed a "great poet and soldier," but he could not have taken part in the war against Napoleon I., which is concerned, as he was born five years after this war took place.—I am, etc.,
D. VASILYEVITCH,
26, Park Road, Glasgow, May 22, 1921.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

May 30.—Sir Philip Lloyd Greame informed Sir Charles Yate that a revised table of British consular fees had now been approved, under which the majority of fees would be raised by amounts varying from 50 per cent. to 100 per cent., and in addition it had been decided to levy a surtax of 25 per cent. on all the fees.

May 31.—Mr. Montagu informed Sir Charles Yate that up to April 30, 23,925 men were attested in the auxiliary forces in India; this total excluded men who are enrolled but have not yet attested; the proposed strength of the Force is 32,000.

June 1.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that the political situation in Teheran is at present somewhat unstable, but that he had no information to suggest any intention on the part of the Persian Government that they proposed to dispense with the services of British technical officials who had proceeded to Persia following the Anglo-Persian Agreement of 1919. The representative of the Russian Soviet Government had recently arrived in Teheran, and the Government of Persia appeared to be temporarily in the hands of a military dictator. The Persian Government were endeavouring to raise and train a suitable force for the maintenance of internal order, and intended to take over the force hitherto known as the South Persia Rifles.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that the latest information regarding the political complexion of the Angora Government is that the extremists are in the ascendant. It is in close touch with the Russian Soviet Government; but that there was no information to show that the recent hanging of a British Indian subject was the result of Russian representations.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Sir John Rees that everything possible was being done to absorb the Armenian refugees in Mesopotamia who are capable of colonising the healthier districts. The remainder will be repatriated as soon as some reasonable guarantee of their personal safety has been received. The Assyrian refugee camp at present costs approximately 400,000 rupees a month. It is hoped to dispose of this camp at an early date, partly by repatriation and partly by allotting them land for settlement. The sum of £9,700 a month is being incurred on the maintenance of those Russian refugees under British control in camps in Egypt, Cyprus, and Tuzla, near Constantinople, and there is a further charge of £10,000 a month for those Russian refugees who have been taken over by the Serbian Government.

June 2.—The Prime Minister informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that the agenda of the next meeting of the Council of the League of Nations at Geneva on June 17 includes the question of the definition of the "A" (ex-Ottoman territories) and "B" (African) Mandates.

The Prime Minister informed Sir Frederick Banbury that he had hoped that as a result of the negotiations with Turkish representatives in London early in the spring it would have been possible to ratify a treaty of peace with Turkey. He regretted, however, that subsequent developments had rendered this course impossible; in these circumstances he did not think it possible to adopt the suggestion that a proclamation should be issued declaring the termination of the War could be made immediately, but it was clear that if agreement was much longer postponed there must be an official declaration on the lines indicated.

In reply to a question by Mr. Ormsby-Gore, asking whether any offers of assistance had been made by the British or any of the Allied Governments to the Greek Government by way of furnishing munitions or technical assistance to the Greek forces in North-Western Anatolia for the protection of Constantinople against a possible advance by Angora troops, the Prime Minister stated that the answer was, so far as His Majesty's Government were aware, in the negative. The British Attaché at Athens had

(Continued on page 681.)

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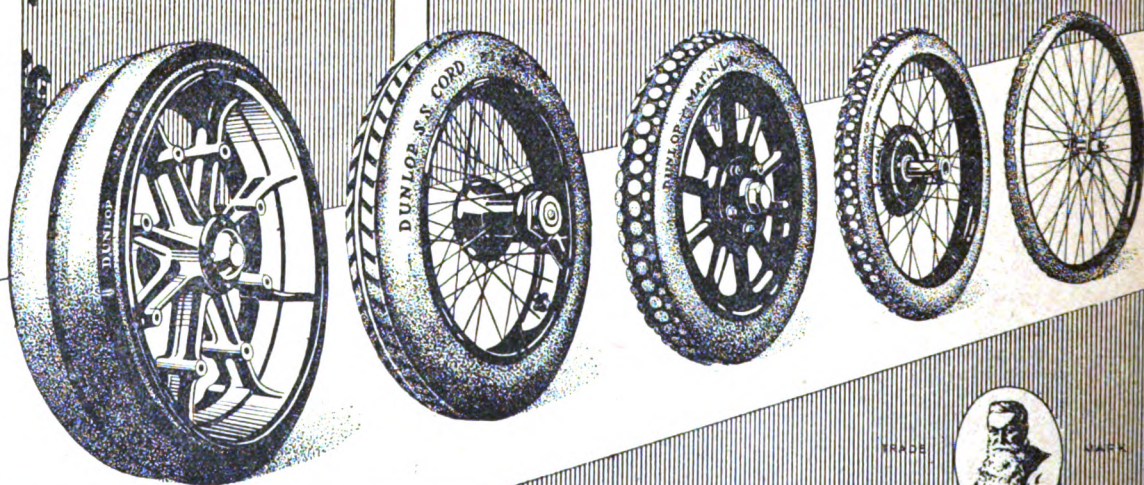
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been invited to visit the Greek front in Asia Minor, and may by now have proceeded there.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Sir William Seager that when in March last His Majesty's Government concluded a formal agreement with Bekir Sami Bey for the mutual exchange of prisoners they confidently assumed that the Angora Government appreciated the moral obligation, admitted and observed by all civilised States, to honour the signature of its representative. In pursuance of the agreement so signed we had released forty out of the sixty-four Turkish internees at Malta. He regretted to have to inform the House that the British prisoners were still detained by the Angora Government, and His Majesty's Government are reluctantly compelled to admit that their confidence in the good faith in the Angora Government has so far been misplaced. His Majesty's Government will make every effort to secure the release of the thirty-two British prisoners of war still in the hands of the Angora Government, and pending their release the remaining twenty-four Turks named in the agreement will be detained at Malta.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Sir William Seager that the recent disturbances in Egypt were confined to the cities of Cairo and Alexandria. They began in the former city on May 18, and continued on the two following days. Order was restored on the evening of May 20, and has been maintained since. British troops were not called out in Cairo. The Cairo casualties amounted to:—Killed, 5 natives; wounded 133, including 100 Egyptian police and 14 Egyptian soldiers. Disturbances began in Alexandria on May 20, when two Egyptian police stations were burnt and the police were compelled to fire on the mob. Order was not restored until the night of May 22, when collisions occurred in the Hamamil quarter between Egyptians and Europeans. On the following morning the Egyptian police were no longer able to control the situation, and handed over to the British military authorities, by whom order was restored. There have been no further outbreaks. The total casualties in Alexandria were:—Killed, 68 Egyptian natives, 1 British soldier, 1 Maltese, 1 French civilian, 3 Italians, 13 Greeks. The wounded included 30 Egyptian police, 5 Jews, 2 Maltese, and 64 other Europeans, of whom 46 were Greeks.

Mr. Edward Wood informed Mr. Cairns that the Commission of Inquiry into the recent Jaffa disturbances had commenced its investigations. The Commission of Inquiry consists of the Chief Justice of Palestine, with two other British officials of the Palestine Government, and it is assisted in its labours by three prominent Palestinian notables, one Christian, one Jew, and one Mohammedan.

THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

—OMAR KHAYYAM.

Bulgaria is honouring greatly the memory of the late Mr. J. D. Bouchier in issuing stamps bearing his portrait, and I cannot recall any instance of a private individual being so honoured before. But it is a graceful act, and displays well that gratitude which is, I am told by those who ought to know, such a well-marked feature of the Bulgarian character. I have been amusing myself by thinking of other British subjects who might be honoured in similar fashion by other Balkan States. Dr. Seton Watson or Sir Arthur Evans might, I think, be selected by Yugoslavia, and Sir Arthur Croft by Greece. Had Montenegro retained its independence it would surely have chosen that warm-hearted champion, Mr. Alex. Devine. No British name occurs to me in connection with Roumania, but I could suggest several in connection with Turkey if I let my fancy rove so far afield. As to Mr. Bouchier's portrait, I cannot help wondering whether his famous ear-trumpet will be part of the composition. For my part I simply cannot think of him apart from that aid to hearing, which he could—and did!—use so effectively in argument, putting it away with a snap when he felt that he had "bowled out" an opponent. Did not one of the best of his obituary notices insist that the trumpet, or his deafness, had been responsible for many open-air conferences, since no statesman ever felt safe in discussing matters with "J. D. B." unless he had a clear field around him? And, after all, the ear-trumpet would be in a way a sign of honour, since it would remind us how much the great correspondent accomplished in spite of his infirmities. To have fathered the Balkan Alliance in spite of that drawback was, indeed, an achievement.

The rather vivid blue which now seems to be the fashionable colour for ladies' hats appeals to me very strongly, because it brings back pleasant memories. For it is the same colour that you notice in the gorgeous jays of Mesopotamia. The blue on the wings of our own English jays is a beautiful shade, but there is not much of it, and nobody would call it brilliant. But the jay of Mesopotamia is a truly magnificent sight as he wheels and flashes in the fierce sunshine. His plumage seems to be all blue and burnished to perfection, so that even our bright kingfisher

would look almost dowdy by comparison with him. And to see some score or more of these Irakian jays whirling and dipping round one of the few elevations to be found on those level plains is a sight never to be forgotten. The golden oriole, too, is a wonderfully effective bird, and when you get some of his kind mingling with the blue jays the effect is particularly beautiful. It is to be hoped that the Mesopotamian Government will take—or has taken—steps to prevent the extermination of these lovely birds. The country has none too many natural beauties, and it should protect all those it has.

The Indian papers have been making merry over a postal clerk's valiant attempts to do his duty. Finding an unaddressed envelope containing an invitation card to a function at a club, he instructed the postman to try "R.S.V.P.," Esq., at the said club. The letter was, of course, returned again, and he then had a shot at "Sir Dash and Lady Blank" (real names given), who were giving the entertainment, sending the card again to the club; and this time it found a resting place. For my part, I can only admire the conscientious way in which the sorting clerk, or whatever he should be called, grappled with his problem. It may comfort him to know that the cabalistic mysteries observed by worshippers of the great god Etiquette puzzle people in this country at times. To my own knowledge, a young Englishman once left a card on a friend, who was rather surprised to read on it "P.P.C.," for he had not heard anything of the caller's intention to leave the place. A little later, meeting the card-leaver, he expressed his surprise, when the other, in turn, became perplexed. Eventually it transpired that the card-leaver had understood that "P.P.C." stood for "Pardon personal call"—whatever that may mean.

An American who was in Cairo during some of the worst rioting of two years ago, was telling me the other day of some of the curious things he saw, and giving me his views on our relations with Egypt. "It is," he said, "a lovely thing that England"—he really did say "England," not Great Britain, please!—"that England is trying to do, but, in my opinion, it simply can't be done. The Egyptians just aren't ripe to govern themselves; and, if you leave them to try to do it, there will be a most dreadful mess." Then he went on to say that we had made our worst mistake in trying to give the Egyptians an education along European lines rather than seek to develop them on Oriental lines. They do not feel any gratitude for what we have done, in this way at any rate; and use their "education" to attack us. The gentleman referred to assured me that he had himself heard one of the *ulema* addressing a crowd in English, and pointing out that it was the British who had "taught us to value liberty," and that now they (the Egyptians) meant to have it; that it was we who had given them ideas about democracy and so forth, and that these ideas were bearing fruit in the scenes then in progress, etc., etc. The crowd, said my informant, was enjoying the jibes and jeers immensely.

And then my American friend went on to say how splendidly our soldiers had behaved throughout that trying period. At one time, in particular, he noticed some cavalry, dismounted, drawn up across the end of a square—the Abdin Square, I think he said. There were about forty of them, and a crowd of the lowest of the low Egyptians was parading up and down before them, insulting them in every way. Particularly my friend noticed some women of the street who were brandishing Egyptian flags right in the faces of the soldiers and going through pantomime, which was—well, what one would expect from women of their calling. "Your soldiers," said the American, "were just fine. They stood like rocks. I tell you, our men would never have done it. They just would not have stood it." Of course, our soldiers' conduct was only what one would expect of them, but the praise from a quite disinterested quarter was good to hear. "Here's to you, Tommy Atkins"—and to Brother Jonathan, too.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

A Week of Bach.

That Mr. Harold Samuel should devote a whole week to the keyboard works of Bach, and that in six recitals he should be followed with curious and increasing interest by discriminating audiences are a tribute both to the pianist's excellence and to the high favour in which Bach now stands. The whole effort was the most delightful expression of the æsthetic awe that descends when composer, interpreter, and listener are at one; for to hear Mr. Samuel play with loving ease the works of the composer whom one is always tempted to call, after hearing him exquisitely done, the greatest of musicians, was indeed a real and rare experience. During the Fantasia in C Minor, for instance (which he played on May 31), the Wigmore Hall became a paradise; before such part-playing as there was in this the critic curled up and hastily and very willingly changed into the ordinary humble immortal, impotent but to bless. It would be as superfluous to comment on a certain hardness in Mr. Samuel's touch as it would be to note the manifold beauties of his tone-colour or the splendid flexibility of his rhythm; for we are unreservedly grateful to him.

Pouishnoff, Gabrilowitch, and a Spanish Pianist

The shadows which the coal strike have cast over this country became longer than ever for me when I was forced, in order to catch a train, to leave M. Pouishnoff's last recital this season at the Queen's Hall on June 2 before it was over. One has ceased to marvel at this pianist's technique; it is what he builds upon it that holds us. He might have had better tone in Bach's Chaconne in D minor which Busoni has laid out for the modern pianoforte, but otherwise his performance in this extraordinarily difficult work was superb. Again, he might perhaps have introduced a shade more variety of treatment in the repetitions of the theme in Mozart's Larghetto in A major, but the soft silkiness of his touch was exquisite. Nothing, however, could have surpassed his interpretation of Chopin's Ballade in F minor; all the fears which inevitably affect one that Chopin's music is losing in interest were blown miles away by M. Pouishnoff's gorgeously clear playing in this. And the exceptional width of his vision, which has characterised all his programmes, was strikingly proved by his playing of Moussorgsky's "Hopak" after the Chopin; it was the dream followed by the reality, the one a web of colour spun by unearthly hands, the other a dance by living feet.

M. Ossip Gabrilowitch, who has been in London before, gave the first of three pianoforte recitals at the Wigmore Hall on June 3; the other two are to take place at the same hall on June 13 and June 28. He is a pianist of considerable achievement. Into the first movement of César Franck's "Prelude, Chorale, and Fugue," he introduced a beautifully high style of playing; one does not often hear its poetic power so unostentatiously and convincingly brought out as it was by him. But the work as a whole was rather marred by hasty climaxes and wrong notes in the fugue. Again, he commenced Beethoven's sonata in D major (Op. 10) with rare promise; his notes in the *presto* movement were spick and incisive; but in the *largo* and *menuetto* his rhythm was too "correct" and rigid, though how freely crisp he could let it become was shown in the *rondo*. In twelve of Chopin's preludes he played with excellent tone, but his *rubato* seemed affected, for the degree of time which had to lapse before the right hand should play its melody after the left hand had done its work seemed monotonously calculated. However, M. Gabrilowitch is much above the ordinary level of pianists, and if I have harped more on his faults than his virtues, it is because his intentions are high enough to warrant criticism. In his unaffected style of playing there is much charm.

Señor Montoriol-Torres, whose recital was at the Wigmore Hall on June 2, is described as the "famous Spanish pianist," but one rather wonders whence he derived his fame. For, briefly, he is a long way from understanding the technique of his instrument. If he could only have realised how blurred his bad pedalling was making his tone in Beethoven's "Waldstein" sonata, we could have forgiven him his wrong notes; and if only his rhythm had been more like what one would expect from a native of his country we could have pardoned him his lapse of memory. Again, in Chopin's B flat minor sonata his conception was confined to the phrase, and it was really only in three dances of Granados that his sense of colour and rhythm was at all brought into play.

A New 'Cello Sonata.

It is true that the term sonata is now taken to mean almost anything, but to string a suite of light fancies together and to call it a sonata, which is what Fernand le Borne has done in the work that Miss Yvonne Morris and Miss Kathleen Long played at the Æolian Hall on June 2, is surely stretching things too far. This sonata, which has

for the titles of its movements such lucid words as "Désirs," "Prière," "Amour," "Souvenirs," was well played by the pianist, but the 'cellist's intonation and rhythm were by no means good. Miss Morris has, however, both fair tone and spirit, and will certainly improve.

Mr. Ingo Simon.

This fine vocalist's second recital was given at the Wigmore Hall on May 31, when, however, I was able to hear only one group of Italian airs. There was the same easy mastery which I before noted, particularly in an exquisite anonymous composition of (probably) the sixteenth-century "O leggiadri occhi belli"; indeed, Mr. Simon's pure style informed all that I heard him in except Monteverde's "Lasciatemi morire," in which there was excessive use of a gloomy *portamento*.

A Spanish Violinist.

We were given to understand at the violin recital which Señor Angel Grande gave at the Wigmore Hall on June 4 that trouble with his strings made two things necessary—a very late start and very uncertain intonation. The first mischance thus involved was unfortunate for me, for it meant my missing the very things I had gone to hear—three new pieces by Moreno Torroba. What I did hear was not greatly moving. Any sonata is impossible as a piece of chamber music with the unsympathetic Mr. Krish at the pianoforte, though Señor Grande showed that he understood some of the rich beauty of César Franck's over-played work; a Bach fugue unaccompanied was rhythmically shaky; and the three pieces of Luis Lloret—"Cataluna," "Gallegada," and "Zambra," which the violinist introduced to London—were poor in construction if refreshing in conception. The "Gallegada," in which there appeared to be extensive use of Moorish methods, was the most attractive.

Miss Doris Barr.

It is, I know, objectionable to refer to a young artist as "promising," but that is certainly the trouble with Miss Doris Barr, whose third vocal recital was given at the Æolian Hall on May 31. She showed a nice and enterprising taste in the choice of her programme, which is a great point in her favour. But what she needs most to improve is her rhythm; for it was her failing in this that made it impossible for Gerrard Williams to accompany well his own fine songs, "Idyll" and "An Inconsequent Ballade," and even the usually imperturbable Mr. O'Connor Morris was led into errors in Martin Shaw's "Summer." Miss Barr had to assist her a young tenor, Mr. Edward Nichol, with whose selection of songs there was not much wrong. His singing of them, however, rather destroyed one's premature interest.

A Mis-Timed Effort.

At the Wigmore Hall on May 27 two young ladies, Miss Jessie Lyall and Miss May Tritton, essayed to give a recital for two pianos. At best such a scheme is ambitious: at worst it is a martyrdom. And there was, indeed, something heroic in the unbowed efforts of Mr. Alan D. Bush to keep together, in a Bach concerto for two pianos, an extremely heterogeneous force of strings flanked by the two recitalists; yet all that can be charitably said of it is that the recruits had been asked too soon (or offered) to do public battle. Things were little better when Miss Lyall and Miss Tritton had alone at their mercy Schumann-Debussy and Saint-Saens, though it was sometimes not unamusing to find one's fancy for the course nearly a bar behind before the end of the race.

ANDANTE.

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A council meeting was held on Tuesday, May 24, at the Grosvenor Hotel. Mr. S. G. Hough was elected President for this year, and Captain the Hon. George Savile Vice-President—i.e., President in 1922. Lady Wentworth was elected patroness of the Society.

It was decided to hold an endurance test for Arab and Arab-bred horses for five days, commencing September 26 next. Entries to be made to the Secretary. The Arab stallion presented by H.H. Emir Faisal to Lord Hartington was accepted on his pedigree. Arrangements were made for publishing the Arab-bred Register this year, entries for which close on August 1 next.

The following members were elected:—Frank J. Adamson, Mrs. Frank Adamson, M. D. Bannister, Brig.-General O. B. B. Smith Bingham, C.M.G., D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel M. Borwick, D.S.O., J. M. Browne, Miss P. Bowen Colthurst, Major E. Owen Davies, Captain R. Fowler, Major-General J. R. Harman, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Mrs. R. C. Hopkins, C. J. Hutchison, H. Langley-Smith, Sydney W. Leech, Major R. Lomer, Colonel F. Mussenden, P. W. Pegge, H. J. Preston, Captain George Sale, F. K. Selby, Colonel F. Sterling, D.S.O., M.C., F. C. Stephens, Captain F. C. Thorn, Thomas J. Timmis, Captain L. Williams, Charles Wood. The following were elected Governors:—Mrs. F. Bromwich, Captain T. A. Clarke, S. G. Hough, Captain J. Leigh, Lieut.-Colonel P. D. Stewart, D.S.O., and Comte de Zogheb.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- 4.—"HITTITE SEALS: With Particular Reference to the Ashmolean Collection." By D. G. Hogarth, Keeper of Ashmolean Museum. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 43 13s. 6d. net.)
- 11.—"THE POST-OFFICE OF INDIA AND ITS STORY." By Geoffrey Clarke. (London: The Bodley Head. 16s. net.)

I.—HITTITE GLYPHTIC ART.

Hittite archæology is still in a very undeveloped stage; and though it has made considerable strides since the days when Burton published the Hamath inscription and Wright produced his "Empire of the Hittites," we have still to speak of the gaps in our ignorance rather than of the gaps in our knowledge. Compared with what we know of the early Egyptians and Babylonians, we still know hardly anything about the Hittites. They were evidently a vigorous people, with a lot of character of their own, for they were instrumental in destroying the First Dynasty in Babylonia; they gave the great Rameses II. himself a very bad time at Kadesh; and they were a thorn in the flesh to Tiglath-Pileser. Their power extended over the greater part of Asia Minor, and their influence was felt not only in Syria and Palestine, but—as indicated above—in distant Babylonia, if not in Egypt. It is suggested that they were related to the Hyksos, and though the relation is not scientifically established, it may yet be so; and it is also held that they were the forerunners of the Armenians. Their period may be put roughly at between 2000 B.C. and 600 B.C.; but whence they came originally, or what were the precise limits of their power at any particular time, it is still impossible to say. Excavations now in progress, and the results of those carried out before the war but not yet made available for study, will probably throw fresh light upon the subject, but at present there are very few bright patches on a sea of darkness.

In his Preface the author modestly refers to his book as "a pioneer effort to classify Hittite glyptic." A pioneer effort it was bound to be, in the nature of things; but the work has been extremely well done, and is likely to stand the test of time. Mr. Hogarth's theories and deductions may be modified by future discoveries; but, on the other hand, it does not seem probable that they will be entirely upset, or even largely disproved, so carefully has he weighed his evidence and so thoroughly studied the available material. His classification seems to us to be very good, and his nomenclature is likely to obtain a permanent footing in the branch of science dealt with. The book, it may be noted, was completed and in the hands of the printers early in 1915, but the war period was not favourable to the publication of archæological or artistic treatises, and the author has been wise in not further delaying the appearance of this volume for the sake of incorporating the additional matter rendered available since that date. It will certainly hold its own with anything that has been published on the subject thus far; and the catalogue and description of the Ashmolean Collection (chapters II. and III.), on which the work is based, will be extraordinarily valuable to students. The illustrations of cylinder and seal impressions, whether in the text or in the plates, are wonderfully clear; and it must have entailed much work to secure such good impressions as those here photographically reproduced.

Mr. Hogarth tells us that "the earliest Hittite sphragistic implement was the roller-seal or cylinder," and that "for a considerable period, in Syria at least, it remained the only one." That it was borrowed from Babylonia appears to be established, and the influence of Babylonian art is distinctly visible in many examples. But gradually the Syrian seals began to develop a character of their own—more simple, to become shorter and thicker, to show traces of a different technique. Mr. Hogarth attributes this detachment of North Syria from Babylonian culture to some extent to Egyptian influence. Then comes a great change: the ousting of the cylinder by the "stamp seal," which appears to have been brought about by what would to-day be described as "the popular demand." "Stamps in Syria," we read (p. 104), "from first to last were cheap seals used by the common folk; but in Cappadocia, during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, they were probably the only sphragistic implements used by any one who was not royal or in high office." Later, Mesopotamian art regained its influence over the Hittite seal-cutters; but, we are told, it was now Assyria, not Babylonia, that inspired them. Moreover, there were two other influences at work: the Ramesside Egyptian and the late Minoan, which made themselves felt through the Levantine fringe of the Hittite area, particularly Cilicia. "Here an eclectic art of *Mischkultur* kind seems to have developed, less in debt to Mesopotamia than was the Syrian glyptic, and more to Egypt, Cyprus and Crete." New types of stamp-seals

continued to be produced, among them the Conoid and the Scaraboid, which appear to have supplanted all other shapes by the end of the ninth century.

The way in which Mr. Hogarth links up his divisions of forms and types with the various waves of invasion that swept over the Hittite region is very interesting and convincing. It is impossible here to follow him in detail; but, as we have said above, his work is based on careful investigation of most of the material at present available, his deductions appear to us to be sound, and those for whom the work is primarily intended are indeed under an obligation to the author. Moreover, he has handled the subject so that a book which might easily have been intensely "dry" and uninteresting is in fact quite the reverse. The admirable illustrations add greatly to its value and interest. While many of the seals shown are crude both in conception and in execution, others have real æsthetic value. The Carchemish cylinder illustrated on page 52, for example, is highly decorative in effect, and some of the specimens figured in the plates (e.g., Nos. 165, 182, 184, 186, 231) are undeniably artistic. The conventional designs are not to be compared with those of Ancient Egypt; but the work as a whole appears to be freer and more vigorous.

II.—THE POST-OFFICE OF INDIA.

The annual reports of the Post Office of India have great value for the statistician, and are useful works of reference; but their literary value is purely negative. Nor can we imagine any normal layman reading them by way of recreation. The appearance of a book on the history of the Indian Post Office, written by one who is, though he conceals the fact, head of that department, did not of itself produce in us any pleasurable anticipations of an intellectual feast.

Yet it would hardly be an exaggeration to say that this is just what Mr. Clarke does provide us with. We cannot too much admire his skill in avoiding statistical dreariness, while at the same time keeping clear of the temptation to give us a mere popular, and therefore perfectly useless, sketch of his subject. Such literary skill is not too common among Indian officials, and is specially to be commended when the subject dealt with is one which has had the most important consequences to not less than one-fifth of the human race. The popular sketch generally owes its origin to a writer who has not taken the trouble to ascertain or study his facts, and the amount of valuable paper that has been worse than wasted on such productions is beyond calculation. The author, who has buried himself in his subject, and has exhausted all means of study and research available, too often produces mere literary penmanship. It is, therefore, most fortunate that this task has fallen, in the shape of a labour of love, into the hands of one who combines the ability of a careful and learned expert with the light touch of an interesting exponent and the gift of selecting essentials from the mass of facts at his disposal.

His account of the gradual development of the Post Office of India from what Warren Hastings very properly called "a labyrinth of obscurity" into the existing very highly specialised congeries of branches, touching every part of the life of India, is worked out with much clarity in eighteen chapters, none of them long and all admirably arranged to avoid overlapping. To these are added a chapter on Indian philately, and a number of appendices, of which that summarising the work of the Indian Field Post Office from 1867 to 1912 is of special value. It may be mentioned that the splendid work done by the Indian Post Office in connection with the Great War is treated in the body of the book. Throughout the work we are agreeably surprised to find that the individuals who, at the head, have carried on the torch are hardly mentioned, while the debt of India to its postmen, runners, and other too often neglected humbler servants is handsomely recognised.

The illustrations add to the interest of the book, though we could have dispensed with some of the portraits of high officials, whose presence rather jars with the impersonal touch mentioned above. A page or two reproducing a few specimens of the apparently hopeless addresses which the Indian postal official has habitually to wrestle with would have been more interesting. It need hardly be added, considering the name of the publishing house, that the "get-up" of the book is excellent, though we were sorry to find that a few more pages had not been spared for a more complete index.

We presume that the entire absence of reference to the telegraph side of the Indian Post Office is intentional. This might have been justified if the history had not come down to the present day. As it is, we cannot but regret that no account is given us of the important events which led to the amalgamation of the two branches and of the methods by which this amalgamation has been worked.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

June 9 (New Style).
May 27 (Old Style).
Shauwal 3, 1339, of the Moslem Calendar.
Sivan 3, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Viscountess Ednam has arrived in Paris from Bombay.

The Aga Khan arrived in London last week from Paris.

The Raja of Rajpipla has arrived, and is staying at the Ritz Hotel.

The Hon. Lady Lloyd has arrived at 14, Bryanston Square from India.

Lady Ratan Tata has arrived at York House, Twickenham, from India.

The Hereditary Prince and Princess of Kapurthala have arrived in Paris from Bombay.

Queen Olga, mother of King Constantine, and lately Regent of Greece, has left Athens for Paris.

Mrs. Philip Martineau has arrived at 12, Upper Berkeley Street from visiting the King and Queen of Roumania.

Colonel C. H. L. Meyer and Mrs. Meyer, of Bombay, are in residence at 7, Park Lane, W.1. Telephone, Mayfair 7136.

The General Council of King George's Fund for Sailors have recently allocated a grant of £500 to the Missions to Seamen, Bombay.

The Maharao of Cutch, who is to represent the Indian Princes at the forthcoming Imperial Cabinet meetings, has arrived in London.

The Sultan called in state on June 3, states the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, at the Residency to present his congratulations on the occasion of the King's Birthday.

On May 31 the Czecho-Slovak Minister in Belgrade presented to M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, the War Cross awarded him by the President of the Czecho-Slovak Republic.

Dr. Milan Stojadinovitch, Assistant Director of the British Trade Corporation in Belgrade, has been elected as Honorary Professor of Financial Science in Belgrade University.

The Duke of Connaught visited Walker's Galleries, New Bond Street, last week, to view the water-colours of Egypt, Algeria, and neighbouring places, by Lieutenant-Colonel Engleheart.

In the course of a visit to the Aisne battlefields, the Maharaja of Indore placed some flowers on the grave of Quentin Roosevelt, the son of the late President of the United States.

The engagement is announced of Mr. R. W. Bullard, C.I.E., son of the late Charles Bullard and of Mrs. Bullard, of Walthamstow, Essex, to Miriam Catherine, fourth daughter of the Master of Balliol and Mrs. A. L. Smith.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (May 18):—

Mr. C. C. Gerahty has been appointed President of the District Court of Famagusta.

Mr. J. C. McCaskie, P.D.C., Famagusta, has been granted leave till October 21.

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A message from Washington states that Princess Bibesco, wife of the Roumanian Minister, has signed a contract with a New York magazine to write short stories dealing with life in Washington diplomatic circles. She will devote the whole of the summer to writing.

Sir James Robert Dunlop-Smith, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., of 25, Ovington Square, Chelsea, S.W., Political A.D.C. to the Secretary of State for India, who died on April 24, intestate, has left personal property of the value of £10,721. Letters of administration are granted to his daughter, Janet Dunlop-Smith, one of the next-of-kin.

Canon Dudley Cary Elwes, rector of All Souls Roman Catholic Church, Peterborough, and brother of the late Mr. Gervase Elwes, was presented at Peterborough last week with the insignia of the Knights of Malta and a cheque for 200 guineas by his congregation and by musical friends in celebration of his silver jubilee as priest.

The engagement is announced between Commander A. D. W. Smith, Royal Navy, R.N. Staff College, Greenwich, only son of the late Arthur J. Smith, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Kurseong, Bengal, and Mrs. Childe, of Cranleigh, Kent Road, Southsea, and Phyllis, elder daughter of Captain Frederic C. Dreyer, C.B., C.B.E., Royal Navy, Director of the Gunnery Division, Admiralty Naval Staff, and Mrs. Dreyer, 35, Bury-Road, Alverstoke.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* writes (June 1):—In a letter accompanying the final list of Warriors' Day subscriptions, which in Egypt, the Sudan, and Palestine amounted to £11,000, Lord Allenby says that its organisers must be proud of the result, which is due to the generosity not only of the British but also of foreign communities. He adds that the local branch has already had valuable assistance in securing employment for ex-Service men.

The Prince of Wales was present at the annual dinner of the Indian Cavalry Club, held at the Victoria Hotel on June 2. The dinner was very largely attended. General Sir George Richardson, K.C.B., occupied the chair, and among others present were:—General Sir John Nixon, G.C.M.G., Major-General W. B. James, C.B., Major-General J. C. Stewart, C.B., Brigadier General W. H. Fasken, C.B., Colonel C. B. Stokes, C.I.E., Colonel G. Gwyn Thomas, C.M.G., Colonel Clive Wigram, C.B., Colonel C. E. Stack, and Mr. Austin Low, C.I.E., hon. secretary.

Our Smyrna Correspondent writes (May 22):—

Seldom has Bournabat, suburb of Smyrna, seen a prettier wedding than that of Miss Eileen Wilkin to Mr. Duncan G. Wallace, R.N.R., on May 19. The church was beautifully decorated by the young ladies of the village; the bride, a charming girl, fair as a lily, looked like a fairy among the garlands of white roses; and the bridegroom, resplendent in blue and gold, was in picturesque contrast to the sombre khaki-uniformed Major Johnston, who acted as best man. The happy couple passed under an arch of cutlasses, held by men who had served with the bridegroom on H.M.S. Adventure; and the journey to the house of Mrs. Charlton Whittall, the grandmother of the bride, was enlivened by the sailors dragging the carriage and cheering the happy pair. The reception was also a brilliant success. The speeches of the Best Man, the Bridegroom, Mr. Gary, the British Consul, and Mr. Wallace Turrell were very witty, and were thoroughly appreciated by the hundred guests. About 6 p.m. the newly-wedded pair drove off in a flower-bedecked car to their home in Bairacli, at the head of the Smyrna Gulf.

The Calcutta dinner was held at the Hotel Cecil on May 31. Mr. J. C. Shorrocks presided, and Sir Arthur Lawley was the guest of the evening. The company of 200 included:—The Persian Minister (for many years Consul-General for Persia at Calcutta), Lord Carmichael, Mr. Syed Ameer Ali, Sir William Meyer (High Commissioner for India), Sir H. P. Burt, Sir Robert Carlyle, Sir John Cumming, Sir Frank Carter, Sir Duncan Carmichael, Major Sir George Dolby, Sir Lorraine Dunbar, Sir Archdale Earle, Sir Robert Fulton, Sir Stephen Finney, Sir George Godfrey, Sir H. Holmwood, Sir John Hewett, Major-General G. F. A. Harris, Sir R. Highet, Sir Charles Kesteven, Sir James Leigh-Wood, Mr. T. McMorran, Sir C. C. McLeod, Mr. A. P. Muddiman (President of the Council of State, India), Mr. A. D. Pickford (the administrative head of the Boy Scout movement in India), Mr. N. C. Sen, Sir C. Stevenson-Moore, General A. E. Sandback, Colonel Sir Buchanan Scott, Sir Montagu Turner, Sir James Walker, Mr. Walter Davies (hon. treasurer), and Mr. E. W. Bowrey (hon. secretary).

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

M. Michel Frangopoulos has been appointed Commercial Attaché to the Greek Legation.

Mr. Walter Sidney Shaw, Puisne Justice of the Supreme Court, Ceylon, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Straits Settlements.

Sir Claude Hill, who was formerly Finance Member of the Viceroy's Council in India, has taken up the post of Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies at Geneva.

The appointment of General Lord Byng, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., M.V.O., to be Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada, has been hailed with peculiar satisfaction in Egypt.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced from Simla of Khan Bahadur Gulam Martara Khan, who was Oriental Secretary to the British Mission at Kabul.

The death is announced in a Vienna sanatorium of General Peter Michitch, who distinguished himself while commanding a Serbian division at the time when the Salonika front was broken.

Our Smyrna Correspondent writes (May 25):—

Mr. James Langdon, of the firm of Rees and Co., and the senior member of the Smyrna American colony, died suddenly last night, following a paralytic stroke.

The death has occurred, at the age of eighty-one, of Colonel John Herschel, late Royal Engineers. He entered the Bengal Engineers in 1856, but did not land in India until after the Mutiny. Almost at once he was appointed to the Great Trigonometrical Survey, and he served in that department for nearly thirty years, being at the time of his retirement in 1886 Deputy-Superintendent. He was a member of the Senate of Calcutta University.

The death is announced from Samos of Mr. William Roger Paton, who had lived for some time on the island. In his earlier years, says *The Times*, he had done some interesting archaeological work in Greece, in particular at Assarlik, in Caria, and at Cos, where he collected a number of inscriptions and published them in a book to which the late Bishop Hicks of Lincoln supplied a preface. Another work of his was a selection of pieces translated into English verse from the Greek Anthology, and he had recently completed the translation in five volumes, for the Loeb Classical Library, of the whole of Greek anthology.

FUNERAL OF M. VESNITCH.

The funeral of M. Vesnitch, the Yugoslav Minister in Paris, who died at Paris on May 28, took place on May 31. The Prince Regent of Serbia, a representative of President Millerand, M. Bonnefoy, Minister of Justice, representatives of all the other Ministers, the members of the diplomatic body, Marshal Petain, Sir Thomas Barclay, Vice-President of the International Institute of Law, and a large number of French and foreign personages were present. Military honours were rendered. The body has been placed provisionally in the crypt of the Rue Daru Church, pending its removal to Belgrade.

SIR RICHARD BURTON.

The centenary of the birth of Sir Richard Francis Burton, the explorer and Orientalist (1821-1890), will be marked by the establishment of an annual memorial lecture on the lines of the Sir George Birdwood Memorial Lecture, and a committee has been formed to collect funds. The lecturers are to be experts on the countries in which Burton was interested. The Duke of Connaught is the patron, and Sir Richard Temple is chairman of the committee, which includes Sir F. Younghusband, Sir Percy Sykes (by whom the scheme was originated), Lord Reay, Sir H. H. Johnston, Lord Desborough, Mrs. Rendall, and Sir C. Hercules Read, with Mr. N. M. Penzer as hon. secretary and Captain Campbell Thompson as hon. treasurer. The Royal Asiatic Society has offered the use of its premises for meetings, and the first meeting, to issue an appeal, will be held on June 14.

The London office of the Italian State Railways and Steamship Lines announces that the Trieste Lloyd Line (Lloyd Triestino) has effected an important acceleration in its fast weekly service to Alexandria. The voyage from Trieste now occupies 73 hours, and from Brindisi only 48 hours by oil-driven liners.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

King Constantine's name day was celebrated throughout Greece on June 3.

Slight sniping and attacks on pickets are reported in Waziristan, according to an official telegram from India dated May 26.

On Saturday, May 28, the anniversary of the declaration of Azerbaijan independence, was celebrated by members of the Azerbaijan colony in London.

It is stated in a telegram from Rangoon that the strike on the Burmah railways has come to an end, nearly all of the men having asked to be reinstated unconditionally.

The Greek Government has introduced a Bill increasing King Constantine's allowance by 1,300,000 drs. (about £18,500), and doubling the allowance granted to the Queen Dowager.

The Roumanian naval division, states a Reuter telegram from Bucharest, has adopted Sulina as its base. The Roumanian warships and the dockyard material and staff have arrived at that port.

Delegates from all the national societies except those of Portugal and Yugoslavia will attend the fifth International Conference of the Union of League of Nations Societies at Geneva on June 10.

News has reached Paris that recalcitrant Berber tribes in the Middle Atlas region, south of Mequinez, have been defeated, with serious losses, by Moors friendly to the French. No French troops were engaged.

According to a telegram received in London from the Indian Revenue and Agricultural Department, scarcity is becoming more intense in Chagai and Upper Zhob, and distress in the Marri and Bugti countries (Baluchistan) is increasing.

It is reported from Tiflis that numerous Kurd, Tartar, and Armenian detachments, headed by the well-known Kurd Sultanov, have entered the town of Shousha, thus liberating from the Bolsheviks the whole Karabagh district.

A delegation sent by the Azerbaijan "Independence Salvation Committee" in Switzerland is to visit Turkey, Persia, India, Egypt, and Afghanistan to acquaint Moslem opinion with the hardships of the Azerbaijan population under Bolshevik rule.

It is announced that the head of the Persian delegation recently in Moscow, who is now in Paris, is leaving shortly for the Caucasus for the purpose of concluding a political and economic agreement between Persia and the Soviet Republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia.

The Special Correspondent of *The Times* in the Middle East reports that Teheran is full of krans, of good silver and full weight, minted in Russia from dies prepared in the reign of Muzaffer ed-Din Shah, and that forty mule-loads of this silver are now on the way to the Soviet Legation from Moscow.

The Roumanian Ministry for the Interior has published a notice to the effect that the Central Roumanian Commission for War Requisitions has fixed January 1, 1922, for the liquidation of all questions in connection with requisitions. It is stated that any claimants who do not take action before this date will lose their rights.

A morning glory seed, reputed to be 5,000 years old, has been brought to Baltimore and planted in the garden of Mrs. W. Champlin Robinson, in Green Spring Valley. The seed is one of twelve found in the hands of a mummy of a young Egyptian girl, which was recently removed to the United States. Ten of the seeds have already been planted, and all of them germinated.

Owing to the destruction at Kut-el-Amara of all official records belonging to General Townshend's force in April, 1916, difficulty is being experienced in preparing the official history. Officers or others who possess any records (diaries, letters, sketches, etc.) regarding any phase of the operations during the period from the battle of Kut in September, 1915, to the surrender in April, 1916, or who can assist the historian from their memory of events are invited to communicate with the Secretary, Historical Section, Committee of Imperial Defence, 2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1921.

THE ANGORA PROBLEM.

There is to be a further meeting of the Supreme Council during the coming week, and, although the Upper Silesian question may stand first on the programme, the settlement of the Near East will again come up for discussion. Both in France and in Greece it is confidently believed that the British Prime Minister intends to urge the Council to agree to active support being given to the Greeks in their campaign against the Turkish Nationalists. Before any such discussion is taken, we trust that the Allied representatives will consider the effects of their action, not only for a month or two ahead, but also for the years to come, and endeavour to follow out in their minds the scheme to its logical conclusion. There can be no doubt that Angora stands committed to a definitely anti-British policy, and already Great Britain has a heavy score to settle with the Kemalists. British prisoners are being detained in violation of an agreement under which Turkish subjects imprisoned in Malta have been liberated; a British ship in Turkish waters has been boarded by Nationalist officials, who seized, maltreated, and took away by force some of the passengers; and now British shipping has been forbidden to approach Turkish harbours under Nationalist jurisdiction. No country can remain indifferent to these studied insults, and no one will contend that the British Government is not within its rights in demanding satisfaction from the Angora administration. But there is no reason why Great Britain should delegate to the Greeks the work of bringing the Nationalists to reason. On the other hand, there are cogent arguments against such a course. If, therefore, the British quarrel with Angora can be settled only by war, it must be war between Great Britain and Turkish Anatolia. The Allied Powers can be notified of the fact, but there should be no question of making the matter an Allied concern, still less of delegating another Power to undertake a punitive campaign against the Turks on Great Britain's behalf.

If the Supreme Council, at its next meeting, decides that the Greeks are to be helped in their war against the Nationalists, it must be on the merits of the Greek case, and Great Britain's quarrel with the Angora authorities ought not to influence the decision. This view is urged from no desire to spare the Turks. A substantial Nationalist defeat at the hands of British troops would probably prove the salvation of Turkey, but that the British Government shrinks from the cost of such an undertaking is no justification for asking the Greeks to do the work for us. An entirely different set of conditions and principles is introduced when it comes to a struggle between Greeks and Turks. In the first place, it is perfectly true that the Greeks were authorised by the Supreme Council to land at Smyrna and to undertake a campaign against the Turks. But the policy that prompted that proceeding broke down completely, and when it was shown to be a hopeless failure it was abandoned in favour of a conference in London, at which both Turks and Greeks were invited to be present. The

renewal of the campaign after the Conference was the work of the Greeks alone; it was undertaken in the conviction that the capture of Angora would be at the most a three months' enterprise, and that thereafter all further trouble with the Turks would be eliminated. Whether the Supreme Council was cognisant beforehand of the Greeks' intentions we do not know; at all events no definite steps were taken to prevent a renewal of the war between the two combatants. Greece need not be overblamed for her miscalculation; it was, perhaps, a natural one, and behind it was the belief that she was acting in the Allies' interests as well as in her own. The worst disservice that could be done to the Greeks to-day would be to encourage them to persevere in their mistake. If their original line of argument had been sound, it would have been unanswerable. The elimination of the Turkish Nationalists and the bringing of the whole of Asia Minor into line with Constantinople was an excellent policy, if feasible. The Greek delegates to London were confident that it was feasible, and would listen to no suggestions that there was a possible flaw in their reasoning. The event has proved them wrong, and if now they obtained sufficient help from the Allies to enable them to take Angora, all the world knows—and presumably the Supreme Council as well—that they would not thereby settle the Turkish question. It is beyond Greece's power with her eight million population to coerce and keep in subjection ten million Turks established for the most part in the Anatolian highlands and with the door to Central Asia, with its twenty to thirty million Moslem inhabitants, open to them. Clearly, Greeks and Turks will have to remain in the world side by side, and the only statesmanlike course to pursue to-day is to devise the most suitable *modus vivendi* for them, and to see that both parties adhere to it.

This point of view, we are well aware, will not be popular in Greece, either with the supporters of the present régime or with Venizelists, for the mere rumour of the possibility of a change in the British Government's attitude towards the Greek war with the Turks has inspired both sections of the nation with fresh hopes. But the main reason why Greece cannot imagine any solution of the Greco-Turkish question apart from an appeal to arms, with the resources of the Allies at her disposal, is that she cannot conceive a Turkey differing from the pre-war Ottoman Empire, or, for that matter, European politics being conducted on other lines than the old system of international hostility and intrigue. Whatever views the Supreme Council, as at present constituted, may hold on the subject, we are confident that the enlightened opinion of Europe will not tolerate indefinitely a return to pre-war conditions. There is no need to anticipate the early introduction of the Millennium, but at least it should be possible to arrange without any world mobilisation that the smaller nations shall not be for ever disturbers of the world's peace. The mishandling of the whole Near Eastern question by the Supreme Council is responsible for the Angora situation to-day, and unless the Allies are anxious for a new war in Anatolia, only one course is open to them: they must recall the Greek offensive and offer reasonable terms, which exclude the placing of any large body of Turks under Greek jurisdiction. If these reasonable terms are rejected, the sooner the Allied campaign against the Nationalists begins the better; but Greek troops should not be employed. When Mustapha Kemal has been dealt with, Greeks and Turks will still have to live side by side because trade is the life-blood of the Greeks, and they will always be found on the Turkish sea-coast, as they are to be found on the Egyptian, English, and American littorals. Any further embitterment of Greco-Turkish relations, therefore, should be avoided, and the Greeks, as a result of the Allies' new policy, should have reasonable ground for anticipating that the Turks with whom they will thereafter have to deal will at least be an improvement on pre-war Turkey, and will be a people with whom normal, if not actually cordial, relations are possible. But if there is to be peace in the Near and Middle East, the Allies and not the Greeks must deal with Angora. It is Greece who stands to gain most from peace.

EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

UNJUSTIFIABLE EGYPTIAN PRETENSIONS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, May 8.

In view of the very great stress laid in the Egyptian Press and in the speeches of Saad Pasha Zaghoul, and even of such so-called moderates as Abdul Aziz Bey Fahmy, upon the "Reservation" demanding that the Sudan should be regarded as an integral part of Egypt, the recent articles by Lutfi Bey El Sayed, himself a member of Zaghoul's Delegation, which were published in the popular paper *Al Ahaly*, in the first half of March last, are of very considerable interest, as showing the type of argument upon which the Egyptians base their claims to the Sudan Provinces.

Lutfi Bey El Sayed gives his articles the title of "A General Memorandum on the Sudan, from the Political Point of View," and divides his argument into six chapters, summing up his conclusions in the seventh. In Chapter I., "The Sudan is a Part of Egypt," the writer maintains that the very existence of Egypt is entirely dependent on the Nile, and claims that all territory traversed by this great river forms part of Egypt. The territory claimed by him includes much of the country that now forms part of the Belgian Congo, Kenya Colony and Uganda, lands which were totally unknown to the Pharaohs, and an infinite distance beyond the farthest march of the Khedivial armies. He continues by delving into the history of Ancient Egypt; but as events of 5,400 years ago can have no possible influence on problems of the twentieth century, there is no necessity to follow him in detail, the more especially as his historical quotations would appear to be wilfully distorted to serve his own ends.

In Chapters II. to V. the author gives us his version of the events which took place in the Sudan from the outbreak of the Mahdi's revolt to the Battle of Omdurman and the Fashoda incident, blissfully ignoring the fact that the Mahdia was essentially a revolt against Egyptian misgovernment. Proceeding, he endeavours to show that after the annihilation of Hicks Pasha's army, Lord Cromer, in true Machiavellian vein, advised the Egyptian Government to evacuate the Sudan, with a view to reconquering the country in the near future and making it a British possession. He makes no mention of the fact that this unfortunate general requested the Egyptian Government to furnish him with 6,000 Regulars and a war-chest of £E120,000 for the purposes of his expedition; he appears to have forgotten the fact that this very reasonable demand was turned down, and that it was only due to the efforts of Sir Edward Malet that Hicks was eventually given £40,000 and 3,000 Egyptian troops with which to carry out his ill-fated march against the Mahdist force. Does this bear out the Satanic policy of Lord Cromer? On the contrary, it would appear to the politically unversed layman that the Khedivial administration were deliberately prepared to sacrifice the Sudan Provinces for a trifle of £E120,000. Emin Pasha, one of the most able administrators in the service of the Khedives, was deliberately left to his fate, in spite of the fact that Equatoria at that time was the sole district comparatively free from the poison of Mahdist propaganda. The cost of the relief expedition was mainly borne by foreigners, and only a minute proportion of the total outlay was made good by the Egyptian Government, notwithstanding the fact that the numbers of Egyptian officials in Equatoria with their families ran into hundreds.

Lutfi Bey El Sayed for the purposes of his argument

makes it an irrelevant fact that the flame of revolt, fanned by the injustice and corruption of Egyptian rule and the sanctioned cruelties of the slave trade, reached to such an intensive pitch that it could never have been suppressed by the Khedivial Government, even with the very considerable support afforded by Great Britain. Furthermore, he suppresses the fact that even with the aid of British troops it was all the Egyptian Army could do to stem the invasion of Egyptian territory at Assuan, after retiring to the frontier proper at Wadi Halfa in 1885. In a similar vein he shows the reconquest of the country as an exploit of Egyptians, with the support of a small proportion of British troops, the share of the Sudanese regiments in the campaign being completely ignored, as is the fact that, in every action where Egyptian conscripts were unsupported by either British or Sudanese detachments, they ran like rabbits before the Mahdist hordes.

Amazing stress is laid upon Egypt having evacuated such outlying garrisons as those of Massawa and Zeila, which are shown as having been reft from Egypt by Great Britain for her own gain or that of her friends. He even goes so far as to specify Zanzibar, a station that was never in Egyptian occupation, as an addition to Great Britain's thefts. He makes much of Uganda and the Belgian Congo being provinces filched from Egypt, utterly oblivious of the chronicled adventures of Baker, Emin, Stanley, and many other early explorers, wherein he would be enabled to correct his vain imaginings as to how far any of the country in the basin of the Great Lakes was at any time in the effective occupation of the Government of the Khedives.

Emin Pasha, writing from Wadelai on October 25, 1887, makes no bones about the corruption of Egyptian Administration. Even the unfortunate official in Equatoria was subjected to extortion on the part of the Khartoum Government. On taking up his appointment as Governor of the Province he was astounded to find that the district for many years had shown an annual deficit of £E30,000. In three years under his rule, this was transformed into a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £E1,200.

In times of Khedivial rule the Sudan was invariably regarded as a penal colony for all ranks guilty of peculation—that is to say, too flagrant peculation—in subordination, etc., much as East Africa was regarded by the Imperial German Government, and the unfortunate inhabitants were subjected to the whims and caprices of a set of discredited officials of the worst type, utterly devoid of moral worth or the milk of human kindness. Is it credible that in twenty years the "nature of the beast" has changed to such an extent that he can rule and administer an uneducated and childlike population in a just and equitable manner? Any resident in the Sudan will express his opinions on the subject more forcibly than politely. As a result of very bitter experience no Egyptian official can be allowed untrammelled administrative powers. The result is invariably a deficit in public funds or a minor revolt on the part of the unfortunates he administers.

Hard facts of history and experience are bitter pills to swallow, but it is amazing what wonderful fairy stories a gullible public will digest with their eyes shut. The Sudani of to-day may possibly have grievances of a minor character, but he is not vastly enamoured of history, and cares not a jot for academic arguments in the realms of International Law. He is very much aware of what he has seen with his own eyes and what his fathers have declared unto him, and, having suffered bitterly under Egyptian misrule, he has no inclination whatsoever to repeat the harrowing experience.



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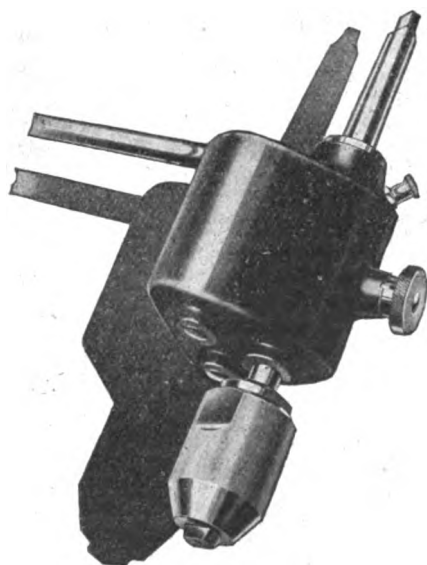
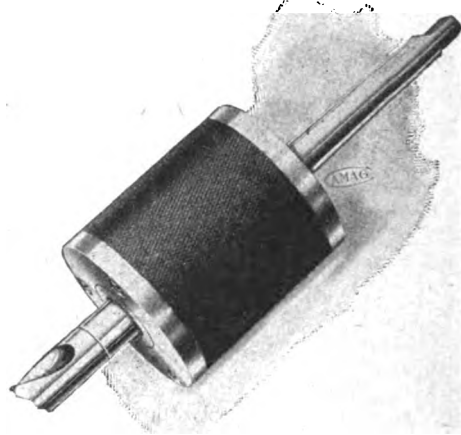
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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Egypt.

The *New Statesman* of May 28, in an article called "Our Choice in Egypt," endeavours to put forward the puzzled attitude of the British public over the latest outbreak in Alexandria. The author views with dismay the refusal of Zaghloul Pasha to touch the Adly Cabinet. He says:—

We confess that we find it extremely difficult to discover any convincing grounds for Zaghloul's attitude. Both Adly and Rushdi, though they may not have co-operated with the Zaghloul party on every occasion, have proved their good faith and their whole-hearted attachment to the cause of Egyptian freedom. Nobody who knows anything about Egyptian affairs could describe them as tools of the British Government—still less of Sultan Fuad, who, as any street-sweeper in Cairo knows, is not capable of employing any Egyptian of consequence as his tool. Moreover, it is but a short time since Zaghloul himself was expressing complete confidence in Adly.

And he proceeds to state that "it is hard to resist the conclusion that this deplorable hitch is mainly a question of personal pique." But he expresses his profound hope that reactionaries in this country will not make capital from the recent riots, and "postpone the whole question till things have settled down." To allow the triumph of the party, in the British Government and outside it, which is opposed to the freeing of Egypt would, he believes, be fatal. For—

To picture the evolution of a struggle between "moderates" and "extremists," led respectively by Adly and Zaghloul, is to see Egyptian affairs all askew. There will no irreconcilable split; there is no antagonism between "moderates" and "extremists," for the simple reason that, though there exist, no doubt, large differences of opinion about details or about methods, there are, in the sense in which the word is understood by our reactionaries, no "moderates" in Egypt. The position which Adly holds at this moment was not attained by him because he set himself in opposition to Zaghloul and his Nationalists, but precisely because he believed himself, and was believed by everybody else, to see eye to eye with them. He has been invited to come to this country to settle the problem of Egypt at the earliest possible moment. If we should now show signs of drawing back, Adly's Ministry would not last a week. He and all Egypt would be united against us. On the narrowest grounds of political expediency, therefore, we trust there will be no weakening of the British Government's resolve to carry out their undertaking—in the letter and in the spirit, and without any procrastination. So far from using the dissensions of Egyptian leaders as an excuse for delay, we ought to make every effort that is within our power to compose these dissensions and to hasten the negotiations. And, finally, on larger grounds, we would repeat what we have said before in these columns, that a just and generous treatment of Egypt is vital alike to the future of the British Empire and to the peace of the world.

And in conclusion, after saying that our legitimate interests in the East must depend in the future on the goodwill of Egypt, he writes:—

Is there anybody so mad as to suppose, looking back on the history of the last two and half years, that we shall secure anything at all—except hatred and bloodshed and an enormous expenditure—by treating Egypt as a sort of glorified Salisbury

Plain? That is one of our alternatives. The other is to enhance our honour and our prestige by binding a free Egypt to us in the ties of genuine amity. If there is a risk in it, it is a risk which is worth taking. And we do not believe that, after honestly facing the facts, any Englishman, save a general who cannot see beyond the War Office or a politician who cannot see beyond next week, will hesitate to take it.

On the same subject a writer in the *Outlook* of May 28 takes up an individual line. After pointing out that the whole trouble bears, to the native Egyptian mind, a personal rather than a political character, he states that "the vital factor in the situation is the attitude of the students."

They are the extremists in Egyptian politics. They would like all the foreign officials removed in order that they may secure their posts. They are now giving their support to Zaghloul, who has evidently sold his conscience for it. A victory for Zaghloul, therefore, will be a victory for these young firebrands; with it will disappear any hope of the amicable working of the schemes suggested by the Milner Mission, any hope of the retention of a reasonable percentage of British officials in an independent Egyptian administration, any hope of an administration honest and friendly enough for us to tolerate. That, at least, is the personal view of one who has lived in Egypt for many years. The behaviour of the Egyptian student on the political "ramp" must be seen to be believed. It is impossible that he should be allowed to govern his unhappy country.

He concludes with suggesting that there are two possible ways out of the difficulty.

Yeghen Pasha, who already has the support of most of the former leaders of Egyptian opinion, may succeed in collecting a party in the provinces strong enough to resist the pressure of the student-led mobs of Cairo and Alexandria. In spite of the daily assurances of the *Times* correspondent in Cairo, this seems at present to be extremely unlikely. Alternatively, Zaghloul Pasha may succeed in bringing his youthful followers to heel. He has no personal liking for anarchy. As Minister of Education under Sir Eldon Gorst, he was, for an Egyptian, a strict disciplinarian. Politically, there can be no great difference between his views and those of Yeghen Pasha, since both agree in the main with Lord Milner's proposals. If Zaghloul can achieve this it will simply be a question of effecting an entente between the Sultan and his British advisers on the one hand and the ex-Minister on the other. . . . In these circumstances, it should not be impossible for the Anglo-Egyptian authorities to arrive at an understanding with the Pasha. It may safely be predicted—unless Egypt has altered inconceivably during the past year or two—that he is only waiting for them to make a move. Of course, we can go on producing rival pashas indefinitely—Rushdi, Mohamed Said (who nearly lost his life over it), Yeghen, and so on—all men of an ability at least equal to Zaghloul's. But if the students, the only numerous class in Egypt that is also articulate, are determined to have none of them, we shall merely be wasting our time.

The *Spectator* of May 28, on the other hand, has a different point of view from either of the above journals. In an article entitled "The Meaning of the Egyptian Riots," it finds occasion to exploit its theories of mass psychology. After showing that the Fellaheen were not in the riots this time, it says:—

The trouble now is between rival political factions in the Egyptian towns. No doubt the rising is in an ultimate sense directed against Great Britain, and even against the presence of any Europeans in Egypt, but if as a result of the rioting one faction comes to the conclusion that it is too weak to fight the other faction, and the local police meanwhile keep order impartially, there is no reason why the riots should spread. The cause of the disturbances is easily explained. Zaghloul Pasha's followers are dissatisfied with his exclusion from the mission which is about to visit London and discuss the future of Egypt. Zaghloul represents the extremists, and he is settling himself to break down the authority of the Prime Minister, Adly Pasha, who under the revenges of time has become comparatively a moderate.

It points out the "fanaticism" of Zaghloul Pasha's followers, and continues:—

The best we can hope for is that the rising will turn out to be a good thing in the long run, because it will separate the reasonable people from the barbarians and the fanatics and will show that the latter are only a weak minority. It is impossible to contemplate this new Egyptian trouble without reflecting how much alike fanatics are all over the world. To rational-minded people it is obvious that when a Government is willing to grant self-government up to the limits of the capacity of those who demand it, by far the most important thing—indeed, the only thing that matters—is for the recipients of self-government to prove that they can work it and benefit by it. Once that proof is given everything else will follow as a matter of course, provided that there is no desire on the part of the aforesaid Government to withhold full self-government for some capricious reason.

The article, after likening Mr. Gandhi to Zaghloul Pasha, expresses, rather despairingly, the trust that the British Government will adopt a strong and clear policy.

We hope that when Adly and Rushdi are in London the Government will make it clear beyond a shadow of a doubt what Egypt can obtain and what she can not. At present fanaticism is under strong temptation to say: "One more riot, a few more murders, and the English will clear out bag and baggage and leave not a wrack behind."

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MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

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BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

The Birthday Honours List is again a long one. Lord Curzon becomes a Marquis, Lord Oranmore and Browne becomes an Irish Privy Councillor. The following names taken from the List will be of special interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST. They are given as they appear in the official lists:—

BARONET.—Newson, Sir Percy Wilson.—Partner in Jardine, Skinner and Co., Calcutta, President of Bank of Bengal, 1920. Governor of Imperial Bank of India, 1921. President of Central Board of Imperial Bank of India, Simla, 1920. Made generous gifts to the Government of Bengal for the purposes of education.

KNIGHTS (INDIA).—Ayyar, Mr. Justice Theagamaja Ayyar Sadasiva, Diwan Bahadur, Puisne Judge of the High Court, Madras. Teunon, Mr. Justice William, I.C.S., Puisne Judge of the High Court, Calcutta, Bengal. Tudball, Mr. Justice William, Indian Civil Service, Puisne Judge of the High Court, Allahabad, United Provinces. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Israr Hasan Khan, C.I.E., Judicial Minister, Bhopal State, Central India. Pickford, Alfred Donald, Esq., senior partner, Messrs. Begg, Dunlop and Co., Calcutta, Bengal. Holberton, Edgar Joseph, Esq., C.B.E., manager, Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, and lately President of the Chamber of Commerce, Burma. Kothari, Jehangir Hormasji, Esq., O.B.E., landlord, Sind, Bombay. Rai Bahadur Seth Bisheshar Das, banker, Nagpur, Central Provinces.

ORDER OF THE BATH.—G.C.B. (MILITARY DIVN.): Willcocks, Gen. Sir James, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., D.S.O. (Colonel of the Loyal R. N. Lancers). Cox, Gen. Sir Herbert Vaughan, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.S.I., Retd. Pay, I.A.

K.C.B. (MILITARY DIVN.).—Carnegy, Maj.-Gen. Philip Mainwaring, C.B., Retd. Pay, I.A.

C.B. (MILY. DIVN.).—Stewart, Col. Cosmo Gordon, C.M.G., D.S.O., Commander, Allahabad Brigade Area. Macmullen, Col. Cyril Norman, C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., I.A., Brigade Commander, 17th Indian Inf. Brigade. Coleridge, Col. John Francis Stanhope Duke, C.M.G., D.S.O., I.A., Gen. Staff Offr., 1st Grade, Headquarters, I.A.

STAR OF INDIA.—G.C.S.I.—Nawab of Rampur, Colonel His Highness Alhijah Farzand-i-Dilpazir-i-Daulat-i-Inglishia, Mukhlis-ud-Daula Nasir-ul-Mulk Amir-ul-Umma Nawab Sir Muhammad Hamid Ali Khan Bahadur, Mustaid Jung, G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., Honorary Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty the King-Emperor.

K.C.S.I.—Todhunter, Charles George, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., member of the Executive Council, Madras. Wheeler, Sir Henry, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., member of the Executive Council, Bengal.

C.S.I.—Raja of Mahmudabad, Raja Sir Muhammad Ali Muhammad Khan, Khan Bahadur, K.C.I.E., Home Member, U.P. Govt. Holland, Robert Erskine, Esq., C.I.E., Political Dept., Govt. of India, Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana and Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara. Beville, Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Granville, C.I.E., Political Dept., Govt. of India, Agent to the Governor-General in Central India. Innes, Charles Alexander, Esq., C.I.E., Indian Civil Service, Sec. to the Govt. of India, Commerce Dept. Hallifax, Charles Joseph, Esq., C.B.E., Indian Civil Service, Financial Commissioner, Punjab. Cooke, Colonel (Temporary Major-General) Herbert Fothergill, C.B., D.S.O., Ind. Army, D.A.-G., Adjutant-General's Branch, Army H.Q. Proes, Ernest Marinus, Esq., Chief Engineer and Sec. to Govt., Public Works Dept., Bombay. Harris, Leonard Tatham, Esq., I.C.S., Agency Commissioner, Madras. Banerji, Albion Rajkumar, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., First Member of the Executive Council of the Maharaja of Mysore. Glancy, Reginald Isidore Robert, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Political Dept. of the Govt. of India, Sadar-ul-Maham, Finance Dept., the Nizam's Govt. Gourlay, William Robert, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Private Sec. to the Governor of Bengal. Wigram, Colonel Kenneth, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Ind. Army, Commandant, 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (Sirmoor Rifles), late Director of Staff Duties, General Staff Branch, Army H.Q. Das, Rai Bahadur Major-General Dewan Bishan, C.I.E., Revenue Minister, Jammu and Kashmir State, Srinagar.

ORDER OF THE INDIAN EMPIRE.—K.C.I.E.: Sheppard, William Didsbury, Esq., C.I.E., late I.C.S., member of the Council of India. Porter, Ludovic Charles, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S., Finance Member, U.P. Govt. Dew, Lt.-Col. Armine Brereton, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Dept., Govt. of India, Agent to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner in Baluchistan. Khan, Nawab Khan-i-Zaman, Chief of Amb. N.-W. Frontier Province. Khan, Nawab Haji Fateh Ali, Kazilbash, C.I.E., Lahore, Punjab. Khan, Raja Muhammad Nazim, C.I.E., Tham or Ruler of Hunza, Gilgit Agency, Kashmir. Edwards, Maj.-Gen. William Mice, C.B., C.M.G., I.M.S., Director-General, I.M.S. Maconochie, Evan, Esq., C.S.I., I.C.S., Agent to the Governor in Kathiawar, Bombay. Urs, Sardar Mysore Kantaraj, C.S.I., Mysore Civil Service, Dewan of Mysore. Willcox, Col. William Henry, C.B., C.M.G., M.D., F.R.C.P., late Medical Adviser to the Civil Administration in Mesopotamia.

KAISAR-I-HIND MEDAL.—The King has made the following awards of the "Kaisar-i-Hind Medal for public services in India" of the First Class:—Davies, the Rev. Canon Arthur Whitelife, Principal, St. John's College, Agra, U.P. Kaye, George Rusby, Esq., Curator, Bureau of Education, Govt. of India. Neston, the Rev. William, Professor and Bursar,

Madras Christian College, Madras. Garu, M. R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur Duruseti Seshagiri Rao Pantulu, President, Godavari District Board, Madras. Muir, the Rev. Ernest, missionary and doctor, Bengal. Das, Sri Gadahar Ramanuj, Mahant of Emar Math, Puri, Bihar, and Orissa. Yain, Lee Ah, Esq., an elected member of the Rangoon Municipal Committee, Burma.

IMPERIAL SERVICE ORDER.—COMPANIONS—HOME CIVIL SERVICE: Knecht, George Theodore, Esq., Head of Establishments, Rules and Accounts Branch, Friendly Societies Registry. Williams, Griffith John, Esq., Senior Inspector of Mines, Mines Dept. Heap, Miss Annie Alice, Supt., Exchange Staff, London Telephone Service, G.P.O. Harvey, William, Esq., Chief Clerk in Department of Prison Commission for Scotland. Sheridan, Francis Stephen, Esq., B.L., Chief Clerk, Congested Districts Board (Ireland).

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.—Hasted, William Anderson, Esq., Director of Survey, Madras. Baw, Maung Hla (1), Esq., K.S.M., District Judge, Prome and Tharrawaddy, Burma. Teyen, Charles St. Leger, Esq., Assistant Secretary, Finance Department, United Provinces Secretariat. Avargal, M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur Paruvakattil Narayana Menon, Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Survey, Land Records, and Agriculture, Madras. Gillmore, Henry Bryan, Esq., Deputy Registrar High Court of Judicature, Lahore, Punjab. Neal, Major William Daniel, Indian Medical Department, Assistant to the Superintendent, Medical College Hospital, Bengal. De Silva, Joseph Balthazar, Esq., Personal Assistant to the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay.

IMPERIAL SERVICE MEDAL.—The King has awarded the Imperial Service Medal to Hari Charan, Jemadar in the Legislative Dept. of the Govt. of India, in recognition of long and meritorious service.

COLONIAL OFFICE LIST.

C.M.G. :—Benjamin Horsburgh, Esq., Controller of Revenue, Island of Ceylon.

KNIGHTS BACHELOR.—Lieut.-Col. Wyndham Henry Deedes, C.M.G., D.S.O., Civil Secretary to the Administration, Palestine. Ponnambalam Ramanathan, Esq., K.C., C.M.G., nominated Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of the Island of Ceylon.

IMPERIAL SERVICE ORDER.—COMPANION: John Smith Erbynn, Esq., Chief Clerk, Ashanti Political Service.

FOREIGN OFFICE LIST.

K.C.M.G.—Sir Charles Stewart Addis, Kt., manager of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, for valuable services to His Majesty's Government in connection with finance in China.

(To be continued.)

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Bulgarian Loans.

Particulars were issued last week of the scheme proposed by the Bulgarian Government for the payment of the coupons and drawn bonds of the Five per Cent. Loan of 1902 and the Four and a-Half per Cent. Loan of 1907 in French francs, which is recommended by the Corporation of Foreign Bondholders for acceptance. Provision is made for the liquidation of bonds drawn for redemption since September 29, 1915, until March 14, and of all outstanding coupons. It is proposed that coupons on the 1902 Loan shall be paid at the rate of 12½ francs each, and that the coupons on the 1907 Loan shall be paid at the rate of 11.25 francs each, while the drawn bonds of both loans will be paid up at the rate of 500 francs per bond. Payment will be made in all cases at the current rate of exchange less income-tax. The bonds are of the face value of £19 16s., so that their realisation will mean a considerable loss to bondholders at the present rate of exchange. The offer is open until April 1 of next year, and holders are, therefore, in a position to delay taking a decision on the chance that the franc will improve considerably before that date.

New Postal Charges.

It is hardly possible to write too strongly with regard to the proposed new postal charges. Cheap postal facilities are essential to commercial enterprise, a fact which is fully recognised by our competitors, but the authorities here have evidently not learnt this lesson, otherwise the Post Office would never be permitted to impose what is in effect a tax on trade endeavour. Publicity is the very soul of commerce, and without newspapers, catalogues, and similar mediums our business men would have a very difficult task in foreign markets. Henceforward, if the proposals pass, all the ways in which they can draw attention to their commodities will be to a large extent restricted. The foreign circulation of newspapers will be affected; it will be impossible to send catalogues on a large scale, and letters will have to be kept down in number. And for what? To meet a deficit due mainly to the swollen establishment of the Post Office—a deficit which, if precedents in other countries are anything to go on, will simply be increased by the higher rates which traders cannot afford to pay.

The Alternative.

This week Mr. Kellaway is to give his defence of the proposals in the House of Commons, and it will be interesting to see what sort of a case he can make out for a tax on business enterprise, and what explanation he can offer for not taking the obvious course to meet the deficit by reducing expenses and also by decreasing rates, a process which experience has proved to pay. He has had an opportunity during the past few days—quite a number, to be precise—of learning the opinion of commerce on the increases, and if public opinion still counts for anything it is possible that at the eleventh hour the proposals may be modified. But, judging by his speech in reply to a deputation from the printing and allied trades, such a contingency is not very likely. Still, much will depend on the attitude of the House, and if there is evidence of determined opposition to the measures, then all things may be possible.

The Cotton Position and the Conference.

At a time when the cotton trade is passing through a period of acute depression the second World Cotton Conference is to meet, and its agenda suggests that the result of the Conference should be to throw a flood of useful light on many of the most pressing problems which confront the industry. The position as regards Lancashire is dealt with in broad outline elsewhere in our columns. It is assumed—indeed, it is certain—that in due course there will be a demand for all that Lancashire can produce, and the real problem is the question of the supply of the raw commodity. Lancashire is dependent on America for the bulk of her supplies, and unless the efforts now being made to develop cotton cultivation within the Empire are completely successful, it is obvious that a time will come when Lancashire will have to go short. That prospect cannot be contemplated with equanimity.

Empire Cotton-Growing.

The report of the British Cotton Growing Association, extracts from which will be found on another page, gives a satisfactory account of the work accomplished during the past year. In 1919 the amount of cotton grown in new fields in the Empire under the auspices of the Association was 79,600 bales of 400 lb. For last year the estimated total is 106,000 bales. When it is borne in mind that the work of the Association is carried on in circumstances of more than ordinary difficulty, it will be realised that this marked increase constitutes a very notable advance. Unfortunately, we are still very far from the ideal of a self-supporting Empire as far as cotton is concerned, and if that ambitious project is to be realised in the near future, it is essential that the work of the Association should receive the most whole-hearted support of all interested in the industry. There is ample land within the Empire suitable for the crop, and for the general welfare it is essential that every effort should be made to see that it is utilised.

The Ceylon Loan.

The expected Ceylon Loan was forthcoming this week in the shape of an issue of £3,000,000, bearing interest at 6 per cent., and offered for subscription at 97. The previous Ceylon issue was made in 1914, the amount then offered being £1,000,000 Four per Cent. stock at 99. The terms of the present issue were nothing like so favourable as those of the recent Indian loan, but, all the same, the loan was oversubscribed on the day of issue, thus bearing out the view I expressed at the time that the Indian Loan could have been raised at a lower rate.

P. and O. Bank's Report.

A very satisfactory initial report is forthcoming from the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Ltd. The accounts cover the nine months ended March 31, which will henceforward be the date on which the company's financial year will end. For that period the profit amounted to £73,290, after writing off preliminary expenses totalling £57,680, £31,250 of which was met from premium on shares, setting aside £53,600 for taxation, and providing for bad and doubtful debts, etc. It is proposed to utilise this to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. less tax, absorbing £66,449, and to carry forward £6,846.

New Rupee Loan.

This week the terms were announced of a new Indian rupee loan which takes the form of six per cent. five and ten year bonds at par, free of Indian income tax. The bonds will be issued at Rs. 100, and subscription to the issue may be in the form of either cash or Indian War Bonds maturing in 1921 and 1922. Subscriptions in cash can be made between June 20 and July 30, both days inclusive; but the 1921 War Bonds will be received up to October 29, and the 1922 War Bonds up to September 15. Indian Treasury bills will also be accepted in payment of subscriptions up to July 30 at a discount of 4 per cent. per annum on the unexpired portion of the currency of the bills. Applications in the form of cash or War Bonds will be received in London by the Imperial Bank of India.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB (Undated).

The Proposed Internal Loan.

The proposed 500 million dinar internal loan has a good press. In a leading article the *Politika* welcomes the suggestion on the grounds that it will put the communications of the country on a thoroughly sound footing, which is a vital necessity to the proper development of the economic resources of Yugoslavia. The *Politika* is confident of the feasibility of the scheme, pointing out that private deposits in the National Bank are constantly increasing and loans diminishing, so that there are ample funds available, that the Prva Hrvatska Shtedionica, of Zagreb, has nearly a quarter of a million dinars on deposit and current account, while the First Serbian Agricultural Bank has 17 millions, and that there is plenty of money in Liubliana. In the early part of 1919, when things were far from settled, the Government made a successful issue of bonds of 300 million krone, and there are believed to be about three milliards and 700 million dinars in circulation. Politically, now that the Constitution has been passed in principle, the floating of such a loan would have a most valuable and steadying influence on all parties and would strengthen the union. The proceeds will be expended on doubling existing single lines, on harbour facilities and improving main roads. The construction of new lines will be postponed until financial conditions have improved.

Forecast of New Taxes.

Substantial increases in taxation are expected in the forthcoming Budget. It is anticipated that octroi duties will be heavily increased, and many new taxes introduced. All advertisements and notices will be taxed, and stamp duties and all fiscal charges increased. Death duties are to be introduced on a sliding scale, that is, a small tax on inheritance from father to son, and from husband to widow, but substantial in the case of more remote relationship, even up to a third of the capital value of the property. Finally, Customs duties and the tax on turnover are to be raised.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, May 26.

British Creditors and the Moratorium.

In connection with the raising of the Moratorium a deputation of Sofia business men has made the following proposal with regard to the settlement of debts owed by them to British firms: "That all Bulgarian firms should deposit an amount in leva in the creditor's name at a local bank, which would be selected by the creditor. This sum to be two, three, or even four times, but not more than four times, the leva equivalent of the sterling debt at pre-war rates of exchange. That this sum should be held for the creditors in the local banks for a period not exceeding three years, during which or by the close of which the debtor will cover himself by purchases of sterling currency, as occasion presents itself, in order that by the closing date of the period—if not before—the whole debt should have been met in sterling; the interest on the deposit in the bank to remain the property of the creditor." If the British creditors concerned insist on being paid in

full to-day, it is to be feared that as the current rate is 326 levas to the £1 there will be many bankruptcies, and thus the debts will not be paid at all. This action would also greatly tend to bring about an atmosphere prejudicial to British trade. In the light of the conditions, it would seem that the above proposal is worthy of serious consideration by British creditors.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, May 18.

Heavy Import Duties.

A Commission is actively at work at the Ministry of Finance on a tariff on imported goods, which will probably come into force on June 1. The present taxes will be increased by from 50 to 500 per cent., and even more, according to the articles. The aim of the administration is, besides creating large revenues for the State, to protect some home industries, especially in Transylvania and the Banat.

A Capital Levy?

According to the projected new fiscal law, a tax of 10 per cent. will be imposed on all liquid capital in the shape of Roumanian banknotes. In order to be able to carry out this measure, it is proposed to issue a new type of paper money to replace that at present in use. The conversion will be at the rate of 100 lei to 90 of the new issue.

Financial Position Improving.

The Ministry of Finance announces that by applying the provisionally voted one-twelfth of the Budget for the month of April, he succeeded in satisfying all the requirements of the State for that month, without needing to apply to the National Bank for a fresh loan. It is the first time since the Armistice that this happy result has been obtained, which is due primarily to the great curtailment of expenditure, which, at the Ministry of War alone, amounts to 1,200 millions a year.

General News.

The Ministry of Agriculture announces that the outlook of the coming crop is very satisfactory.

The National Bank has resumed the withdrawal from circulation of the remaining portion of the Banca Generala notes issued by the German authorities during the occupation. This time, instead of calling in the whole amount within a limited and short time, the bank will gradually receive them in the course of its daily transactions.

Some German firms are refusing to send to Roumania the goods previously bought and paid for by Roumanian merchants. The bone of contention is the 50 per cent. import tax imposed by the Allies, to which the Roumanian Government has adhered. The German merchants maintain that this tax should either be borne by the buyers or the transaction be cancelled and the money refunded by them.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, May 18.

The Economic Position.

The papers lament the "terrible plight" of all classes owing to the prevailing state of trade in all branches. It affects merchants, producers, and town workers alike. Harvest prospects are fortunately good, but it is urged that there is little hope in the outlook and that the only relief at present would come from a relaxation of the regulation which prohibits the export of cattle and olive oil, of which there is an abundance far in excess of the island needs. At the same time, although villagers are feeling the pinch in some parts owing to the fall in all prices of agricultural produce, there does not appear to be any outward or visible change in the towns, where—in spite of the calls for economy—life appears to go on much as usual. The Cypriot peasants, many of whom have done exceedingly well in late years, are generally improvident; though probably not more than the rural classes in most countries.

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ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, May 24.

A Greek Firm.

Messrs. Stradi, Cassimati and Co., one of the prominent Greek firms in Smyrna dealing in iron, steel, and general hardware, have called together their creditors, and have submitted a balance-sheet showing liabilities amounting to £190,000 and assets estimated at £160,000, and have asked that an arrangement may be made for the benefit of the firm's creditors. It is expected that the creditors will appoint a liquidator to collaborate with one of the members of the firm to arrive at a settlement.

Death of Mr. Barfield.

Mr. Herbert Barfield, general manager of the Ottoman (Aidin) Railway Company, died suddenly last night. He had been in indifferent health for some time, but the end came with startling suddenness, and much sympathy is expressed for Mrs. Barfield, who has been ill for a considerable time. The death of Mr. Barfield is a great loss both to the Aidin Railway Company and the entire British colony.

LEATHER IN MESOPOTAMIA.

Since the beginning of the war the number of hide and skin producing animals in Mesopotamia has been reduced at least 50 per cent. (says a recent American consular report). No reliable statistics can be had, but it is estimated that the percentage of reduction applies equally to all classes. Notwithstanding the larger number of animals slaughtered during the past few years, the local tanners say that fewer hides have been brought to the tanneries and that those brought were of an inferior quality. The fact that more hides and skins have been taken to Europe raw during this period than formerly may account for the decreased supply. The tanneries are not running at full capacity, but in view of the present state of the market for such products there seems to be no serious shortage. Practically nothing in this line is being exported or imported at the present time.

The local tanning industry has undergone no changes during the war. The tanning process is very simple, and is carried on without the aid of any kind of machinery or modern equipment. Almost all the tanning of Mesopotamia is done at Baghdad. The tanneries here are divided into two main groups. One group of about forty is devoted to the tanning of sheep and goat skins. Another group of about 60 tans only cow, buffalo, and camel hides. The former turned out in 1920 approximately 500,000 sheep and 100,000 goat skins and the latter 60,000 cow, 10,000 buffalo, and 2,000 camel hides. The first group has turned out as many as 800,000 sheep skins and 200,000 goat skins in the course of a year. The best of the tanned skins, amounting to about 80 per cent. of the output, have been going to Europe, and the rest coloured and used locally for making slippers, etc. The tanned hides are mostly used locally in the manufacture of shoes and other leather goods. During the past few years 600 or 700 bales of sole leather and from 3,000 to 4,000 feet of fancy leather have been imported yearly. The best of the sole leather comes from France, and the balance from India.

There are many shoemakers in Baghdad, but no large establishments. These small manufacturers buy their daily supply from a few larger leather dealers. Fairly respectable looking shoes are turned out, but they do not have the wearing qualities expected of imported shoes. They are, however, much less expensive, and are adapted to the tastes of the larger body of consumers. A great deal of shoddy leather is used in making coloured slippers, which are still in greater demand than any other kind of footwear. Owing to the low rate of the rupee exchange and decreasing demands, practically no purchases are being made by local merchants. The general decline in prices of raw material has caused exportation to be almost entirely discontinued. Consequently there are quantities of hides and skins accumulating in this market.

TENDERS INVITED.

[Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.]

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

Egypt.

Pantaloon.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of Bedford cord pantaloons. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer to the Egyptian Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1. June 17.

Antimony, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Government Press, Bulaq, Cairo, for the supply during 1921 of: Antimony, best refined, 5,100 kilos.; lead, pure, in pig, 18,800 kilos.; tin, in rods or ingots, 3,300 kilos. The material is required for making type, and must be guaranteed as virgin metal by the tenderer. Tenders must be addressed to the Controller of Printing and Stationery, Old Ismailia Palace, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, and it is stipulated that the tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt or must have a representative in Egypt. Each tender must be accompanied by a provisional deposit of 2 per cent. in money of the total value of the offer. Only Post Office orders or cheques on local banks will be accepted. June 30 (D.O.T.).

Yugoslavia.

Furniture, etc.—Tenders are invited for the supply of: 1, furniture; 2, silver and gold plate; 3, glass, crystal and porcelain; 4, household linen; 5, liveries; 6, motor-cars; and 7, coaches, required for the Royal Palace in Belgrade. Tenders should be submitted to the "Direction de la Cour, Belgrade," and marked, "Offre pour l'achat des effets necessaires." The goods are to be delivered not later than October 15 next. June 15 (D.O.T.).

Chloride and Creosote.—The Ministry of Communications invites tenders for 40,000 kilos. chloride zinc in powder and 700,000 kilos. creosote. Tenders must bear the usual tax stamp and be accompanied by a bank guarantee for 20 per cent. of the value of the tender, and should be addressed to Section Economique du Ministère des Chemins de Fer.—June 22.

Petrol and Benzine.—The Ministry of Roads and Communications invites tenders for 1,370,000 kilos. of petrol and 848,000 kilos. of benzine, and various quantities of lubricating and sundry oils. Tenders must be accompanied by a bank guarantee for 20 per cent. of the total value of the tenders, and bear the usual 10 dinar stamp, and be addressed to: La Section Economique du Ministère des Voies et des Communications.—June 24.

Rainproof Cloth.—The Serbian State Railways invites tenders for the supply of wagon covers made of rubber or rainproof cloth. No quantity specified. Tenders, with samples of cloth, to be submitted to the Section Economique de la Direction des Chemins de l'Etat à Belgrade, and bearing a tax stamp for 10 dinars, and accompanied by a bank guarantee for 80,000 dinars.—June 30.

Tarpaulins.—The Direction of State Railways in Belgrade invites tenders for the supply of 500 tarpaulins as follows:—(a) 300 must be 10 metres long and 8 metres wide. On the "length" sides there must be 11 metal holes, on the "width" sides 9, with corresponding number of fastening ropes, each 1.20 metres long. (b) 200 must be 6 metres long and 4 metres wide, the "length" sides having 7 metal holes and the "width" sides 5, with the corresponding number of ropes, 1.20 metres long. The tarpaulins must be made of impregnated cloth. Samples have to be submitted by the tenderer. Delivery is to be made within two months of the signing of the contract, and all charges and duty paid. The offers, which must be provided with a duty stamp, must be addressed to the "Generalna Direkcija Zeleznica," Belgrade, in a sealed envelope. On the envelope must be written, "Ponuda za Nabavku Musena" (Offer for the Supply of Tarpaulins). Payment in cash on delivery. June 30 (D.O.T.).

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WORLD COTTON POSITION.

OUTLOOK FOR LANCASHIRE.

Next week will see the opening of the second World Cotton Conference, which commences at Liverpool on June 13, and terminates at Manchester on June 22. The first was held at New Orleans two years ago, and was instituted as a result of a visit to this country of an American delegation, the view being taken that such a gathering would prove of considerable utility in view of the problems confronting the cotton trade as a result of the abnormal conditions created by the war. The conference fully justified its aims, a permanent organisation was formed, and now we have the second conference, which meets at a time when the conditions and general position of the industry give rise to perhaps even greater anxiety than was the case in 1919.

Then the main questions at issue were the relation of the supply of cotton to the prospective demand that was looked for as soon as trade began to right itself, and the probable course of commercial reconstruction. To-day the situation is complicated by a variety of circumstances which could not possibly have been foreseen two years ago. The expected trade boom arrived, and Lancashire for a time was in the hey-day of prosperity, but it ended as suddenly as it began, because the world's markets available to traders were not yet able to absorb the normal amount of commerce, and because the best efforts of the economists and financiers have failed to overcome the stultifying effects of the adverse exchanges of the impoverished countries of Europe. And so we have been witnessing all the consequences of over-production without the causes, such as unemployment and half-time labour, while it is as certain as anything is that vast potential markets exist in every direction for cotton goods if only conditions would make them available to the industry. This is not to say that if by some miracle the exchanges touched parity to-morrow the markets concerned would again be immediately accessible to the same extent as before the war. Obviously that would be absurd. But if, for instance, as the result of good harvests, a large export of minerals, or for some other similar reason certain exchanges became normal, it is certain that a demand would be forthcoming in due course from these countries. It has been said that if the inhabitants of Africa could be persuaded to have one shirt apiece, we should have to go short. In present circumstances, if the purchasing power of the world could be restored to its pre-war position, this might conceivably be the case also, for cotton goods are among the things that are indispensable in our civilisation, and people will have them if they can have anything, and as, so far as can be judged, the temporary "boom" did no more than take the edge off the post-war demand, it can be anticipated that the trade revival, when it comes, will be a very real recovery indeed.

If, however, producers are justified in looking forward to a time when their mills will be running at full pressure in a vain endeavour to supply the demand, their optimism cannot but be tempered with the fear lest the supplies of raw material prove inadequate. Unfortunately, there is a very real possibility that this may prove to be the case. It is no new problem. It has been before the industry for years, but circumstances of late have tended to accentuate its gravity. The position has been dealt with in detail in these columns from time to time, and there is no necessity now to do more than outline the main facts of the case. Owing to our failure in the past to develop cotton-growing within the Empire until the establishment of the British Cotton-Growing Association, this country is mainly dependent on America for its cotton supplies. Now the American crop has gradually been decreasing, while the proportion of it utilised in America has been constantly on the increase, mainly as the result of the rapidly growing use of it for tyres. To complicate the position further from the Lancashire point of view, there is the unpleasant fact that America has also been steadily increasing her consumption of Egyptian cotton. It can be seen from this brief survey that there is a very real prospect that in a time of

normal demand Lancashire's requirements may not be met. Thanks to the activities of the British Cotton-Growing Association, the area under cotton within the Empire is being constantly extended, but though great progress has been made, our home-grown supplies of cotton even now form only a small proportion of our requirements, and apart from the fact that for many reasons the development of cotton cultivation must be a gradual process, the economic conditions of to-day would appear to limit the area that can be devoted to the crop.

One effect of the "slump" was naturally to depress the price of cotton, which had risen to record figures, and is now at a level at which it is unremunerative to the grower. That is a factor which presents itself from time to time in regard to all crops, but its incidence in the present case is particularly serious in view of the economic changes brought about by the war. While cotton is round about the 1914 figure, the cost of living stands at something like 150 per cent. above the pre-war level. It is not surprising in the circumstances that cultivation should be decreasing in favour of more remunerative crops. In America, as always happens when the price falls to an exceptionally low level, growers are giving up the crop on a large scale, and it is to be anticipated that the next crop there will be very small. Within the Empire the effect is naturally to make it exceedingly difficult to enlarge the area under cotton.

This question of the remunerative character of the crop is one of the gravest with which the industry is faced. There is little doubt that as soon as conditions are normal the world will be able to absorb far more than the pre-war output of cotton, and that cultivation will require to be constantly increased. As things are, there appears to be no prospect of this if cotton is to be regarded as a crop that will pay in some years and that must be avoided in others. If the problem is not solved, there can be no reasonable prospect in present circumstances of the adequate extension of cotton cultivation within the Empire, and that means that Lancashire will continue to depend in the main on the American crop, with the absolute certainty that the time will come when the surplus of that crop available for export will be quite inadequate to meet her wants. In the face of that prospect it is obvious that every effort must be made to find a way out of the *impasse*. This country may be able to do without its coal exports in the last resort, but it cannot do without them and cotton goods, one of the mainstays of its trade, and our staple article of export to many markets. The only practical solution would appear to lie in the adequate utilisation of the residual fibres of the cotton seed, which can be used for many commercial purposes. It has been established that the by-products can be sold to advantage, and it would appear that their use in years when the price of cotton is low would just make the necessary difference to the cultivator, while in good years his profits would be accordingly increased. Certainly only by some measure on these lines will it be possible to safeguard the Lancashire industry and to ensure the even supply of cotton that is to be desired.

NEW SHILLING CURRENCY.

In the House of Commons on June 2, Mr. Wood, in reply to a question by Colonel Wedgwood, stated that the new shilling currency to be introduced into the British colonies, protectorates, and mandated territories of East Africa would be divided into cents, a cent being the hundredth part of a shilling. The new shilling would be the standard coin, and legal tender for any amount. The size would be larger than that of the English shilling and less than that of the Indian rupee. The present 50 cents coin would be replaced by the new shilling, and the old 5 cents coin would be used as the future 10 cents coin. The estimated value of the present subsidiary coinage, i.e., 1, 5, and 10 cent pieces, now in circulation was approximately 1,000,000 rupees.

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian (week ended May 27).—Gemsah, 444 tons (previous week, 52 tons); Hurghada, 3,074 tons (against 3,349 tons).

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ENGINEERING.

Insulation Points.

An interesting point in connection with the insulating materials used in winding armature and field magnet coils and other electrical apparatus has just been brought to my notice. The material most commonly employed in the preparation of these is shellac, which is soluble and may be carried in solution by liquids of the alcohol family. Paraffin wax is also used, this being soluble in naphtha and other light hydrocarbons under certain conditions, and in addition there are other materials, as bitumen, which can be carried in solution by somewhat similar coal tar derivatives.

Some little time ago the makers of a special kind of insulating material were informed by one of their largest customers that their insulating compound was not giving complete satisfaction, and, in addition, was becoming brittle and breaking away from the material to which it was applied. Upon visiting the company's winding-room and examining the machines, it was found that the bodies of the coils were in first-class condition, but that the insulation of alternate leads was brittle. It was found that this condition was due to the fact that the winders were marking every other lead with a stock insulating compound of another colour in order that they might keep account of the work done more readily. This stock compound had a different insulating base, and was composed of a different liquid solvent, and the two insulations, that and the special kind supplied by the big firm, were mutually destructive.

Taking the types of insulating material mentioned above, it appears that when solutions of them are applied in successive coats as insulation on a winding or other part of a piece of electrical apparatus, the result is a composite but non-homogeneous layer, which will give trouble sooner or later. The two parts of the layer will not only have no affinity or adhesiveness towards each other, but will be mutually repellent and injurious. Thus it is not possible to mix shellac and paraffin wax together, and it is also impossible to produce a flux or solvent that will dissolve the two together and make a uniform, fast and durable mixture. These two different solids in suspension or solution in a plastic mass in which they are free to flow will separate out in exactly the same way as certain dissimilar liquids, and any exposure to heat, as in the ordinary use of the electrical apparatus in which the insulation is employed, will cause chemical disturbances to be set up that will eventually destroy the insulation altogether.

Oil and Coal.

There is an old adage that it is an ill wind that blows no one good, and there is no doubt that the coal strike has hastened the development of oil-burning apparatus and has shown those engineers who had some doubts on the matter that oil is a serious rival to coal. Many power stations, according to *Electrical Industries*, are installing and using oil burners. At Lots Road, the power station which supplies energy to the District and Tube railways and to a number of tramway services, sixteen boilers have been equipped, and the coal saving is calculated at 320 tons per 20-hour day, or, roughly, 115,000 tons per annum. Owing to the proximity of the river, the oil is being pumped direct from barges into a storage tank, which feeds the boiler installations. Less

than three weeks were occupied in putting the equipment into service. Similar changes have been made in the tramway power stations at Leeds, Hull, and elsewhere. Experiments in oil burning have also been carried out at the Swansea power station. In a recent interview, an official of the Shell-Mex Co. stated that practically every electricity undertaking in the country is seriously studying the possibilities of oil at the present moment. Some are actually using the fuel, some are conducting experiments, and others are in the enquiry stage. Railway companies, he claimed, are rapidly realising the value of oil, both for use at power stations associated with electric services and for the direct firing of steam locomotives. A few days ago it was stated that two main-line railways were negotiating for the equipment of their power stations for electrically-driven trains with Scarab oil-burning apparatus. Commenting upon this marked development, the paper in question stated that all this activity leads, of course, to the speculation whether the adoption of oil burning is likely in any case to be permanent. The oil champion asserts that in London oil fuel is more economical than coal and that all the indications point to the conclusion that London is going over permanently to oil. This forecast is probably coloured by a commercial hope, but the present necessity of using oil may well lead to its retention as an auxiliary or a stand-by even where it is not regularly used. At the Crown Point station in Leeds, for example, the oil burners are used to supplement coal firing, the automatic stokers being regulated to give the slowest possible feed of coal. We may also recall that at Hereford, where Mr. Kerr burns coke breeze, oil burners are used to help the station over the peak. What would happen to the price of oil if all the power stations in the country used it continually, we should not like to say, although the Shell-Mex and other oil companies would probably be very eloquent on the subject. Mr. Kerr is one of the few central station engineers who can snap their fingers at both coal and oil. He has stored enough coke breeze to last him several months, and, as the fuel is not liable to spontaneous combustion, he has had to face none of the difficulties about laying in a stock of coal. Successful burning of coke breeze is, however, a rare art.

Special Steel Saws.

It appears that a special quality of tungsten steel is now being made use of in the construction of the "Diehard" hacksaw blades manufactured at Sheffield by the well-known firm of Thomas Firth and Sons. The addition of the necessary percentage of tungsten to the steel is claimed to increase not only the durability, cutting power, and working speed of the saws, but also to add considerably to their life. The firm have just issued a list giving the sizes and other particulars of the saw blades obtainable, and containing a number of valuable hints to users. It appears that for soft machinery steel, the cutting speed recommended is 100 strokes or about 50 ft. per minute, and for annealed tool steel 70 strokes or about 35 ft. per minute. These speeds, it should be noted, are with lubricant; where dry cutting is the practice, the speed should not exceed 60 strokes or 30 ft. per minute. A further note points out a fact that has been known for years to most engineers, which is that cast iron should be cut without a lubricant; but no doubt this will be a tip of some value to the new school of post-war engineers, who use emery for bearings and make nuts fit by the simple process of hitting them with a hammer. With steel, a cutting compound should be used when possible. Soluble oil is suitable, but the solution should not be strong, and should be made alkaline by the addition of soda. As regards pitch, the number of teeth suggested as generally correct for hand blades varies from 14 to 1 in. for mild steel and cast iron, and 16 for general workshop use up to 22 for brass, 28 for tubing, and 32 for thin tubing and sheets.

The Fiat Company.

After being closed for one month, work has been resumed in the Fiat factory under the original management and on the conditions imposed by the directors. The revolutionary movement which burst forth last September appears to have completely died out, for in the recent Italian elections the Communist leaders at Turin, who were workers in the Fiat factory, and were responsible for the disturbances, were defeated by overwhelming majorities.

Working conditions were not really involved, the outbreak being of a political nature and engineered by a small group of extremists. The mass of the workers recognised this, and after volunteering to return to the factory on the conditions laid down by the management, they showed their disapproval of the extremists by overthrowing them at the general elections.

Reports have been circulated in a certain section of the Press that a dominating interest in the Italian Fiat Company has been secured by the German financier Hugo Stinnes. This statement is entirely incorrect, for Stinnes has no connection, either directly or indirectly, with the Fiat Company, the capital of which is entirely in Italian hands.

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NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business continues to be very restricted. There is little demand for currants, and prices are again lower on balance. Sultanas have been in good request at increasing rates, and supplies of this commodity are now becoming short. Figs have been in fair demand, and Persian dates have also been in request.

Sugar.—Home refined is in good demand at unchanged prices. West Indian crystallised is 1s. down at 53s., to 56s., and American granulated at 61s. has lost 6d. Czechoslovakian came to business at 32s., while white Java is quoted at 23s. Quotations are:—June-July, 20s. 6d.; August, 20s.; September, 17s. 6d.; October, 16s. 3d.; November, 15s. 9d.; December, 15s.

Coffee.—Prices have been firm, Costa Rica, bold to good bold greenish, has been done at 114s. 6d. to 119s. 6d., and medium from 102s. 6d. to 109s. Nairobi bold greenish made 38s. 6d., medium from 65s. to 70s., and small from 52s. to 56s. 6d. Futures market steady. Quotations are:—July, 42s.; September, 42s. 6d.; December, 43s. 3d.; March, 44s.

Oilseeds.—A firm tone has characterised the market. Indian linseed is 3d. up at 18s. 9d., and La Plata at 17s. is unchanged. Rapeseed has risen with Toria at 20s. 6d., bold Ferözepore at 19s. 6d., and brown Cawnpore at 18s. 6d., increases of 6d. in each case. Cottonseed is again lower, with Bombay at 10s. and the Egyptian black variety at 10s. 3d., decreases of 9d. and 2s. 3d. respectively.

Oils.—There has been little change in prices. Linseed oil is 3d. up at 32s. 3d. Rape oil is unchanged, with crude at 54s., and refined at 62s. Refined cotton oil at 42s., and deodorised at 48s., are unchanged, but Egyptian crude has gained 1s. at 35s. Turpentine has dropped 8s. during the week to 85s.

DRIED FRUIT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows for the fortnight ending June 2:—

Currants.—Since our last report stocks have been replenished by further supplies per Asturian and Tyria. Excellent qualities of Zante and Gulf formed a good proportion of these, and being packed in wood and the market bare of these descriptions an active demand was looked for. Unfortunately, business has been at a standstill to a great extent, for though the trade is undoubtedly short of good fruit, this fact is insufficient to counteract the paralysing and blighting influence of the coal strike which drags on week after week. There is no particular alteration to record in the outlook, traders continuing their waiting policy, pending a settlement of labour troubles. Where sales took place prices were slightly in buyer's favour, but holders display wonderful confidence under the circumstances, realising that buyers are carrying no stocks, so that an immediate resumption of activity is expected to coincide with the termination of the coal strike. Total arrivals from commencement of season to date 24,100 tons.

Quotations are: Pyrgos and Amalias, 60s. to 65s.; Patras, 65s. to 70s.; Zante, 70s. to 80s.; Gulf and Panariti, 70s. to 80s.; Vostizza, 82s. to 95s. Bosnian has commenced discharging 1,200 tons.

Valencia Raisins.—A few fine selected quarter boxes realised 120s.

Sultanas.—Prices have continued on their upward course, the principal business being in Afghans, the red variety selling from 95s. to 100s., and up to 107s. for a specially bright parcel. Yellows sold at 110s. to 125s. Of Smyrna only a few lots remain and quotations are 130s. to 170s. for fine. Greeks sold at 137s. 6d.

Figs.—Slow at 55s. for genuine quality.

BULGARIAN TRACTOR TRIALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, May 23.

The tractor trials are still dragging on, but it is thought that of the machines which have already demonstrated the Italian "Fiat" and British "Saunderson" stand the best chance of success.

The Commercial Bank of Morocco have declared a dividend of 8 per cent.

A new bank has been formed at Bucharest with the title "Banque Maritime Roumaine," with a capital of ten million lei.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended May 28 amounted to £10,273.

The Sudan Government have decided to reduce the wages of all labourers working for Government departments, and at Makwar and Jebel Aulia.

The Indian and General Investment Trust recommends final dividend on preferred stock at rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and final dividend on deferred stock at rate of 12 per cent. per annum, making 10 per cent.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended May 10 amounted to £10,335—total for year ££39,652. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to ££11,989 and ££46,812 respectively.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 133s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 185s. cwt.; cheese, 128s. 6d. cwt.; chillies, 120s. cwt.; eggs, 17s. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9½d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 78s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 115s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (East Indian, bold), 112s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Mocha, longberry), 93s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos superior) 54s. cwt.; coffee (Nairobi), 100s. cwt.; lard, 68s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 124s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin) 37s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's) 10½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 105s. cwt.; raisins (Sultana, Smyrna), 140s. cwt.; currants, 79s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 61s. 7½d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 65s. 1½d. cwt.; sugar (white Java), 58s. cwt.; sugar (West Indian crystallised), 53s. 3d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 25s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 15s. 9d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 16s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran Rangoon), £6 2s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 5½d. lb.; tea (Ceylon, common to good common), 6½d. lb.; tea (Java, common to good common), 4½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 83s. 6d. qr.; wheat (English white), 95s. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 82s. 1½d. qr.; barley (malting), 67s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 41s. qr.; oats (La Plata), 30s. 9d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 55s. 1½d. qr.; flour, 68s. 6d. sack.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer (first), 90 lb. and up, 8½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 8½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 8½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 7½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 6½d. lb. Ox and heifer (second), 90 lb. and up, 7d. lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 6½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 4½d. lb. Cows (first), 60 lb. and up, 7d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 7d. lb.; (second), 60 lb. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 4½d. lb. Bulls (first), 4½d. lb.; bulls (second), 3½d. lb. Kips (first), 6½d. lb.; (second), 5d. lb.; third, 3½d. lb.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 10½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 6d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 8½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £20 5s. 7½d. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £45 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 11½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £21 10s. ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 139s. 6d. cwt. Potassium: Bichromate, 9½d. lb.; chlorate, 5½d. lb.; caustic, £47 10s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 9d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £22 10s. ton. Sodium: Crystals, 145s. ton; bicarbonate, £10 10s. ton; bichromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 15s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 10s. ton; prussiate, 7½d. lb.; nitrate, £18 11s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 125 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £32 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 2d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 7½d. oz.; red lead, £39 ton; white dry lead, £42 15s. ton; white ground lead, £51 15s. ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulus), £39 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £74 15s. ton; copper (electro), £76 10s. ton; gold bars, 104s. 0½d. lb.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 130s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 160s. ton; galvanised sheets (24G), £22 ton; lead (soft foreign), £23 19s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 3½d. unit; molybdenite, 50s. unit; nickel, £187 10s. ton; platinum, 365s. oz.; plumbago, £25 ton; quicksilver, £11 2s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 34d. lb.; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 17s. 6d. ton; tin (standard), £180 17s. 6d. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 26s. 3d. box; wolfram, 12s. 9d. unit; zinc sheets, £36 10s. ton.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 8.27d. lb.; linseed (La Plata), £16 12s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £20 7s. 6d. ton; soya beans, £11 12s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £20 ton; cotton (Egyptian), £12 10s. ton. Oils: Linseed, £32 ton; soya, £34 ton; cotton (crude), £34 ton; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton; ground nut, £40 10s. ton; palm, £34 10s. ton; rape (crude), £53 10s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £48 3s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 1d. gallon; turpentine (American), 94s. 6d. cwt. Shellac (T.N. second orange), 407s. 6d. cwt.; shellac (A.C. garnet), 310s. cwt.; rosin (American), 21s. cwt.; copra (Ceylon), £30 15s. ton; copra (Straits F.M.S.), £29 7s. 6d. ton; tallow (Australian mutton), 33s. 6d. cwt.; tallow (Australian beef), 34s. 6d. cwt. Plantation Rubber (No. 1 crêpe), 8½d. lb.

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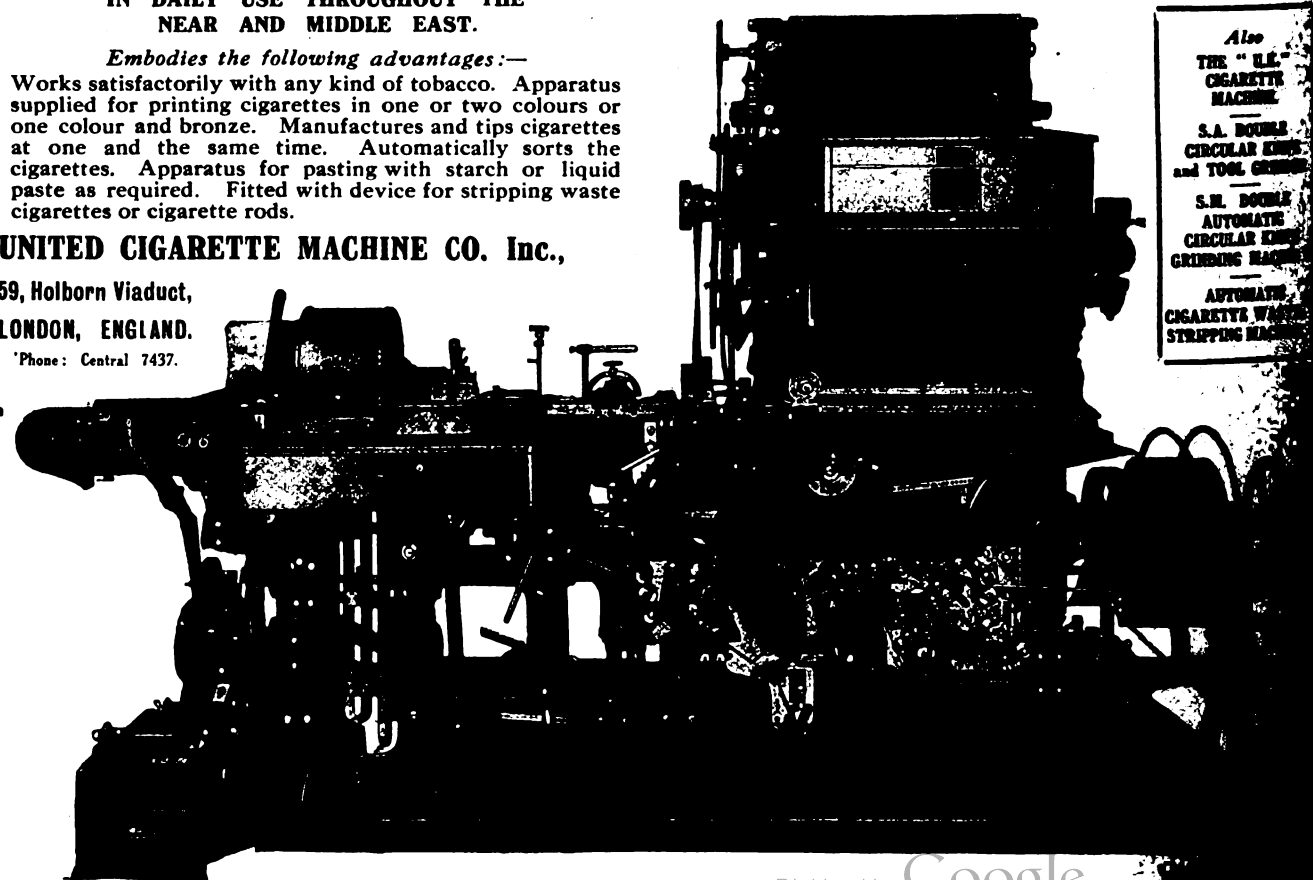
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PROMOTION OF COTTON GROWING.

The report of the British Cotton Growing Association for the past year shows a record of steady progress. There was a surplus on the year's working of £56,468, after making full provision for depreciation, income-tax, and corporation profits tax, and the deficit of income and expenditure account, which stood at £57,927 at December 31, 1919, has been turned into a surplus of £9,811. The Council regard it as particularly gratifying that notwithstanding that very large sums of money have been expended over many years in pioneer and propaganda work, the capital of the Association remains intact. The immediate outlook, however, is not so satisfactory, as a high price was guaranteed to the native cultivators in Nigeria up to June 30, 1921, and the Council have also considered it advisable to purchase a large quantity of the 1920-21 Uganda crop at a price which would not unduly discourage the native growers.

As regards the production of cotton, the results for 1920 are eminently satisfactory. The estimated amount of cotton grown in new fields in the British Empire in 1920 amounted to 105,800 bales, as against 79,600 bales in 1919. The report points out with reference to the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation that the terms of the draft charter and by-laws have been practically settled, so that there may be no delay when once assent to the voluntary levy of 6d. per bale of 500 lb. has been obtained from the industry as a whole. The Committee intend to recommend to the Corporation, when formed, the appointment of Sir James Currie, K.B.E., C.M.G., as director, and of Colonel C. N. French, C.M.G., as assistant director.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, June 6.

The failure of the employers and the operatives to adjust wages has come as a surprise in the market, but the rupture is now complete and the stoppage of production has taken place. In well-informed quarters it is estimated that work will not be resumed for three or four weeks. The position of affairs is now being investigated by the Ministry of Labour. Trade for the time being is in a state of chaos. Holders of stocks of yarn and cloth are holding more firmly to prices. So far there has not been any rush on the part of buyers to secure supplies. The offtake in Egyptian cotton remains poor. No crop news of any importance has come through since a week ago. In Egyptian yarns only a small trade continues to be done. Quotations at the moment are quite nominal. In cloth for Egypt the undercurrent of inquiry continues fairly healthy, and some shippers are more eager to place orders with manufacturers. A few lines have also been booked for Constantinople. Operations for India have been restricted. Most of the inquiry has been for Bombay. Better mail advices are now being received from China, and it is reported that stocks in Shanghai are being reduced. A few more offers have been about for standard makes. There has been very little activity for South America. Manufacturers believe that the lock-out will put the market on its feet. American yarns for home use have remained quiet at late rates. Business continues to be done in bundles for India and the Near East.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended June 2:—

The past week unfortunately has shown no improvement on the many bad ones which have preceded it. The inquiry for cotton, spot c.i.f., has been miserably poor, and when any new feature does make its appearance it generally proves a depressing one—as witness the recent uncertainty with regard to the outcome of the cotton spinners' wages conference. Considerable disappointment is felt here that nothing has yet materialised in the way of a settlement of the coal dispute. This would appear to be the key to the situation, and in the meantime—*faute de mieux*—we can only wait and hope. The small inquiry still continues to centre chiefly round Sakellaridis—fully good fair to good—though a slight hardening in the Upper basis is noticeable this week.

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LEVANT MARKET REVIEW.

We give the following extracts from the market review of the National Bank of Turkey for April:—

Business during the past month has been very slack, and all markets were quiet. Merchants have been placing very small demands, and are content to wait until better days. It is hoped, however, that the improvement of the Turkish exchange during the latter half of the month may brighten the local markets somewhat. Enquiries were received from Greece and Anatolia, but little business was effected owing to difficulties of transport. It is interesting to note that an exhibition of Agricultural implements will be held during July under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture. Trials will be held and awards given to those machines which pass the tests. The cost of living in Constantinople for a native person of moderate means has dropped considerably since last month.

There is a great deal of small shipping held up in the port on account of the stagnation in the market here and the blockade by the Greeks of the Turkish ports on the Black Sea. Some activity is shown in the traffic to Roumania owing to better transport facilities in that country, and also to the fact that she has begun to export goods. Traffic with Bulgaria during the month has shown an improvement.

Produce.

Flour.—Arrivals during the month were between 9,500-10,000 tons from Egypt and America, at prices varying from £21 to £22 per ton c.i.f. Constantinople. The market has remained steady, and local demand continues strong. Stocks on hand are about 5-6,000 tons.

Barley.—About 1,000 tons have arrived from Roumania and Russia for the local market at prices between 8½ to 8¾ piastres per oke. Smyrna and the ports on the Sea of Marmora have taken up all exports. Crops in Roumania are very promising and good results are expected.

Sugar.—Arrivals amounted to 100 tons only from Holland and France. During the month the price rose from £40 per ton c.i.f. for crystallised to £45, and from £50 to £55 for cubes, owing to the absence of fresh imports. Stocks in hand are about 1,000 tons, and about 1,200 tons are expected. The market closed weak, but fortunately stocks are not big.

Rice.—The demand has been well maintained, but merchants are refraining from passing fresh orders. About 7,000 sacks arrived from France and Rangoon, but stocks here are not large, and no big consignments are expected.

Coffee.—Stocks are fairly low, and small arrivals are expected. Merchants are not making fresh orders, and are very reserved. Demand is weak, and ordinary qualities in transit are offered at 20 to 21 piastres the oke.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF THE OTTOMAN FOUR PER CENT. UNIFIED CONVERTED DEBT.

The Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt inform holders of the Unified Debt that, in accordance with Article No. 1 of the Décret-Annexe, and without prejudice to their rights under that Article, they have decided to authorise the PAYMENT in London of the sum of 1s. 3d. on account of each half-yearly Coupon of 8s. to Allied and Neutral holders who are in possession of overdue Coupons due March, 1915, to March, 1920, inclusive.

The provision for the payment of this amount is in the hands of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, London Agency.

Holders are invited to present the above-mentioned Coupons before the 1st September, 1921, at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2, either direct or through the intermediary of any of the under-mentioned Establishments:—

Imperial Ottoman Bank, 7, Rue Meyerbeer, Paris.
Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas, Paris.
Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Paris.
Crédit Lyonnais, Paris.
Société Générale pour favoriser le Développement du Commerce et de l'Industrie, Paris.
Société Générale de Crédit Industriel et Commercial, Paris.
Crédit Mobilier Français, Paris.
Banca d'Italia, Rome.
Banca Commerciale Italiana, Rome.
Banque de Bruxelles, Brussels.
Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas, Brussels.
Banque Centrale Anversoise, Antwerp.

In exchange for the Coupons, accompanied by a declaration of nationality, holders will receive, at the same time as the cash payment, receipts representing their rights.

These decisions are not applicable to holders presenting only Coupons due March, 1919, September, 1919, and March, 1920, either separately or together.

Constantinople, 8th April, 1921.

With reference to the foregoing advertisement, the Imperial Ottoman Bank give notice that they are prepared to receive on and after the 18th instant the above-mentioned Coupons, listed on forms which can be obtained on application. The cash payment is subject to deduction of Income-tax and 2d. per receipt for stamp duty.

It will be a convenience if holders will present Coupons through their bankers.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2.

14th May, 1921.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

ALEPPO.

The report for March and April states:—The market remains quiet. The approaching crop of cereals promises to be particularly abundant in some of the neighbouring districts, but it is considered that the total yield of the crops of this region will be 20 per cent. less than that of the previous year. It is estimated that there will also be a decrease of 50 per cent. in the production of butter and the raising of cattle. As long as communications with the interior continue to be interrupted, it is impossible to expect trade to recover. The new wool season is commencing. The yield is below that of the previous year because of the decreased number of cattle. The exportation of the products of this region is practically at a standstill.

ADANA.

The report for April states:—As a result of the uncertainty of the political situation and of the world trade depression the position here is one of complete inactivity. A large part of the 1920-21 cotton crop is still here. Despite various offers made by Italian, Greek, and Smyrna merchants no transactions have been carried out. The exports of the month consist of 600 bales of cotton for Smyrna and Salonika. As regards imports there has been a certain amount of activity during the month. The railway between Alexandretta and this town, which has been interrupted since the events of July, 1920, has been repaired, and is open for use. It is estimated that the forthcoming harvest of cereals will give a yield of 40 per cent. of that of the past year.

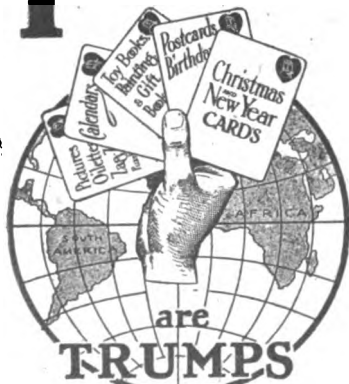
MAMOURET-UL-AZIZ.

The report for March states:—

As regards agriculture, the month has been dry, and the outlook for the approaching harvest will not be good if the conditions are the same in April. As a result of the position, wheat has risen 20 per cent., but the rise has now been stopped by arrivals of flour from Sivas.

The fall in the prices of manufactures has not yet made its effect felt here, because the merchants, nearly all of whom hold old stocks, are to some extent in agreement not to dispose of their goods at Constantinople prices, which would entail serious losses for them. They are also abstaining from giving fresh orders, so there is no movement in imports at the moment.

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ON 'CHANGE.**Dull Tone Prevails.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

There has not been much change in the general market position during the past week. With the coal strike still lingering on, and the prospects of a settlement somewhat indefinite, there is a strong disposition on the part of buyers to hold aloof.

Gilt-edged stocks have declined to weakness. War Loan Fives are 9-16 down at 87 11-16, while Victory Bonds have shed $\frac{1}{8}$ at 78. Consols at 46 are $\frac{3}{4}$ down. The new Indian loan is now at a premium of 3. The Ceylon loan, to which I drew attention last week, has proved an enormous success, and shows very plainly that money will always be forthcoming for a sound security.

Industrials have been rather firmer during the week, Iron and Steel shares displaying a favourable tone. Oils have been rather quiet, but a demand has developed for one or two lines, notably Oil Trusts, which have been quite a feature of the market to-day. Rubbers are better on a trifling improvement in the raw commodity.

Near Eastern securities which rank as Government stocks have been firmer. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. are $\frac{3}{4}$ up at 68 $\frac{1}{2}$. Greek Guaranteed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent., 1889, are unchanged at 66 $\frac{3}{4}$, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent., 1855, are the same at 71.

Greek shares are mostly unchanged. The 5 per Cent., 1881, and the 5 per Cent., 1884, loans at 38 are each a point up. The 5 per Cent., 1890, is also that amount up at 39. Fundings are unchanged at 36, and the 4 per Cent., 1910, loan is unaltered at 29. The 4 per Cent., 1902, loan is 34, and the 5 per Cent., 1914, loan is 36.

Land shares have been weak. Beheras are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 8, but the preference shares are unchanged at 3. Anglo-Egyptian Land allotments at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$, and Egyptian Consolidated Lands at 1s. are unchanged, as are Egyptian Delta Lands at 6s. 9d. and Gharbich Lands at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$. New Egyptians are 6d. down at 22s., while Union Foncières at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ have shed $\frac{1}{4}$, and Sudan Plantations are 1-16 down at 2 13-16.

In Oils, Anglo-Egyptian are unchanged at 1 13-16, but Phoenix at 10s. 9d. are 9d. lower. Roumanian Consols are 3d. down at 13s. 6d., but Steaua Romanas are 1s. up at 16s. Burmahs are 3-16 up at 6 11-16.

Banks have been firm. Agricultural 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Bonds and the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 51 and 53 respectively. Imperial Ottoman Banks are $\frac{1}{4}$ down at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, but National Bank of Egypt are $\frac{1}{8}$ up at 17 $\frac{3}{4}$. Land Bank of Egypt have shed 1-16 at 4 15-16.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions, Abyssinian Corporations are unchanged at 2s., while Alexandria Waters have gained $\frac{1}{8}$ at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Morums are 10s., and Egyptian Markets remain at 18s. 6d. x. Egyptian Salt and Sodas are 6d. down at 27s. 6d.

Sir George Curtis, member of the Bombay Government from 1916 to 1921, will deliver an address before the Royal Society of Arts on Friday afternoon on "The Development of Bombay." The chair will be taken by Sir William D. Sheppard, member of the Council of India.

Alexandria Water.—Final dividend of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., payable June 15, making 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for year; £14,506 for depreciation on buildings, machinery, etc.; £718 for depreciation on materials; £4,000 for depreciation on securities; £4,883 subsidy to staff; £2,417 gratuity to staff; £489 to employees' relief fund; £3,000 provision for compensation claims; £4,400 provision for corporation profits tax.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.**Delhi Electric Trams.**

The report of Delhi Electric Tramways and Lighting Company for 1920 states that gross receipts from tramway undertaking totalled £16,642, and electric supply undertaking £40,048. Both branches were affected by labour troubles during latter part of year. Combined undertakings show net revenue of £22,266, as compared with £20,429 in 1919. Profit, including profit on exchange, after charging general expenditure in London and Delhi and Debenture interest, was £31,325, plus brought forward £1,362, together £32,687, less depreciation of plant and equipment £10,000, renewals reserve £7,500, reserve for British and Indian taxation £4,000, leaving £11,187. Dividends of 8 per cent. per annum upon Preferred and Participating shares, less tax, recommended, and dividend of 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per share on Ordinary shares, less tax, carrying forward £982. Expenditure on maintenance during year (with the exception of special renewals, amounting to £2,535) has been charged to revenue. Additions to plant amounted to £7,703. Meeting, Basildon House, Moorgate Street. E.C., June 16, noon.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated May 30:—

During the week ending May 21 general crop prospects unchanged. Bombay cotton market steady; fine M.G. Oomra July Rs.277; Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to May 20, 1921, were 2,132,000 bales, as compared with 2,766,000 bales during the corresponding period of the last year. Bombay native piecegoods merchants' association have rescinded their resolution passed on December 7 last prohibiting members from purchasing foreign piecegoods either by indent or otherwise until Government changed their exchange policy; but they have confirmed their resolution of December 22 to postpone payment for goods imported until exchange rate rose to two shillings, with this addition, that a penalty of 51 rupees would be imposed on members who settled contracts below the two-shilling exchange rate. An agreement is proposed binding signatories not to settle contracts below that rate, under penalty of 25,000 rupees. Calcutta jute and gunny markets remain steady but very dull. No change in bank rates.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on May 30 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 1-16; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 $\frac{1}{2}$; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2 11-16; Associated Cotton Ginners, £23-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 52; Behera Ord., £E7 13-16; Behera Priv., £3 3-16; Bonded Stores, £99; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 75; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16; Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 102 ex; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt. 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 780 ex; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 598; Credit Foncier 1885 Oblig., Fr. 317; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 224 $\frac{1}{2}$; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 226; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eau du Caire Capital, Fr. 77 $\frac{1}{2}$; Eau du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 101 $\frac{1}{2}$; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 28s.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4 $\frac{1}{2}$; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £10 $\frac{1}{2}$; Gabbari Lands, £11-32; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £5; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2 $\frac{3}{4}$; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £4 13-32; Kom Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £33 9-16; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turc, Fr. 43; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 230 ex; Nungovich Hotels, £6 $\frac{1}{4}$; Ramleh Railway, £1 25-32; Salt and Soda, 27s. 9d.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 37V; Tram. d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 48V; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £2 7-32; Egypt Hotels, £2; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 27-32.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

NEW DANUBE COMPANY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 18.

The local Press announces with great satisfaction that the "River Syndicate" and "Danube Navigation" companies have decided to form a new navigation company in Greater Roumania, with a capital of 10 million lei, to operate on the Roumanian section of the Danube, under the title of "Societatea Anglo-Romano de Navigatiune pe Dunare" (Anglo-Roumanian Navigation Co. on the Danube). The object of the company will be to increase the passenger and goods traffic at the Roumanian ports on the Danube.

PIRÆUS SCHEME ABANDONED.

According to an American Consular report, the plan for the extension of the harbour of the Piræus, for which 40,000,000 drachmæ were to be expended, has been abandoned because of reduced shipping, the critical financial condition, and the opposition of dock labourers of the Piræus.

QUICKER ITALIAN SERVICE TO EGYPT.

The London office of the Italian State Railways and Steamship Lines announces that the Trieste Lloyd Line (Lloyd Triestino) has effected an important acceleration in its weekly service to Alexandria. The voyage from Trieste now occupies 73 hours and from Brindisi 48 hours by oil-driven liners of the well-known Helouan class. Egypt can thus be reached from London in under five days.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia, for Bombay [taking cargo for Karachi and coast ports] (Liverpool, June 11).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 15); s.s. Imani, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 18); s.s. Masirah, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 29).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 22).

Byron Steamship Line.—A steamer will sail on June 24 from Liverpool for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Macindor, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 23).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople (Glasgow, July 2); s.s. Phrygia, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Swansea, July 12).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Belgravian, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 11); s.s. Gerano, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Liverpool, June 16).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Manchester, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 17); s.s. City of Alexandria, for Bombay (Birkenhead, June 25). A steamer will sail on July 1 from Birkenhead for Calcutta.

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenade, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 16); s.s. Glentara, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 30).

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Glynn Line.—S.s. Riposto, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, middle of June).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Gladiator, for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 18).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Henzada, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 15); s.s. Amarapoor, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 29).

Holt Line.—S.s. Cyclops, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, June 10); s.s. Keemun, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, June 10); s.s. Eumæus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 17); s.s. Calchas, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 17).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Portinglis, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, June 11); a steamer will sail from Liverpool on July 9 for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila.

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, June 17); s.s. Maindy Transport, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, end of June).

Moss Line.—S.s. Siptah, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 18).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Asturian, for Malta and Alexandria [taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Haifa, Mersina, Jaffa, Port Said, and Cyprus] (Liverpool, June 18); s.s. Bosnian, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 25).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nellore, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London, June 17); s.s. *Morea, for Bombay (London, June 24). *Taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden (with transshipment at Bombay) for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports.

P. & O. British India Line.—S.s. +Mashobra, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 24); s.s. *Merkara, for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 1); s.s. +Mandala, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 8). *Taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar coast ports; †taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden.

A dividend of 200 lei per share is payable on the shares of the Petrol-Block in Bucharest.

It is announced that Mr. C. D. M. Hindley, Agent, East Indian Railway, has been appointed chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust. It is reported that a group of Roumanian financiers have bought the deposits of bauxite at Bihor for 40,000,000 lei.

The artificial silk industry in Czechoslovakia, says an American consular report, is making unusual progress. Four concerns, with a total capitalisation of 130,000,000 crowns, have been established.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

An interesting feature of the exchanges this week has been the improvement in the Greek rate, which at 62.50-63.50 drachmæ to sterling is 2.50 lower. Prague is five points better at 260-270 kronen, but Sofia has risen a point to 324, while the Constantinople rate is considerably weaker. The Bucharest quotation has also expanded a little.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmæ to £	25.22½	62.50-63.50
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	120-125
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3½-1.3¾
Bucharest	Lei to £	25.22½	230-235
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3½-1.3¾
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	514-534
New York	Dollars to £	4.86½	3.86-3.87½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	46.75-47.05
Prague	Kronen to £	24.02	260-270
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	73.50-75.00
Sofia	Levas to £	25.22½	324
Teheran	Krans to £	50	50½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24.02	1,600-1,700
Warsaw	Marks to £	20.43	3,900-4,100

In some cases quotations are nominal.

Profits in Foreign Exchange Dealings.

An expert writer has compiled for us a series of Articles explaining Foreign Exchange transactions from the English Investors' point of view. The writer explains the Exchange value of the English £, shows an actual transaction resulting in 60 per cent profit, explains the profit possibilities of the French franc, the German mark, the Italian lire, &c. This Article will be sent free of charge by

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THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Mr. Winston Churchill's Speech.

At the time when these pages are passing through the press, it is expected, Mr. Winston Churchill will be announcing to the House of Commons some of the results of the Cairo Conference and expounding the intentions of His Majesty's Government in regard to Mesopotamia and Palestine. No surprise announcements are expected. The main lines of British policy have already been laid down, but the personal attention which Mr. Churchill and the Middle East Department can give to the subject is all to the good. In Mesopotamia the last effects of the misguided disturbances have been removed, it is to be hoped, by the proclamation of an amnesty. All is now ready for the Arab administration and an Arab defence force, both of which must be evolved gradually and carefully, and cannot expect to spring ready equipped from the ashes of Turkish misrule. The first step is the appointment of an Arab ruler. In regard to Palestine also caution must be the order of the day. The British Government is committed to a policy of keeping the peace between the different sections of the community. If in the past an attempt has been made to force the pace in the matter of immigration, the recent riots have provided a salutary warning which will not have been lost on the keenest Zionist.

The Little Entente.

The terms of the treaty between Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania, signed at Bucharest on April 23, show that the agreement is concerned solely with Hungary, except in so far as each country binds itself not to conclude a treaty with a third without notification to the other contracting party. At the same time, there is a constructive clause in the agreement. Article IV. provides that "in their common endeavours to maintain peace, both Governments agree to reach an understanding upon questions of foreign policy in connection with relations with Hungary." The mere ostracism of Hungary will not meet the situation in Central and South-Eastern Europe. It may be a necessary preliminary, in view of recent events in that country, but from this negative stage it should be possible eventually to pass to a more positive one. The further agreement between Roumania and Yugoslavia may be expected to be couched on similar lines, although it will probably have reference to Bulgaria as well as Hungary. In his conversations M. Take Jonescu, Roumania's Foreign Minister, lays special stress on the literal observance of the Peace Treaties. He will not, however, have overlooked the fact

that by common consent the Treaty of Sèvres has had to be modified, and if one Treaty can be improved upon it is probable that others may also be susceptible of judicious modification. There is no indication that the Supreme Council had a monopoly of wisdom in Paris, where it worked under great difficulties. All that is required to-day is that each treaty connected with the peace of Europe should embody terms that have the best chance of providing a permanent settlement on the best lines; it will be immaterial, thirty or fifty years hence, whether those terms were finally drafted in 1920 or 1921.

Proximus Ardet.

With the arrival of King Constantine at Smyrna the struggle between Greece and Turkey must shortly enter upon a new phase. If the Allied Powers still hold aloof and maintain an attitude of studied indifference, which might be in keeping if the combatants were located in South America instead of near the fulcrum of the British Empire, the Greek army will presumably launch a fresh attack. The utmost that it can hope to achieve is a victory that will drive the Turks farther away from Smyrna, and it may be anticipated in Athens that in the strength of such a success the Allies will modify their present views regarding the Treaty of Sèvres and will confirm the Greeks in the territory awarded them. What effect the additional financial burden is likely to have on the economic future of Greece can only be surmised. No doubt, if all went well, the Allies would be asked to make themselves responsible for a considerable part of Greece's indebtedness, but in view of the attitude of the Allied Powers, collectively and individually, towards Greece, it would seem as if the Greek Government were risking a great deal on a single throw.

A Policy of Pique.

It is at least a possible alternative to a rapid Greek victory that another stage of stalemate may intervene, whether the Turks have to evacuate Angora or can maintain their ground at Eskişehir. Under such conditions Greece would have no special claim on Allied generosity, and her financial position would, indeed, be parlous. A Turkish victory, on the other hand, would be hardly less disastrous to the Allies than to Greece, because it might confirm the Angora authorities in a demeanour which must spell indefinite unrest in the Near and Middle East. In all the circumstances, therefore, it is difficult to understand how the Allied Powers can stand by with folded arms and allow a situation to become more and more prejudicial to all interests concerned. The pressing need for a policy in the Near East, which has been persistently urged in these pages, has now been taken up

in other quarters. But much damage that could have been avoided has already been done. A sound step was taken when Turks and Greeks were brought to the London Conference. It was, however, immediately stultified by the childish pique that allowed the Greeks to attack the Turks. Rather than accord King Constantine the official recognition entailed in requiring him to do their bidding, the Allied Governments held aloof and virtually forced him to a course which he imagined would reinstate him in their good books. For the mere possibility that King Constantine might ride to his own fall, and so free them from an awkward diplomatic surrender, the Allies were prepared to see the ferment in the Near East perpetuated and the healing of the world's war wounds still further postponed.

Back to First Principles.

A candid exchange of views between the Allied Powers and Greece a few months ago would have saved the Near East much misery, and would have prevented some of the world's resources that have escaped the destructiveness of the long war from being squandered now. It would seem, however, that the Allied Powers have not even brought themselves to contemplate the renewal of normal relations with Greece, for they have maintained in Athens representatives closely identified with the Venizelist regime, who, the more able and qualified as diplomatists they may be, find it the more difficult to enter into friendly association with King Constantine. So long as this attitude is maintained there can be no settlement of the Near East. Greece is necessarily at a disadvantage, for her view of what may or may not be her real interests is tinged by the natural desire to rehabilitate herself in the eyes of the Allies. She is now concerned to establish the false premise on which the Treaty of Sèvres was based, that Greek rule over Turks offers a peaceful settlement that is impossible with Turkish rule over Greeks. All those with first-hand knowledge of the Near East know that peace is incompatible with either method for many years to come.

Better News from Egypt.

News received from Egypt during the past week has been quite as satisfactory as could be expected. The details of the deplorable outbreak at Alexandria have become known, with the inevitable result; the Europeans in Egypt, and their friends in other countries are naturally alarmed and anxious as to the future; and it looks as if those Egyptians who do not favour Zaghloul Pasha's pretensions are at last realising that, unless Egypt is to lose the substance for the shadow, it behoves them to rally to Adly Pasha and his Cabinet, and to show that the students and other noise-producers are not all Egypt. At any rate, the Prime Minister is reported to have been kept quite busy in receiving influential deputations from the provinces; and after the Bairam reception at the Palace he was almost overwhelmed by callers, amongst whom were many of the most influential landowners and notables. Demonstrations of this character, which show, and are intended to show, that men with a real stake in the country are determined—we must again add “at last!”—to mark their disapproval at least of the Zaghloulites' methods, will do something to counteract the harm done to Egypt's cause by the recent riots. But Adly Pasha and his colleagues will inevitably find it much harder work now than it would have been before to convince the British people that Egypt is ripe for self-government.

Misplaced Sensitiveness.

In the circumstances it is certainly unfortunate that anything said by a British Minister should add to the Egyptian Cabinet's difficulties and afford Zaghloul Pasha a pretext for another “vigorous protest.” But nobody outside Egypt would think for one moment of blaming Mr. Churchill for speaking as he did at Manchester on the situation in Egypt. In face of what happened at Alexandria it is self-evident that the moment to withdraw our troops from Egypt has most decidedly not come yet. The letters from our Cairo Correspondent which we publish this week show the view taken by the

British and other foreign communities; and, after all, the first duty of the British Government, as of any other European Government, is towards its own subjects. The Egyptian mob may howl out catch phrases about the last of the foreigners being out of Egypt within a year; but if it endeavours to get rid of them by massacre and outrage it cannot expect much sympathy outside Extremist circles; and Mr. Churchill did well to make the European view of the case clear. It is to be noted that condemnation of the outrages is expressed even more strongly in other countries than it is here. No one acquainted with the true facts would accuse the Italians of favouring the British at the expense of the Egyptians; but some of the sternest rebukes for the latter have come from Italy. Thus, a correspondent of the *Corriere della Sera*, previously favourable to Egyptian aspirations and critical of British rule, is quoted by the Milan correspondent of *The Times* as writing: “The Egyptians have now proved that they are not yet worthy of the absolute independence which they are claiming”; and *Il Secolo* expresses regret for “our abuse of the British, our sympathies ostentatiously shown for the Egyptians.” The Egyptians must blame not Mr. Churchill but another orator, nearer home, for their troubles.

The Outlook in Persia.

The composition of the new Persian Cabinet is announced, and the Prime Minister has issued a statement regarding its intentions. The Government, he says in effect, hope to concentrate its attention on internal reform, and the fact that he has himself taken the portfolio of the Interior is, perhaps, another indication to the same effect. With its neighbours and other Powers Persia will seek to maintain friendly relations, and she realises that her geographical position “entails on her the obligation of remaining neutral.” This programme, if somewhat lacking in originality, is unexceptional; and the fact that the former Russian Bank, lately transferred to Persia, is to be constituted the State Bank of Persia, may mean the beginning of brighter days, financially, for the country—though it is hard to believe it. But there are two clouds on the horizon already: the Sardar Sipah (better known as Colonel Riza Khan), Minister for War, is reported to be finding himself somewhat lonely in the new Cabinet; and the Soviet troops at Enzeli have been ordered to remain there by the Soviet Minister. Whether either of these clouds is likely to spread must be a matter of speculation.

The Antiquities of Palestine.

The Government of Palestine has made a good beginning in the matter of protecting the antiquities of the country from injury by unskilled excavators and from removal from the country of their origin. The first of these measures will not be challenged by any competent critic, and the regulation regarding export will be equally well received if it be wisely administered. We take it that there will be no objection to the exportation of antiquities of the commoner kind, and that in regard to more valuable specimens replicas at least will be presented to any scientific body that may have been instrumental in their discovery or recovery. Otherwise the incentive to undertake excavations will be considerably weakened, or, rather, the difficulty of securing funds for the carrying on of such work will be greatly increased; for though the excavators themselves may be, and generally are, satisfied with making discoveries, the public to whom they must look for financial support always wants to see some tangible result of the work. It is noticeable that the American Universities are showing much activity in the matter of Palestinian excavations. Mr. Fisher has by now probably begun work at Beisan—a virgin and wonderfully promising site—on behalf of Pennsylvania; while Megiddo has been set aside for Chicago, and fresh work at Samaria will be undertaken by Harvard. The French, too, are active once more. It is to be hoped that the work of our own admirable Palestine Exploration Fund at Askalon will be generously supported by the public.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

The Dawn of Settlement.

The industrial situation shows signs of improvement. The Government's intimation to the miners a week ago that the offer of a subsidy would expire in a fortnight has helped to restore reason in the coal camp. Both owners and miners, having lived so long on the tax-payer, were aghast at the idea that the ten millions might after all not be transferred from the pocket of John Bull to King Coal, and instant preparations were made to compose the family feud before the time ran out. Negotiations which had before been impossible were now conducted in a friendly spirit. Proposals which could not be modified were suddenly revised. The positively final concessions were mysteriously stretched a little further by a new interpretation; the lion lay down with the lamb, and both decided that, *faute de mieux*, they would milk that patient ass, the British public, before it ran altogether dry. Cynics declare that in the modern world, when thieves fall out honest men have to pay them an extra war bonus, but no doubt that is an exaggeration. The fact is that there need have been no fight at all if there had been more goodwill on the two sides; but while Mr. Hodges talked of destroying capital and the coal-owners offered a wage which could not be defended in public one could hardly look for charity in the coal trade.

Cotton and Engineering.

The cotton people, who have also fallen out, look like composing their differences within a few days. The employers seem to have regretted their *non-possumus* attitude—in this case it was they who broke off the negotiations—and, as orders are said to be mounting up, there is every inducement to make peace. The engineering dispute is a more open matter, and here again the actual issue is complicated by personal antagonisms and suspicions.

Anti-Dumping.

It has been a very bad week for the Government. The Anti-Dumping Bill may be sound or unsound, but we could wish that the Cabinet Ministers who are piloting it through the House sounded more convinced of its merits. After all, it is their baby, but they talk about it as though they happened to find it by accident on the doorstep and adopted it out of their kindness of heart in spite of its ugly face. Mr. Fisher, for instance, cheerfully admitted that Protection was poisonous, like strychnine, but suggested that in small doses both Protection and strychnine are excellent tonics. At any rate, most of the Coalition Liberals are swallowing the tonic with wry faces, while their old allies, the Wee Frees, assure them of their approaching demise, and like the wicked man in the parable, proclaim that the inheritance will be their own.

An Election Surprise.

The Coalition have also lost heavily in the country. At St. George's, Hanover Square—reputed the safest seat in the kingdom—the Government nominee was beaten, although in Sir H. Jessel they had secured a very strong candidate; Anti-Waste was the only plank in the victor's platform. At Heywood, in Lancashire, a Government majority of ten thousand in 1918 was converted into a Labour victory—an astonishing landslide. It is understood that Labour won on cotton; there is very strong feeling in Lancashire at the lock-out by the employers, which has locally, at any rate, quite upset the Government's calculation that the coal stoppage meant the end of Labour victories for another twelvemonth.

Economy in a Flood.

More serious than any by-elections, however, is the financial situation, which the Government are at last taking seriously. The coal trouble has made it certain that 1922 will not show the surplus that Sir Robert Horne budgetted for, but a heavy deficit; if it leads to real economy in Whitehall, however, it will be a blessing in disguise. Staffs are being cut down in the depart-

ments, and the process will now be expedited; the Ministry of Health, which has been the worst spend-thrift, is being curbed at last. Ambitious schemes are sternly jettisoned, and the Ministry of Agriculture has confessed to an extraordinary reversal of policy.

An Agricultural Revolution.

Last year Lord Lee carried through a scheme for a farmers' bonus on cereals; the project was part of a large agricultural policy which was combined with a minimum wage for labourers. A four years' guarantee was given. The whole policy has now been hastily abandoned, in the interests of economy. It may save the Exchequer a fair amount of money; but it is not a good thing for a Government to turn its principles inside out over the week-end.

Its effect on the constituencies is bound to be unfortunate. The policy was always unpopular in the towns, which could not see why the farmer should have a subsidy; but its reversal is too much like a death-bed repentance to be accounted for righteousness by the urban voter. In the country it will have the unique consequence of antagonising both the farmers, who lose the subsidy, and the labourers, who lose the minimum wage. Farmers are hardly likely to vote Labour in any case, but Hodge, who has woken up of late, is rather attracted by Labour, and will probably put his money on that particular political horse.

The Labour organisation has been generally averse from running candidates in rural districts in the past, for it is only recently that trades unionism has really taken root in the village, and political Labour has neither understood nor been interested in the soil, its candidates coming from shop and factory rather than farm. It will probably revise its attitude now. It will have a good deal to learn in this respect; as a matter of fact, the eight hours' day is an absurdity on a farm, with its seasonal variations of work, and the Labour leaders would be wise if they recognise the fact.

But they can do useful work in exposing the wretched housing conditions of the peasantry, in stopping the growing habit of ejecting them from their cottages to accommodate week-enders from town—an intolerable scandal—and in attempting to lessen the petty tyranny that still exists in the villages, and increasing the social amenities. If they could make the life of the countryside a little brighter they might incidentally succeed in making the country as moral as the towns.

Coalition Discontent.

While these things are happening in the country, it is natural that there should be a good deal of discontent at Westminster. Sir W. Joynson-Hicks, a Unionist who has kicked over the traces before, has again been airing his grievances. He thinks that the real fault of the Government is in attempting to pull the coach all ways at once, and he piles up a formidable list of complaints. It is quite clear that Mr. Bonar Law's definition of the whole duty of a Coalitionist—to keep Labour out—is no longer accepted, and it would not be very surprising if Mr. Chamberlain had soon to quell an incipient mutiny. One or two more Labour victories, however, would quickly restore harmony within the Government ranks. There is nothing like the tie of common funk for keeping men together when every other bond of sympathy has failed.

The Prime Minister.

Probably the team will pull together better when the Prime Minister returns. He has been away at Chequers with a severe chill for some days, and has had to cancel his engagements. In the seclusion of that retreat he would be more than human if he could repress a chuckle at the noise that breaks out as soon as his back is turned, and the instant silence that greets his resumption of authority. Politicians are very like schoolboys after all.

I notice that Mr. Garvin, who makes our flesh creep every Sunday in the *Observer*, is pessimistic about the future of the Coalition. He is very impressed by the attempts to unite Independent Liberalism and Labour, and he thinks that the Opposition have a majority in the country. The Government, according to him, have already lost the North, and, by abandoning agriculture, they are now in process of losing the South.

One would be more impressed by this diagnosis were it not that Liberalism and Labour, in theory and in practice to-day, are as capable of mixing as oil and water; political Labour is by no means so united in private as it professes to be in public, and it is quite capable of doing things which will frighten the voter away for another six months or a year.

Its future, however, is not entirely in its own hands, and for this reason: it is definitely committed to nationalisation of the great industries. The country as a whole, which saw the blunders resulting from official control, and decided that this was very much the same thing as nationalisation, determined that private enterprise was the better policy, and agitated for the removal of control and economy of staffs in Whitehall, to the discomfiture of Labour. If prices continue to go down, the public will make up its mind that private enterprise is justified; but if coal, gas, light, and other things go up again as a result of the removal of control, it would not take very much profiteering in the necessities of life to turn votes back towards nationalisation and municipalisation of essential industries.

That controversy has never yet been fought out in full on a large scale, although we had some foretaste of it twenty years ago on the London County Council. But it would be a profound mistake for politicians to believe that the public has definitely settled convictions. It is waiting on events, which it is watching carefully, and at present opinions are divided.

The next great political controversy in this country will be on the State versus private enterprise, with Labour on one side and the Coalition on the other. It will take a good many years to settle, and probably neither side will gain a complete victory in principle, although both will win elections. At present the issue is confused; those who are anti-Coalition necessarily vote Labour, but a good many do so on the anti-waste and not the nationalisation issue. If Labour came into power, the anti-waste vote, which is a purely negative political attitude, would at once be ranged against them, on account of their nationalisa-

tion policy, and they would lose ground as rapidly as the Coalition. It is that fact which renders the immediate future so uncertain, while the ultimate controversy is assured.

Will Crooks.

The death of Will Crooks was the occasion of a universal tribute of respect from King to beggar-boy which many a Prime Minister might envy. He was, in fact, a kind of uncrowned king, judge, and priest rolled into one for his own district of Poplar, where he lived and died; and few men ever had so great a moral influence. One story that is told of him indicates his position better than any formal comment. One night a little girl called at his house—a dingy villa in Gough Street, Poplar—and left this message with Mrs. Crooks: "Please, mum, father's took to drink again, and mother says, will Mr. Crooks come round and give him a good hiding."

I knew him well, and never heard him say an evil word of anybody, although he was always ready to tell a story against himself. He worked hard during the war at recruiting speeches up and down the country; but what really broke him was the terrible sight of a bomb falling on a party of small children in his own neighbourhood in 1917. He was never the same man again after that.

The Second Test Match.

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff than the English cricketers at Lord's on Saturday. The Australians topped our first innings score with seven wickets in hand, and "the rest was silence"—or would have been if the sketch-writers had not had their salaries to earn and their columns to fill. The rumour that the M.C.C. is looking for a new Gibbon to write the history of the Decline and Fall of English Cricket is not confirmed, and the suggestion that England should be allowed fifteen men to the Australians' eleven, or three innings to their two, is repudiated. But we look like coming to that before the season is over.

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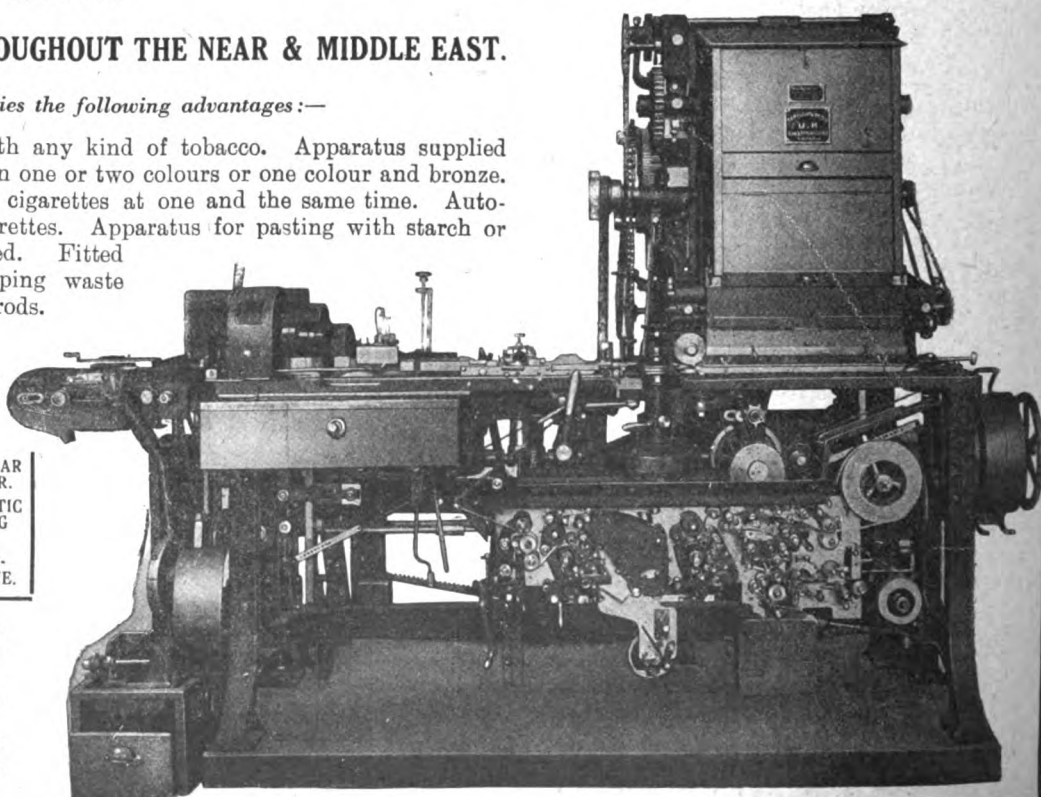
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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, May 29.

A Repetition of 1882 in Alexandria.

Little did I imagine when I posted my letter last week, dealing with the disgraceful disturbances which had taken place in Cairo and Alexandria, that within twenty-four hours Alexandria would have become the scene of events rivalling those that took place in 1882 and brought about our occupation of the country. Exactly how the trouble arose is not clear, and the unravelling of the tangle of contradictory evidence must be left to the Court of Enquiry which has been appointed. The fact remains, however, that a row took place between Europeans and Egyptians in the low-class quarter of the "Hamamil" and that it developed into an anti-European outbreak, which it took the Egyptian police and Egyptian infantry between them until 3 a.m. to quell.

Next morning there was a recrudescence of trouble in the "Hamamil" and adjacent quarters, and at an early hour the foreign Consuls, who already in the previous week had protested, made a formal appeal to the authorities for protection for their nationals. A large crowd of Italians and Greeks followed them up, but on the way an altercation appears to have taken place between them and the natives, whereupon the anti-European outbreak spread right over the town, and not a single European who ventured into the streets escaped molestation.

According to trustworthy eye-witnesses the scenes were indescribable. The low-class Egyptians were worked up to a high state of fury, and performed most brutal acts, their excitement being undoubtedly increased by the reckless way in which some of the Europeans, mainly Greeks, fired off their revolvers; while looting and incendiarism went on at every opportunity, there being at one time over twenty fires in one small area. In other words, the whole of the low-class element, which is notoriously bad in Alexandria, ran amok, and the Egyptian police and the Egyptian troops were powerless to stem the wave of murder and rapine which threatened at any moment to sweep over the better-class European quarters. The authorities had indeed no alternative but to call for the assistance of the British troops; and the appearance of the latter, though their number was relatively small, was sufficient to stop the panic which had seized the European population and to cause the Egyptian mob to pause in its anti-European orgy.

Such in brief is the story of what took place in Alexandria on the morning of May 23. The local Press has been full of the most gruesome accounts of the excesses committed by the mob. In many cases they appear highly coloured; but when one recalls the authenticated story of what took place in 1882, and bears in mind the cruel behaviour of the natives in Upper Egypt to a party of our officers in March, 1919, one can quite credit that the low-class element of Alexandria perpetrated brutal excesses. Calm has now been restored in that city, which is fast assuming its normal appearance and where business is being resumed. But the British troops are still patrolling the streets, and it is unlikely that they will be withdrawn for some little time owing to the nervous state of the European communities.

Meanwhile, Zaghloul Pasha, to whose inflammatory incitement of the people and encouragement of unpeaceful demonstrations is due the state of excitement which rendered possible the Alexandria disasters, has issued an appeal to the people to desist from hostile acts towards foreigners even if the latter are the first aggressors; and has followed this by another document, disapproving of demonstrations. This pronouncement from the head of the "Wafd" comes, unfortunately, somewhat late, and would have served a far more useful

purpose if it had preceded instead of following events which he now recognises have caused most serious prejudice to the realisation of the country's aspirations.

Indeed, the Alexandria events, which are but the outcome of the campaign conducted by Zaghloul, for purely personal reasons, against the Cabinet during the past month, can have but one very definite result—viz., that all idea of entrusting the protection of the foreign communities to the Egyptians must now be abandoned and British garrisons will henceforward have permanently to be maintained—at any rate, in the centres where there are important colonies. Whatever the British community might acquiesce in—and a strong protest made by the British Union shows that they are alive to the dangers—the foreign colonies will certainly never agree to the removal of British troops who alone saved them last Monday from massacre.

The utter inability of the Egyptian police and troops to quell a serious disturbance has been definitely proved. With an example before their eyes of what might happen, if for some reason or another under the new régime trouble were to arise not merely between the low-class European and Egyptian elements in Alexandria, but between Egyptian factions themselves, the foreign colonies are absolutely justified in demanding not only that British troops shall be kept in Egypt, but that British control shall be maintained over the public security. Far-seeing and intelligent Egyptians realise that the Alexandria events have administered the death-blow to their hopes of internal autonomy, and they view with some misgiving the negotiations, which they admit have now been rendered exceedingly difficult.

Meanwhile there is no prospect of any reconciliation between Zaghloul Pasha and the Cabinet, and an eloquent appeal by the High Commissioner to all parties to compose their differences has fallen on deaf ears as far as Zaghloul Pasha is concerned; for barely had the appeal been issued in the Press than he replied with a statement in which, while acknowledging the hand of friendship which Great Britain extended through her representative, he declared that only the resignation of the Cabinet or the appointment by a National Assembly of a delegation in which the nation would have confidence could settle the existing differences. While the Alexandria events and the responsibility which it is now obvious Zaghloul must bear in respect of their effect on the future prospects of Egypt have caused more people to veer round towards the Cabinet, Zaghloul still maintains his hold on the less responsible and uneducated mass of the population; and since by means of his satellites he continues to exercise a coercive influence over the responsible element, I am afraid it will be some little while yet before the latter can feel itself free to come out in the open and, by giving the Cabinet the necessary public support, enable the official delegation to leave.

British Community's Protest.

The following is a copy of the protest (referred to above), which was handed to the High Commissioner by the British Union in Egypt. It is dated May 25, 1921:—

At a Council meeting of this Union the present position in Egypt was viewed with the gravest concern.

A trial of control by Egyptians has rightly been made, but

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unfortunately has proved a failure. Now that it has been definitely proved that the Egyptian Police and Army are incapable of quelling serious disturbances, the British, as the Protecting Power for Europeans in this country are called upon to keep order with sufficient British forces, to be maintained, if necessary, at the expense of Egypt, and this in the performance of our duty to all the inhabitants, including Egyptians.

The assumption that during the past thirty-nine years the Egyptians had been trained to restrain their fanatical and anti-European tendencies as exhibited in 1882, has been proved up to the hilt to be a fallacy.

The members of the Council emphatically express the opinion that any paltering now with the responsibilities assumed by the British Government when they occupied the country can only lead to further excesses. The duty of the British Government is to foresee events and maintain order, not merely to restore it after it has been disturbed.

The time has passed for any further shirking of responsibilities and the inadequate safeguarding so-called British Empire interests only. Such a course cannot be followed under the peculiar conditions existing in Egypt, where all European Powers look to Great Britain as the protector of their nationals residing in this country.

There can be no question that Europeans, on what they considered a British guarantee, now realise that their confidence has been misplaced, and there is an ever-increasing distrust of Great Britain as trustee of their lives and property.

In plain words, the feeling among Europeans is that a continuation of the policy of non-interference, which would involve further risk to human life, which Great Britain is here to protect, would simply entail the stain of blood-guilt, for which the British nation would assuredly call to account those responsible for the deliberate choice of such an ethically indefensible policy.—(Signed) W. E. KINGSFORD, President.

CAIRO, June 5.

The King's Birthday.

The King's Birthday was celebrated in Cairo by a large reception which the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby gave to the British community and Diplomatic Corps at the Residency; while in Alexandria a similar reception was held by Consul-General and Mrs. Alban. A noteworthy event of the day was the visit paid by the Sultan to the Residency. His Highness called in state, and was received with full military honours, his visit lasting nearly an hour.

The Alexandria Riots.

During the past week Alexandria has been quiet, and life there has returned to normal. Egyptian police and troops have taken over the patrolling of the streets, but the control of the city is still in the hands of the British military authorities. The Court of Inquiry appointed by the High Commissioner has opened, and has heard a number of important witnesses, but as it is what is known as a "closed" Court very little information is available as to its progress. It is believed that the amount the Egyptian Government will have to pay for damages will be very heavy.

A great deal of discussion is going on in the local Press on the questions of how the troubles started and which element in Alexandria was responsible for the first act of violence on the Sunday evening, and again on the Monday morning; and unmistakable efforts are being made to fasten responsibility on the low-class foreign element, with the object of mitigating the effects of the troubles. While, however, the elucidation of these facts is very important they do not affect the principle at stake, which is the preservation of public order and the protection of the lives and property of foreigners.

The Egyptian Government is responsible like any other Government for public security and the protection of human lives and property. In the case in point it was not able to quell a disturbance which had broken out between certain elements of the population; it had to call in the assistance of British troops to prevent an

anti-European outbreak developing into a European massacre; and, such being the case, it is impossible to contemplate entrusting the maintenance of order and the protection of foreign lives and property to Egyptian forces until the Egyptian Government has proved its capacity in this respect. Very strong representations have been made on the subject to the High Commissioner by such important bodies as the British Union, the British Chamber of Commerce, the French Chamber of Commerce, the Italian Colonial Federation, the Mixed Court Bar, etc. There is little doubt from the fact that the Italian and Greek Governments have instructed their Diplomatic Agents to demand that adequate steps shall be taken in this respect that whatever their sympathies may hitherto have been towards the realisation of the Egyptian aspirations the foreign colonies *in toto* will stoutly oppose any withdrawal of British troops, and their Governments will support them.

The Political Situation.

Meanwhile the local political situation remains outwardly unchanged. There are, however, signs that the Cabinet is obtaining more and more support; for deputations comprising all the leading notables have come during the past week from such important provinces as Assiut and Gharbia in order to assure the Cabinet of its support, and there are clear indications that those of the responsible and intellectual classes who for considerations of sentiment or friendship supported Zaghloul have been frightened by the extremes to which he has gone, and are throwing in their lot with the Cabinet.

The cases of the nine officials who were suspended for active participation, against the orders of the Cabinet, in one of the tea parties organised in favour of Zaghloul Pasha are now being dealt with. It is in a way regrettable that the Cabinet did not constitute one Council of Discipline to deal with all the nine instead of leaving each man to be dealt with by the ordinary Council of Discipline constituted in his own Administration, for it looks very much as if contradictory verdicts will be obtained. Thus, a judge of the Native Court has been acquitted by the Native Court of Appeal sitting as a Council of Discipline, while a lecturer of the School of Law accused of exactly the same offence has been condemned by his Ministerial Court of Discipline to a fine of one month's pay. We shall probably end by having as glaring an inequality of treatment by the various Councils of Discipline as has taken place in the past when men of different nationality accused of the same crime have been dealt with by their respective Consular Courts. One of the remaining seven officials has now been dismissed by order of the Council of Ministers because while awaiting trial by his Council of Discipline he deliberately aggravated his offence by delivering a speech violently attacking the Cabinet at a banquet which was given in honour of the nine suspended officials by their sympathisers.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, June 7.

Ministerial Differences.

The past week has been full of political interest. There has been a series of Ministerial resignations and secessions from the different parties. First, Dr. Velizar Yankovitch, Minister of Communications, resigned, and, in spite of all M. Pashitch's persuasive efforts, declined to reconsider his decision. Dr. Yankovitch is a prominent Radical, a connection of M. Pashitch, and an astute politician. He was Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in the Salonika Government, and has held several portfolios since then, including Finance. Two things occasioned his resignation: one a personal matter, which led to a question in the House, and the other a thing which to us seems trifling—that is, the inscription of the names of railway stations in Cyrillic as well as in Latin letters. Now it is useless to put up Cyrillic in Slovenia, as at Liubliana, Celje, and Maribor, where nobody can read it and it is quite unnecessary, and it was resented as a manifestation of the "Greater Serbia" policy. Fortunately, no attempt was made to do it in the Bjelovar, Krizevce, and Varazhdin districts of Croatia, for these are the stronghold of Raditch's party, and Cyrillic

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inscriptions would certainly have led to disturbances. The authorities doubtless remember the riots when the Hungarians put up notices in Magyar in purely Croat districts some years ago, and the irritated people raided the stations and pulled the offending notices down. Besides, what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and there are no Latin inscriptions in Serbia, except on the international line Belgrade-Nish, and there they are not in the Latin spelling of the Slav names, but in French.

Moslem Ministers Withdraw.

But this resignation is a personal matter. More serious was the withdrawal of Dr. Spaho and Dr. Karakehmedovitch, the two Mohammedan Ministers, who complained that M. Pashitch was not keeping his bargain with their party. This meant a serious reduction of the not-overwhelming Government majority, and M. Pashitch exerted every effort to satisfy the "Turks," as the Orthodox Serbs always call their Mohammedan fellow-Nationals. At length, they agreed to stay in the Cabinet provided they received 60 million dinars compensation for their losses under the agrarian reform, and in a very short period; that they have a Mohammedan head of their department in the Ministry of Religions, and one or two smaller matters of detail. These proposals, which in themselves seem not unreasonable, M. Pashitch agreed to. The principle of enforced purchase of land has always been recognised by the Serbians, and years ago, when they dispossessed their enemy, genuine Turkish landowners, they compensated them; therefore, it is but reasonable that they should do at least as much for their Mohammedan fellow-Serbs.

But the fact has roused a storm of protest among the Serbs of the Banat; for the Government cannot discriminate between races, and, consequently, a number of Democrats from the Voivodina have withdrawn from the Democrat Club in protest, as the Democrats support the Radicals in the Coalition, but these members are pledged to a policy of confiscation from the frankly enemy Magyar and German landowners of their district. A number of Radicals in Bosnia have also withdrawn from the Radical Club as a protest against the concession to their Mohammedan rivals.

There is accordingly a serious crisis on the knotty question of agrarian reform. This would have been overcome without undue difficulty had the question arisen a few years ago, but to-day there is so strong a democratic and socialistic spirit abroad that any concession to the landed class is hotly resented. The matter will be a severe test on even M. Pashitch's experienced and elastic statesmanship.

Another Resignation.

When the resignation of the Mohammedan Ministers was read to the Radical Club, there was an angry scene, and the members accused the Minister of Agrarian Reform, M. Uzunovitch, of being the cause, so he promptly resigned. The consequence is that the Coalition had to face the resignation of four Ministers in a few days. M. Pashitch's diplomacy and patience eventually prevailed on three of them to withdraw their resignations, but Dr. Yankovitch refused to yield, for his action was based rather on personal than on political grounds. It is a very critical moment for the Government to be in difficulties. The Constitution, although accepted in principal, is not yet out of the melting-pot. The question of agrarian reform bristles with difficulties, and the rift between the two schools of thought, the Centralists and the Federalists, is constantly growing wider. The latter have strong support in Croatia especially, in the Narodny Club, in Raditch's party, in the Slovene Clericals; and the large Yugoslav Colony in the United States is exerting itself to persuade the American Government to bring pressure upon Belgrade in favour of the federal system. Besides that, it is believed that European Powers are interested, and would welcome a system which would render possible a Danubian Confederation which would at the same time settle the Hungarian problem, and finally exclude any possibility of either the return of the Hapsburgs, or the union of Austria with Germany. Then, relations with Italy are not finally cleared up. Dr. Ninchitch has resigned the chairmanship of the Yugoslav delegation

for negotiating the commercial Treaty with Italy, and public opinion is strongly stirred here on the question of the Gulf of Barosh, a legacy on the unhappy problem of Fiume.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the Government will overcome its difficulties, which are, in fact, enough to test the quality of the most experienced politician, especially as all branches of the Yugoslav people are very downright and positive, knowing what they want and intending to get it. As they hate compromise, and usually get what they want in the long run, it will be interesting to see how they work it out when they are divided among themselves.

Distinguished Visitors.

Fortunately, there are more pleasant and concrete things to attract the attention. The visit of M. Dimitroff, the Bulgarian Minister, and his interview with M. Pashitch, is a very promising sign, and we may now look for happier relations between the two countries. The Serbs, of course, cannot easily forget what the Bulgars did during the occupation, but the Croats and Slovenes are more independent, and the Czechs are said to be exercising their friendly offices as mediators. It is noteworthy that M. Dimitroff visited Prague before calling at Belgrade. What transpired at the highly interesting interview between M. Dimitroff and M. Pashitch is not known, but the Bulgar sent a very cordial telegram to Belgrade from the frontier. It should be remembered that M. Pashitch is a native of the Timok district, near the Bulgarian frontier, and that his mother-patois, as spoken in that district, is a step on the way of transition to Bulgarian. It is not so many years since his enemies dubbed him a Bugarash, that is, a pro-Bulgar.

Another interesting visitor is M. Také Jonescu, who arrived with his staff in a special train, and has a very warm welcome at Belgrade. Great importance is naturally attached to this visit, and in well-informed circles it is believed that its object is the signature of a military convention between Roumania and Yugoslavia, with the object of strengthening the Little Entente and guaranteeing the execution of the Peace Treaties.

Welcome Gold.

Another pleasant incident has been the arrival in Belgrade and deposition in the vaults of the National Bank of ten millions of gold krana, being the Yugoslav share in the liquidation of the Austro-Hungarian Bank. Besides this, a commission has proceeded to Paris to receive six million gold marks as an instalment of the war indemnity due to Serbia.

GREECE.

ATHENS, May 29.

The Situation in Asia Minor.

"There is nothing new to report." This is how General Papoulas' *communiqués* have been worded for over six weeks now. The papers have ceased publishing accounts and descriptions of battles, and are instead devoting much space to the Anglo-French difference with regard to the Silesian question. There is no doubt, however, that the Greeks are feverishly preparing for the new offensive. Transports full of troops have been leaving Piræus and other ports for Smyrna almost daily, and, in spite of the secrecy maintained, it is known that the preparations are practically at an end now, and that the new offensive will be launched at a very early date.

The Turks have also been very quiet of late. From all accounts they, too, are making hasty preparations to defend their positions against the forthcoming Greek

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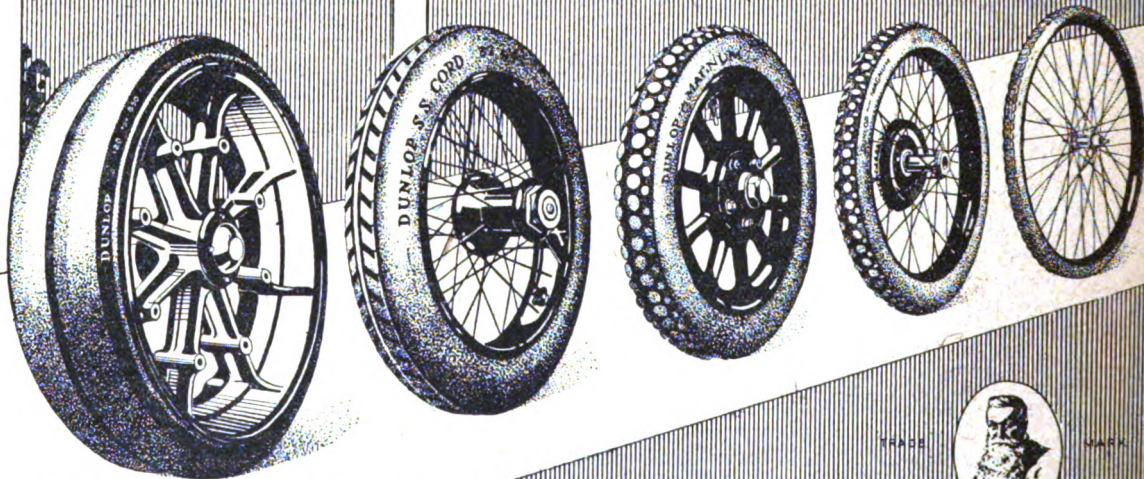
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onslaught. According to all indications, the idea so much discussed in the Turkish Press of Constantinople of a Kemalist offensive has been abandoned. On the other hand, Turkish irregular bands have been extremely active of late, particularly in the part of Thrace still belonging to Turkey. Armed forces are again reported to be overrunning the country and terrorising the Christian populations, and pillage of Greek villages is of daily occurrence. But the activities of the Kemalists are not confined to Thrace and Asia Minor. In the island of Mitylene the Greek authorities have arrested a number of Turks who had been putting into circulation Angora newspapers. Documents of an incriminating nature were found in their possession, as well as a number of rifles. It was also established that collections in aid of Mustapha Kemal were made amongst the Moslem population of the island.

The Late King's Child.

The christening of the daughter of the late King Alexander and his wife, Madame Aspasia Manos, took place last week at the Palace Chapel of St. Andrew. In addition to King Constantine, who acted as the child's godfather, Queen Sophie, the Dowager Queen Olga, and the young Princesses Irene and Catharine were present at the ceremony. The little girl was given the name of Alexandra. After the service Madame Manos returned with her daughter in a Royal carriage to her residence in Boulevard King Constantine, where she was joined shortly afterwards by the Queen. Queen Sophie appears to be very fond of her unfortunate son'smorganatic wife, and spends many hours in her company.

The British Soldiers Interred at Imbros.

On the occasion of the exhumation of the British soldiers who had been buried at the island of Imbros during the Great War, a Te Deum was celebrated by the Metropolitan of the island in the presence of the local authorities. A detachment of British troops rendered the military honours. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Metropolitan delivered a speech eulogising the exemplary behaviour of the British troops in the Near East and the excellent work they had done during the war.

General News.

Colonel Makkas, who held the post of Quartermaster-General in September and October last year under the Venizelist régime, has been arrested on a charge of fraudulently appropriating 2 million drachmae in connection with an order placed abroad by the Greek Government for flour.

The restaurant proprietors in Athens have intimated to the Prefect of Police that they have decided to reduce the prices of meals.

The Minister of Public Assistance has opened a credit of 1 million drachmae in favour of the Greek refugees from the Caucasus now in Salonika.

ROUMANIA.

May 23 (10).

"Independence Day."

The Roumanian National Fête in commemoration of the War of Independence and the proclamation of the Kingdom was duly celebrated with all the customary pomp and splendour. The religious service at the Cathedral was conducted by the Primate of the Roumanian Orthodox Church in the presence of the King, Queen, and all the Royal Family, the Diplomatic Corps, all members of the Cabinet, many ecclesiastical, military, and civil high dignitaries, Members of Parliament, etc. General Badoglio, the envoy of the King of Italy, was also present with his suite.

This ceremony was followed by the traditional parade before the King of all troops garrisoned in Bucharest, who were heartily cheered by an enthusiastic crowd. The streets were beflagged and profusely decorated with the national colours. Military bands played in different parts of the town, and the principal streets were beautifully illuminated in the evening.

An Italian Mission.

General Badoglio, chief of the Italian General Staff, has arrived here, as mentioned above, accompanied by a military suite. This distinguished officer has been entrusted by his

Sovereign with the mission of conferring on the King and Queen the decoration for Military Valour, and on the towns of Bucharest, Galatz, and Jassy the Cross of War. At the same time he will confer other medals on distinguished officers of the Roumanian Army. His visit is to be considered as a demonstration of sympathy on the part of the King of Italy and his people for the Roumanian Sovereign and nation.

The General is the guest of the King at the Royal Palace. The presentation of the medal to the King and Queen took place at the Palace, and that for the city of Bucharest was presented at Carol Park. In both cases the ceremony was very impressive and imposing. A State banquet was given by the King at the palace in honour of the mission, and His Majesty has conferred on General Badoglio the Order of the Roumanian Crown and the Order of Michael the Brave (II. Class). The members of the suite have also been decorated.

BUCHAREST, May 25.

Political.

Contrary to anticipation, the Bill for the financial reforms has been brought before Parliament for immediate discussion; but in order to expedite the transaction of Parliamentary business, it has been decided that the first three days of the week shall be devoted to the discussion of the Agrarian Reform and the other three to the Financial and Fiscal Bill. There will be two supplementary night-sittings, reserved exclusively for the communications, questions, and interpellations.

Replying to an interpellation, the Minister of the Interior justified the imprisonment of the Communists, stating that he possesses evidence of their conspiracy against the safety of the State, and that this will be proved when the case comes before the Courts.

In connection with the frauds which are alleged to have been perpetrated in the Supplies Department, the Minister of Finance declared that a rigorous inquiry is being carried on under his own supervision, and that any offender—however high his position—will be dealt with with the fullest severity of the law.

The Senate had this week under discussion the professional Syndicates Bill. M. Grigorovici, from the Bukovina, and a moderate Socialist and distinguished

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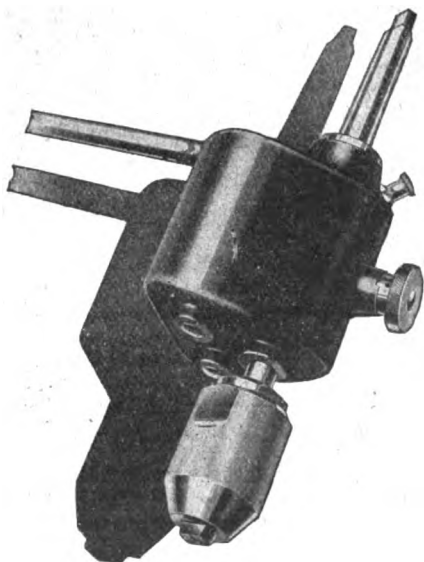
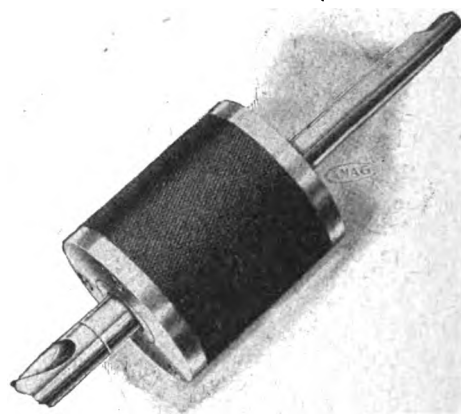
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Parliamentarian, declared that he would not propose any amendments, as he is convinced that the Government is determined to pass the Bill without any modification. M. Trancu Jasi, the Minister for Labour, replied that M. Grigorovici is mistaken, as he (the Minister) accepted in the Lower House all the amendments, which complete the ideas aimed at in the text. The law was passed with 75 votes to 5.

The Socialist leaders who a few months ago were sentenced to five years' penal servitude for an attempt to provoke a general strike have now had their sentences reduced to only one year's imprisonment. Amongst them there were some Members of Parliament, who, in consequence of undergoing imprisonment, have lost their seats.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 4.

The Government's Position.

On June 1 M. Dimitroff, Minister of the Interior, returned from his visits to Prague and Belgrade. At the former place he attended the "Green," or "Peasant," International, and came away highly impressed with the progress this movement is making. He only stopped twenty-four hours at Belgrade, on his way back to Sofia, but on the morning of the 30th had an interview, lasting approximately an hour, with the Yugoslav Prime Minister, M. Pashitch. The conversation between the two Ministers was of a general character. M. Dimitroff was at pains to impress on the Yugoslav Premier the sincerity of the Bulgarian Government regarding its relations with the neighbouring countries, and especially with Yugoslavia. M. Pashitch, who appears to have taken up a somewhat patronising tone throughout, whilst holding out hopes of a *rapprochement* in the not too distant future, and admitting that it was not so much with the present Government that Yugoslavia found fault, insisted on the necessity for stern measures being taken against the continuance of any form of *Komitaji* activity on the frontier. It is possible, however, that the interview will do good in bringing the two countries into touch. In the end, two Slav nations such as Yugoslavia and Bulgaria will surely find it advisable in their mutual interests to form at least a defensive alliance.

It is now announced that M. Dimitroff will not proceed to Washington, but that the King and M. Stambolisky will visit the United States during the coming autumn.

Whilst interviewing the Prime Minister two days ago I asked if he would make a statement regarding the future policy of the Government, and got the firm reply: "Our policy is loyally to carry out the terms of the Peace Treaty, and at all costs keep the peace in the Balkans in so far as we are concerned." If only it were possible to give as much praise to the internal policy of the Government as to the external policy, it would, indeed, be a flattering portrait of the Agrarians that would be presented; but—and it is a very big but—the internal situation, economically and financially, is, as a result of the measures either passed or proposed to be passed by the Sobranje, becoming worse every day.

The New Measures.

The new laws are numerous, but it will be sufficient here to cast a glance at one or two of the more important. The proposals for the taxation on capital are so framed that once the law is put into execution it will probably greatly curtail, if not entirely put an end to, many banks, limited companies, insurance associations, and the like.

The new internal loan of 6 per cent. is, on the face of

it, a farce, as money is so scarce that no one would dream of investing it in this fashion; but a clause which specifies that anyone liable to capital tax will be exempted from the aforesaid tax, up to the amount they have invested in the 6 per cent. loan, may prove a considerable asset.

Regarding the much-advised "*obligation des gages*" and the agricultural bank, I shall have more to say in my next letter. It is generally understood amongst competent authorities here that the Reparations Commission, whilst respecting all the rights and wishes of the Government regarding financial measures, will strenuously oppose any legislation which has as its aim the raising of a forced loan in Bulgaria, and there for the moment we may leave the situation.

Life in Sofia.

Sofia, which usually possesses an excellent climate, has of late come near to losing its reputation, for during May and the first few days of this month we have had nothing but heavy rain alternating with thunder and hail storms.

To a casual observer the town appears very little changed from what it was a few years ago, but in reality a great many changes are gradually taking place. Sofia is spreading itself without realising the fact, and the amount of building that is going on in the outskirts of the town is not inconsiderable. In the matter of amusements it still remains one of the most staid and respectable capitals in Europe, and for a foreigner who stays at an hotel for a few days on his way through to Constantinople, the town, indeed, appears a dreary place. Hotel accommodation is difficult to find, all the leading hotels having a good proportion of their rooms permanently occupied by different foreigners.

Communication with Paris and London is now beginning to approach the pre-war system, and from June 1 there is a daily Simplon express. Unfortunately this train runs by way of Belgrade, Trieste, and Milan, and thus adds on twenty-four hours to a journey which was fatiguing enough in pre-war times when the route lay through Vienna.

ASIA MINOR.

SMYRNA, May 26.

Last evening an audacious burglary was perpetrated at the British Consulate-General here, the present residence of Sir Harry H. Lamb, K.C.M.G., representative of the British High Commissioner. The thieves apparently waited till the gardener left, about dusk, and entered the dining-room from the back garden and carried off a quantity of table linen and silver. Fortunately, the intruders were evidently disturbed, and they left behind them valuable cutlery which was also on the table. This is the first time a robbery has taken place in a Consulate in Smyrna.

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GREAT BRITAIN AND THE NEAR EAST.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I wonder if Lord Curzon ever finds time to read *THE NEAR EAST*? If not, I trust that it is someone's job at the Foreign Office to make press cuttings weekly for his lordship's information. Your notes which have appeared from time to time always contain sound advice, and your leader on the Angora problem this last week leaves little to be desired. You have also given us in the same issue extracts from an excellent article which has appeared in the *New Statesman* on the recent outbreak in Egypt. Mr. Lloyd George may perhaps be forgiven for his failure to understand the Turks or Mohammedans in general, but Lord Curzon has made the Near and Middle East a lifelong study. With an expert at the Foreign Office, it is a mystery to me why the whole question has been so mishandled. Look where you will—Egypt, Palestine, Persia, Mesopotamia and Turkey—you find the same failure to gauge the Nationalist movement. But the greatest blunder of all was, of course, the Mandate to the Greeks to suppress the Turkish Nationalists in Asia Minor. When, too, this mistake was recognised and the Turks and Greeks were summoned to a conference in London, what could have been feebler than allowing the Greeks to attack the Turks again pending the decision of the Powers as to what extent the Turkish Treaty requires modification? With our fleet at Smyrna cutting the Greek line of communication we might have dictated any terms we thought fit; the Grecian Government was powerless to act. Instead of orders, we contented ourselves with merely giving advice, and M. Venizelos is once more busy in London! It is heartbreaking, too, when we think that, notwithstanding Italy's action in Tripoli in 1911, Italy is now regarded by the Turks as their best and only friend in Europe and England as their worst enemy.—I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

June 11, 1921.

THE MEETING OF THE TURKISH CONGRESS AT LAUSANNE.

The third annual Congress of the Turks took place recently at Lausanne. The Congress discussed the present situation in Turkey, and decided to send telegrams to several statesmen. One was sent to Mr. Lloyd George, expressing the hope that the Turkish people, which has no claims inimical to British interests, will have his support in its struggle for liberty and existence. Among other telegrams despatched was one congratulating the Christian Turks of Anatolia upon the foundation of an independent national Turkish church.

During three days' sittings the Congress discussed certain social questions and reforms. It was decided to work for the complete modernisation of the country, for the complete emancipation of Turkish Woman and for raising her social level, and for the complete adaptation of modern institutions to the Turkish State. It was further decided to endeavour to secure the decentralisation of administration in Turkey and to begin a campaign to induce the Turkish youth to come in greater numbers to the universities of the West.

GALLANTRY IN IRAK.

The King has approved of the following reward to the under-mentioned officer, in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in Mesopotamia:—

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

June 6.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Sir S. Hoare that the Hungarian Peace Treaty does not come into force until the ratifications of three of the principal Allied and Associated Powers and of Hungary have been deposited. So far, only Great Britain's ratification and those of Italy and Hungary have been sent to Paris and are ready for deposit. He did not know when the French Government was expected to ratify the Treaty.

Mr. Wood informed Colonel Wedgwood that the Commission of Inquiry into the Jaffa riots consists of Sir Thomas Haycraft (the Chief Justice of Palestine), who is presiding over the Court of Inquiry; Mr. Luke, Assistant District Governor of Jerusalem; and Mr. Stubbs, of the Legal Department.

June 7.—In reply to a question by Mr. Mosley, Lieut.-Colonel Stanley stated that the number of British and Indian troops now employed in Constantinople, Egypt, Palestine, and Mesopotamia are as follows:—Constantinople, British 5,200, Indian 5,500; Egypt, British 13,800, Indian 3,200; Palestine, British 4,400, Indian 10,800; Mesopotamia (including force withdrawn from North-West Persia), British 10,000, Indian 50,000.

Mr. Wood stated in reply to a question by Earl Winterton that some of the grievances of the white staff in all departments of the Mesopotamian railways as regards their pay, ration allowances, housing accommodation, etc., had been redressed. He fully appreciated the importance of dealing expeditiously with these questions, and he was asking the High Commissioner whether some machinery could not be set up for the adjustment of grievances satisfactory both to the Administration and to the staff.

Mr. Wood further informed Earl Winterton that he would again look into the question of the dissatisfaction of white railway workers in Mesopotamia owing to the fact that the value of the rupee in sterling was now worth so much less than it was in the spring of 1920. A pledge had been given by the High Commissioner to review the whole question within two or three months. That pledge was given—he thought—on February 10, and would be adhered to.

June 8.—In reply to Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy, Mr. Harmsworth stated that the attention of the British Government had been called to reports of excesses committed by Greeks in the district of Yalova, on the Sea of Marmora, of which Moslems were the victims. An Allied Commission of Inquiry proceeded to that district in May, and its report substantiates the fact that grave excesses occurred. Representations based on the report have been made to the Hellenic Government.

June 9.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Sir J. D. Rees that the late Persian Government informed the British Government's Minister at Teheran on May 3 that the Persian Transport Company's road concession had been cancelled owing to the company's failure to comply with its terms and to the expiration of the agreement. As the company deny these allegations the matter is still under discussion. No other British concessions have been cancelled by the Persian Government.

Mr. Harmsworth stated in reply to Mr. A. Herbert that he had no precise information beyond that he had already given with regard to the Albanian families living within the frontiers of 1913 who had been forcibly deported to Nish by the Serbians.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Swan that the Egyptian Government on taking office had expressed the conviction that under existing circumstances it would soon be possible to withdraw martial law. Unfortunately, these hopes had not materialised, and recent events that had taken place plainly indicated that the time for the withdrawal of martial law had not yet arrived. Martial law in Egypt was imposed by the British authorities.

In reply to Mr. Ormsby Gore, Mr. Harmsworth stated that he certainly thought that if there had not been martial law and British troops in Egypt a much larger proportion of the Greek and Italian population of Alexandria would have been massacred.

Mr. Chamberlain, in reply to Mr. E. Harmsworth, stated that the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Station, Admiral Sir John de Robeck, in the Iron Duke, with the Ajax, Pegasus, Surprise, Stuart, and some destroyers, was due at Constantinople on June 15 for about a month's stay. This is merely in accordance with the programme of a cruise which included ports on Egyptian and Palestine coasts, Cyprus, and Smyrna. It is possible that the date of arrival at Constantinople may need amendment owing to the fact of a visit being paid to Rhodes and Samos. The programme was arranged towards the end of April last. In regard to the policy of the British Government as to whether they intend to support King Constantine of Greece against the Turkish Nationalists, the question was under consideration.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying to Mr. A. Herbert, stated that the British Government are not convinced of the advisability of publishing at present the Report of the International Commission which has been investigating Greek atrocities on the Turkish population in the Yalova district, but intend to consult the Governments who, with them, were represented on the Commission.

Mr. Harmsworth, in reply to Mr. Lunn, stated that he had no information with regard to a delegation from Assiut to Lord Allenby, but that the British Government's High Commissioner for Egypt recently received a resolution signed by some 20,000 inhabitants of Assiut Province declaring their confidence in the present Ministry to carry on negotiations with Great Britain.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

- I.—"STUDIES IN ISLAMIC MYSTICISM." By Reynold A. Nicholson. Litt.D., LL.D. Lecturer in Persian in the University of Cambridge. (The University Press, 24s. net.)
- II.—"A SHORT HISTORY OF ANTIOCH." By E. S. Bouchier, M.A. (Oxford. Basil Blackwell, 12s. net.)

I.—A PERSIAN SAINT.

Islam is stirred to its depths by a reform movement known as Sufism, which took root in Persia during the ninth century of our era. It has many analogies with the later developments undergone by Christianity. In both cases we find a denial of constituted authority and a subjective attitude towards revelation as opposed to acceptance of iron-bound tradition. Sufism presupposes profound culture and an abnormal degree of the religious instinct. He who possesses both experiences a cataclysmic "conversion." The scales fall from his eyes; he becomes penetrated with a sense of the unity of all created things, and longs for absorption in the universal godhead. The first steps upwards are detachment from worldly affairs and utter self-abnegation. The convert abandons friends and fortune for the sordid life of a hermit or homeless wanderer. At length his storm-tossed soul finds peace in the knowledge that he has attained to perfection. A higher stage is reached by the elect few. They realise the sterility of quietism, and feel that true religion has a positive side. The perfect mystic abides in God, and yet "goes out towards all created things in a spirit of love, in virtues, and in works of righteousness." Under the stimulus of social duty he seeks the busy haunts of men, and strives to impart to others that peace which he enjoys by dint of self-abnegation. Although orthodox Islam is more tolerant of dissent than any Christian Church, yet Sufis cannot abjure their fathers' creed without losing prestige and influence. Hence their persistent efforts to prove that they are interpreters of the Prophet's esoteric teachings. The attempt is fraught with failure, Mohammedanism being based on authority and tradition, while Sufism asserts the right of private judgment, and the phases it assumes vary with the adept's idiosyncrasy. Moreover, the pantheism immanent in the Sufi's belief cannot be brought into harmony with the Islamic conception of free will. If God be omnipresent and omnipotent, it follows that every human action is subject to His control. Sufism, therefore, ignores the dogma of future reward and punishment without overtly opposing it.

This attitude towards revealed religion is admirably explained in a work on "Islamic Mysticism" by Dr. Reynold A. Nicholson, who lectures on Persian in the Cambridge University. His study of a highly esoteric subject begins with a biography of the greatest of ancient mystics, Abu Sa'id by name, who lived in the tenth and eleventh centuries of our era. It ranks with the "Confessions of St. Augustine" as a psychological revelation of the emotional and intellectual stages traversed by a man of genius in his eager quest of truth. The quatrains which bear Abu Sa'id's name resemble those commonly attributed to the more famous Omar Khayyam, in that it is an anthology of poems produced at widely different periods. Dr. Nicholson, indeed, doubts whether any of them were really the work of his Islamic saint. He is less sceptical with regard to certain apothegms which have been handed down to us by a long succession of Abu Sa'id's disciples. In one of them Dr. Nicholson has discovered the origin of Sir William Jones's well-known "Lines to an Infant Newly-born":—

On parent's knees a naked, new-born child,
Weeping thou sat'st while all around thee smiled;
So live, that sinking in thy long last sleep,
Calm thou mayst smile while all around thee weep."

This is a rhymed version of Abu Sa'id's wise saying:—"Thou wast born weeping, whilst thy folk smiled. Endeavour to die smiling while thy folk weep."

In chapter two Dr. Nicholson expounds the cardinal doctrines of Sufism, and the rest of his book is devoted to the poetry of an Arabian and a Persian mystic. It is worthy of study by all who seek to follow the later phases of Mohammedanism.

F. H. S.

II.—ANTIOCH.

Although the rise and fall of Antioch bears much resemblance to that of many vanished cities of the East, its history contains chapters of peculiar interest, one, of course, relating to its distinction as a cradle of Christianity, with which its annals were so intimately associated.

It was founded in 300 B.C. by Seleucus Nicator, in honour of his father Antiochus, a distinguished officer of Philip II. of Macedon. The site was but a few miles from Daphné, where Alexander, charmed by its beauty, erected a temple to Zeus. It became the capital of the Seleucid Syrian dominion, the strongest of those formed out of Alexander's Empire, and the seat of its civil government. It was on the left bank of the Orontes in a fertile valley, about 20 miles from the sea. Its rise was rapid. Seleucus and his successors carried out the policy of Alexander, which aimed at Hellenizing the Asiatic dominions. The city was soon adorned with splendid buildings, with temples, theatres, baths, fountains, colonnades, and garden villas; while vineyards, orchards, gardens and olive groves extended westward to Daphné, a name always associated closely with this Antioch: for Seleucus founded at least 16 towns of that name. New quarters were soon added. The city became a rich centre of trade with China, India, Arabia, and all parts of the East. In its mixed population of Macedonian warriors, Greek settlers and Orientals, the Jews had equal rights with the Greeks. The city walls, built by Antiochus Epiphanes, were a conspicuous feature, and, with the later Byzantine fortifications, withstood the historic sieges of the Middle Ages. The people became notorious for their luxury and love of pleasure, holding festivals throughout the year. The language chiefly spoken was Greek, Aramaic being little used. The city long enjoyed autonomy. In 83 B.C. it fell before the Armenian Tigranes. When, in 64 B.C. Syria became a Roman province, the link with Greece was almost broken. Immunity from taxes was conferred by Pompey and Caesar. Under the Emperors many marks of favour were bestowed; but the people were fickle and turbulent, and at times incurred punishment for seditious outbreaks. Under Septimius Severus Antioch was degraded to the rank of a village. Under Diocletian, though only the capital of Coele-Syria, it was still regarded as the metropolis of the East. It remained always a place of great commercial importance, North Syria being the resort of European merchants. The development of Christianity coincided with a period of intellectual activity, especially as Alexandria and Palmyra. A university system provided schools of philosophy, logic, rhetoric and theology, while painting, sculpture and music were cultivated. In 540 the city was destroyed by Chosroes, and it was rebuilt by Justinian, who named it Theopolis. In 638 Antioch fell to the Arabs, and Islam superseded Christianity. The Romans were expelled from Syria, and Damascus became the capital. In 969 it was recovered for Byzantium, a Count of the East (Comes Orientis) supervising the Asian provinces. In 1081 the Seljuk Turks occupied the city, and held it until the advent of the Crusaders, when we see Antioch under Norman-Italian princes, supported by an army drawn from all parts of Europe. "If the civilisation of Syria was hybrid under the Seleucids and Romans, the contrasts presented by the ensuing centuries are still more startling." The city suffered much from earthquakes, in one of which 250,000 are said to have perished. Mr. Bouchier has given us very interesting glimpses of "the life, manners, and interests of this great centre of population." The sketch ends in 1268, when it was captured and sacked by the Egyptian Sultan Bibars. Henceforth it became little more than a village. In 1517 it passed to the Ottoman Turks.

An appendix on the famous mint of Antioch is contributed by the Rev. E. A. Sydenham. Excavations should perhaps some day yield interesting results.

According to reports from Baku, twenty Moslem working men have been shot by the Bolsheviks for agitating against the Soviet Government.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

June 16 (New Style).
June 3 (Old Style).
Shawwal 10, 1339, of the Moslem Calendar.
Sivan 10, 5681, of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord and Lady Inchcape returned to London from Paris last week.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst gave a small dance at the British Embassy in Paris on June 8.

The Duke of York and the Aga Khan lunched on June 9 with Lady Cunard at 5, Carlton House Terrace.

Mr. Lewis Haslam, M.P., Mrs. Haslam, and Miss Haslam have arrived at 8, Wilton Crescent, S.W., from India.

During the night of June 5 a son and heir was born to the Ameer of Afghanistan. There have been great rejoicings in Kabul.

M. Nicolas Misu, the newly-appointed Secretary to the Roumanian Legation at Rome, left London last week for Italy to take up his post.

Yesterday, at the anniversary meeting of the Central Asian Society, Sir Michael O'Dwyer lectured on "India's Influence on her Mohammedan Neighbours."

The Crown Prince of Japan is expected in Bucharest very shortly, the visit being in the nature of a return visit for that which Prince Carol paid to Japan last year.

The Princess Kamala Devi Gaekwar of Baroda will hold a reception of Indian ladies at her residence, 15, Cleveland Gardens, Lancaster Gate, on June 23, at half-past three o'clock.

On June 14, under the auspices of the Royal Asiatic Society, Dr. Robert P. Blake (of Harvard University) read a paper entitled: "Sources of the History of Georgian Ecclesiastical Literature."

Lady Willingdon has arrived at 5, Lygon Place, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W. (Telephone, Victoria 1851), from Government House, Madras, India. Lady Willingdon will be returning to Madras at the end of July.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Captain A. E. Freeland, Surveys of Egypt, and Maud, youngest daughter of Thos. L. Plunkett, D.L., Portmarnock House, Co. Dublin.

We regret to learn from our Zagreb Correspondent that the health of King Peter is giving rise to some anxiety, and that the Prince Regent has been recalled to Yugoslavia. As we go to press it is announced that His Majesty is slightly better.

The Central India Horse Regimental Dinner will be held at 8.15 p.m. on Friday, June 24, at the Hotel Cecil. Application to attend should be sent as soon as possible to Air-Commodore D. Pitcher, Room 810, Air Ministry, Kingsway, W.C.2.

The engagement is announced of Neville A. Dyce Sharp, Physician to H.B.M.'s Legation, Adis Ababa, Abyssinia, son of Mr. William Sharp, of Wray Common, Reigate, and Flora, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Macdonald, of Watnish, Skye.

The engagement is announced between Captain L. H. W. Crockwell, 3rd Sappers and Miners, Bombay, third son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Crockwell, Torquay, Devon, and Hazlitt, only child of Mr. Seymour Burt, Indian Police, Bengal, and Mrs. Seymour Burt.

Writing from Beyrout on May 28, H. E. Abdelkader El-Dana, ex-Mayor and ex-President of the Chamber of Commerce, says:—Yesterday, at two in the afternoon, five men-of-war anchored off this port, having on board H.R. Highness Prince George of Great Britain, who honoured our city by coming on shore.

General Gouraud gave him a Royal reception, and he was saluted from land and sea. The troops were lined up on the quay for his inspection, the military bands playing the British National Anthem. On H.R.H. entering the city, the people crowded the streets, giving him a rousing welcome.

The annual general meeting of the Indian Church Aid Association will take place at the Hoare Memorial Hall, Church House, Westminster, on Wednesday, June 22, at 3 p.m. The speakers are to be Mr. W. H. Arden-Wood, C.I.E., and the Rev. Richard Gee, M.A. (S.P.G.).

The annual dinner for officers who served with the Aden Field Force will be held at the Trocadero Restaurant on Saturday, June 25, at 7.30 p.m. Applications for tickets should be made before June 20 to Lieut.-Colonel R. de V. Williams, Leafield, Gibson's Hill, Norwood, S.E.19.

The marriage has been arranged, and will take place in September, between Gerald Durie Moore, youngest son of the late Mr. T. H. Moore, of Bombay, and of Mrs. Moore, 10, Lansdown Place East, Bath, and Eileen Marion Bowes, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott, Northfield House, Bath.

The first annual meeting of the Czech Society of Great Britain will be held at 18, Cadogan Gardens, S.W.3 (by kind permission of Sir Samuel and Lady Maud Hoare), on June 21, at 3 p.m. Sir Samuel Hoare will be in the chair, and the speakers will include the Czechoslovak Minister, Lord Dunsany, and Mr. W. A. Appleton.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (May 25):—On Wednesday last Sir Herbert and Lady Dering gave a soirée at the British Legation, which the King honoured with his presence. It was attended also by the foreign representatives and their wives, and by many Roumanian political notabilities. Dancing was continued till half-past two, when the King left.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in Bombay, between Clive Noble Rich, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rich, of Thornbury, Glos., and grandson of the late Colonel F. H. Rich, R.E., of 17, Queen's Gate Terrace and Castle Connel, Ireland, and Muriel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bacon, of Lindfield, and granddaughter of the late William Bacon, Lunces Hall, Wivelsfield, Sussex.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes:—Sir Arthur Peel, accompanied by Colonel Baird, the British Military Attaché, returned on June 3 from a tour in the provinces. Amongst the places visited were the Rila Monastery and the Valley of Roses.

A notable social event was the marriage of M. V. Duneff, son of the ex-Minister of Finance, to Miss Calcheff, which was celebrated here on June 3.

The following decorations have been conferred by the King of Roumania in recognition of war services:—

The Crown of Roumania.—Grand Officer.—Rear-Admiral Sir A. F. Everett, K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B. Commander.—Capt. F. E. Massy-Dawson, D.S.O., R.N. Chevalier.—Sub-Lieut. G. Marsden, R.N.V.R.

Order of the Star of Roumania.—Chevalier.—Lieut. T. P. Ryan, O.B.E., R.N.R.

M. Venizelos has agreed to join a small committee of eminent persons which is being formed to assist the Council of the Federation of League of Nations Societies, and it is hoped that he will be able to visit various countries on behalf of the Federation for the purpose of stimulating interest in its activities. He has announced his intention of beginning this work at an early date. Among other probable members of this committee are Lord Robert Cecil, M. Viviani, Dr. Nansen, and Signor Ruffini.

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—On May 24 an unusual and interesting ceremony took place at Larnaca, a statue of the ancient philosopher Zeno of Kitium having been presented to the municipality by M. L. Z. Pierides in memory of his father, Z. D. Pierides, a leading citizen and merchant of the town for many years. The statue, which has been erected on a piece of ground facing the public gardens, was unveiled by the High Commissioner, who came down from Nicosia and made a most felicitous speech. There was a very large gathering at the ceremony, all the leading officials, local dignitaries, and townspeople being present, and also the Boy Scouts and school-children. After the ceremony a reception, which was held at the club by His Excellency, was largely attended.

Larnaca has always stood out from the other towns of the island on account of the unity among its inhabitants—no matter what their nationality—when matters affecting the welfare of the town are concerned, and the civic spirit is strong among the citizens. The kindness of His Excellency in consenting to visit the town on Empire Day was very greatly appreciated by the whole of the inhabitants.

The annual gathering of the Indian Police Dinner Club took place at the Grand Hotel, Trafalgar Square, on June 7, Mr. F. M. H. Vincent, C.I.E., in the chair. There was a large attendance, including Mr. H. A. Close, C.I.E., Mr. C. Hughes Hallett, Mr. E. C. Ryland, C.I.E., Mr. P. F. de la F. Sherman, Mr. D. M. Straight, C.I.E., Mr. A. C. Stewart, Mr. C. A. Tegart, C.I.E., Major J. A. Wallinger, and Mr. Austin Low, C.I.E., honorary secretary.

The King has given orders for the following appointments on the recommendation of the Government of India, for valuable services in Waziristan:—

K.C.B. (MILITARY DIVISION).

Climo, Major-General S. H., C.B., D.S.O., I.A.

C.B. (MILITARY DIVISION).

Leslie, Major and Brevet-Colonel (T./Brig-Gen.) W. S., C.M.G., D.S.O., 31st Punjabis, I.A.; Tytler, Colonel (T./Brig-Gen.) H. C., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., I.A.

C.S.I.

Gordon, Lieut.-Colonel (temp. Brig-Gen.) J. L. R., C.B., I.A.; Lindsay, Colonel H. A. P., C.M.G., C.B.E., S. and T. Corps; Profeit, Colonel C. W., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.M.S.

K.C.I.E.

Skeen, Major-General A., C.M.G., I.A.

C.I.E.

Campbell, Colonel (temp. Brig-Gen.) G. P., C.B.E., R.E.; Crosthwait, Lieut.-Colonel H. L., R.E., Survey Department; Latimer, C., Esq., Indian Civil Service, Deputy Commissioner, Dera Ismail Khan; Lucas, Colonel (temp. Brig-Gen.) F. G., C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., I.A.; Payne, Lieut.-Colonel E. H., Military Accounts Department; Steele, Major (temp. Lieut.-Col.) C. E. B., O.B.E., S. and T. Corps; Stodart, Colonel T., I.M.S.; Conway-Gordon, Major (temp. Lieut.-Col.) E. C. W., 3rd Skinner's Horse; Hudson, Lieut.-Colonel (actg. Col.) C., D.S.O., I.M.S.; Ross, Lieut.-Colonel H., 1/103rd Mahratta Light Infantry; Watt, Lieut.-Colonel D. M., D.S.O., 1st K.G.O. Gurkha Rifles, attd. 2/5th Gurkha Rifles, F.E.; Ikbal Muhammad Khan, Lieut.-Colonel, Bhopal Imperial Service Lancers.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

Rear-Admiral John Ince has been appointed to be Rear-Admiral-in-Charge and Admiral Superintendent of his Majesty's Dockyard, Malta, in succession to Rear-Admiral Brian H. F. Barttelot, to date November 1, 1921.

The King has been pleased to make the following appointments:—

Major E. B. B. Hawkins, D.S.O., to be H.M. Consul for Southern Ethiopia, to reside at Magi (August 13, 1920).

Mr. L. B. Graffney-Smith, to be H.M. Vice-Consul at Jeddah (December 21, 1920).

Mr. W. B. Heard, to be H.M. Consul for all the Coast Line of Egypt east of Damietta Light, the Governorates of the Suez Canal, and of Suez, the maritime portion of the Mudiria of Kenah, and the Sinai Peninsula, to reside at Port Said (February 24, 1921).

Sir H. H. Lamb, K.C.M.G., to be H.M. Consul-General at Smyrna (March 19, 1921).

OBITUARY.

The death of Dr. Kellas, a member of the Everest Expedition, occurred at Kempajong on June 5. He was engaged in experimenting in the use of oxygen at high altitudes.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

The following names were unavoidably held over from our list of Birthday Honours last week:—

C.I.E.—Jukes, John Edwin Clapham, Esq., I.C.S., Joint Secy., Finance Dept., Govt. of India. Burdon, Ernest, Esq., I.C.S., Financial Adviser, Military Finance. Khan, Nawab Muhammad Ahmad Said, M.B.E., M.L.C., of Chhitari, Bulandshahr, District, U.P. Martindell, Herbert Edward West, Esq., Chief Engr. and Sec., P. W. Dept., Burma. Montgomerie, Alexander, Esq., I.C.S., Sec., Political Dept., Bombay. Abbott, Evelyn Robins, Esq., I.C.S., Commissioner, Multan Divn., Punjab. Smith, James Cowlshaw, Esq., I.C.S., Magistrate and Collector, U.P. Thomas, Percy Beart, Esq., Insp.-Gen. of Police, Madras. Cunningham, John Richard, Esq., Director of Public Instrn., Assam. Cox, Stephen, Esq., M.B.E., Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras. Crump, Leslie Maurice, Esq., I.C.S., Political Dept., Govt. of India, lately Political Agent, Phulkian States, Punjab. Briscoe, Hugh Kynaston, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Cuttack, Bihar and Orissa. Nevill, Temp. Lt.-Col. Henry Rivers, O.B.E., I.C.S., I.A., R. of O. A.A.G., Army Hq. Deare, Lt.-Col. Benjamin Hobbs, I.M.S., Principal, Med. Coll., Calcutta, Bengal. Scott, Henry Vernon Barstow Hare, Esq., Indian Police, Deputy Director, Central Intelligence. Church, Robert William, Esq., Mining Engineer to the Railway Bd. Heath, Maj. Lewis Macclesfield, M.C., Commandant, Seistan Levy Corps. Lang, Maj. Lionel Edward, M.C., late Commandant, Seistan Levy Corps. Ram, Rai Bahadur Milkhi, Senior Vice-President of the Municipal

Committee, Lahore, Punjab. Damle, Rao Bahadur Kesho Govind, Pleader, Vice-Chairman of the District Board, Akola, Central Provinces. Mackison, James Walls, Esq., Executive Engineer, Bombay Municipality, Bombay. Playfair, Arthur Lambert, Esq., of Dibrugarh, Assam. Sen, Rai Bahadur Babu Abinash Chandra, Member of Council, Jaipur State, Rajputana. Modi, Maganlal Thakordas Balmukandas, Esq., merchant, Bombay. Banerjee, Doctor Mohendra Nath, medical practitioner, Principal, Carmichael Medical College, Belgatchia, Bengal.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Afghan Mission under Mohammed Vali Khan has arrived in Paris.

A Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been revived in Jerusalem under the presidency of Sir Herbert Samuel.

It is officially announced that in future the designation of the British troops in Constantinople will be "The British Army in Constantinople."

Sir William Manning, Governor of Ceylon, in opening the Reformed Legislative Council of Ceylon, forecast the introduction of an income-tax.

An interesting collection of papers relating to the new constitution of Malta has been published as a White Paper [Cmd. 1321, price 1s. 6d. net.].

According to reports from Constantinople, Armenians are helping the insurgent Tartars in the Karabagh against the Soviet Government of Azerbaijan.

Our Sofia Correspondent, writing on June 4, says that rumours are beginning to circulate there once again regarding the much-talked-of Bolshevik invasion of Bulgaria.

Musa Kasim Pasha Hussein is leading a deputation, elected by the Moslem and Christian Arab Congress of Palestine, to lay the Arab case before the British public.

Delegates to the American Zionist Organisation at Cleveland (Ohio) pledged their loyalty and allegiance to the World Zionist Organisation and their whole-hearted support to the Palestine Foundation Fund.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times*, writing on June 9, reports:—"A fatal flying accident occurred at Heliopolis yesterday, when Flying Officer Milbourne Coombs, D.F.C., crashed in a D.H.10."

It is reported from Cairo that the Egyptian railway shop strikers have, with the exception of twenty ringleaders, been reinstated without loss of rights, on condition that they work conscientiously in the future.

The principal article in the defensive Treaty between Czechoslovakia and Roumania, now published at Prague, provides that if Hungary should make an unprovoked attack on either party the other party shall assist the attacked party.

Scurvy has broken out among the Assam tea coolies, who, as the result of extremist agitation, left their work and set out for their homes in Central India, and are now stranded at Chandpur. The death-rate among them is increasing.

According to a telegram to the *Pioneer* the British withdrawal from Persia is now complete, but, owing to the instability of the situation, 1,000 Russian troops remain at Enzeli. Official Russian assurances have been given, however, that the withdrawal will soon be resumed.

It is reported that the insurgents in Daghestan, north of Azerbaijan, on the Caspian, operating under Said Bey, a grandson of the Circassian patriot Shamyi, have captured a number of guns, machine-guns, rifles, and ammunition from the Bolsheviks, and hold most of the inland districts.

As the various political parties at Fiume have found it impossible to reach an agreement, they appealed to the Italian Government to intervene. The Government has accordingly appointed Major Foschini High Commissioner at Fiume, with the object of bringing back the city to normal conditions under an established constitution.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1921.

INDIA IN THE EMPIRE.

We have recently been able to record a definite, if slight, improvement in the internal situation in India, and we think it may now be said that the immediate outlook is hopeful. Much, indeed, depends on the course of the season during the next three months; for it cannot be repeated too often that in India the popular response to agitation, whatever its objects may be, is determined very largely by the economic circumstances of the moment. Bad crops, like those of last year, mean increased pressure on the least stable elements of the population, and undoubtedly tend to enhance the general unpopularity of the administration; a good season means a marked extension of well-being, resulting in an unresponsive audience for agitators; and should the summer and autumn prove favourable, there are grounds for hoping that the transition from natural but unreasoning excitement to steady effort may make rapid progress, alike in the fields of politics and economics. Whatever the future may have in store, the present situation is not such as to require detailed examination, and to-day we propose to glance at a group of questions affecting the position of India in the Empire, which, important as they are, have, in this country at least, been overshadowed by more spectacular events. The occasion is appropriate, for we are once again witnessing that recurring miracle, the gathering of the Imperial Cabinet, when representatives of the original British stock meet to discuss affairs, not only with descendants of their inveterate enemies, whether French or Dutch, but also with the spokesmen of India, so recently a Dependency, and still a repository of distinctive political traditions. India's transitional constitution is conspicuous in the present Cabinet: if the Secretary of State stands for the element of external control, familiar to Indians from the experience of nearly a thousand years, he has by his side an Indian politician who enjoys the confidence of an elected Legislature, and an Indian Prince, a type of that absolute kingship which is the most firmly rooted institution in the country. With this combination we are justified in expecting that each of the various Indian points of view will be effectively put forward, and that the claims on which they are agreed will be vigorously pressed.

Judging, however, from the preliminary announcements, it does not appear that Indian questions will claim an unduly large share of the Cabinet's attention. The policy of Imperial Preference is shortly to be investigated by an Indian Commission, and for the present India cannot take any definite line in a discussion of that subject. The problems of Defence are still, we understand, before a special committee. The thorny topic of Imperial organisation concerns India less directly than the Dominions, for the obvious reason that her relations with England are already clearly defined; and what India asks for at the present juncture is not so much any concrete measures as a frank and cordial recognition of the rapid growth of national self-consciousness and national self-respect. Some such recognition was accorded at the previous Cabinet in the adoption of the principle of mutual exclusiveness—that is to say, that India is entitled to exclude from her territory the inhabitants of those Dominions which exclude Indians from theirs, and the arrangement, unsatisfactory as it may be from the practical standpoint, has undoubtedly produced a good effect on Indian sentiment. At the present time the question of the treatment of Indians in the

Dominions is clouded by bitterness only in the case of South Africa, and in that case we incline to the view that a reasonable accommodation is possible. If, as we hope, the difficulty is removed in the course of the present discussions, the remaining questions of status arise not with the Dominions but with the Dependencies. The official papers recently published disclose an unfortunate difference between the Colonial Office and the Government of India regarding the arrangements to be made in East Africa. The Colonial Office accepted the principle of racial segregation for application to certain areas in the colony of Kenya: Lord Chelmsford's Government protested strongly against this decision, the protest is backed by the unanimous voice of educated opinion throughout India, and we have Mr. Montagu's assurance that it came as a reinforcement of views he was already urging. The principle is advocated mainly upon sanitary grounds; the opposition to it rests almost wholly upon Indian sentiment, which regards the case as a test of the position of India in the Empire; and it would scarcely be possible to overrate the effect in India of its ultimate acceptance. We have very little sympathy with those writers who decry the Colonial Office on every possible occasion. Of late years, at any rate, its strength has lain largely in its recognition of the force of local sentiment, and it is this very fact that, in our opinion, renders necessary some arrangement which shall ensure equal regard in its decisions for the sentiment of other portions of the Empire. Various other points are in dispute between India and the Dependencies, in East Africa and elsewhere, but practically all of them appear to be susceptible of reasonable adjustment. The principle of racial segregation is, however, one which India will never be brought to accept, and it appears to us to be desirable that alternative methods of safeguarding the health of the inhabitants should be explored by some impartial authority.

In regard to all these questions the essential point is that Dominions and Dependencies alike should realise the political importance of the sentiment to which we have referred, not insisting on its precise correlation with concrete facts, but accepting it as a fact in itself, and as a fact which dominates the field of Indian politics. Its growth is quite recent. Indians have, unwisely, as we think, neglected in the past to secure adequate publicity for their views outside their own country, and we have no doubt that in many portions of the Empire the change is still very little appreciated; but it is a reality for all that, and communities of predominantly British origin may fairly be urged to display in regard to it the British virtue of recognising facts. But at the same time it is the duty of those Indian leaders who have pressed for recognition of the sentiment in question to set to work, more earnestly than they have yet done, to bring that sentiment into closer relation with other facts of Imperial significance. They claim to have developed the great asset of national self-respect. To establish that claim they must prove that they have deserved the respect of others, for until they have reached that stage their self-respect would be described more justly as self-conceit. They have to face the fact that in several cases Indians are unpopular abroad. When a man is unpopular in the society he frequents it is rarely the society that is to blame, and while Indians may justly urge the existence of prejudice in the case of some communities, the fact that unpopularity has grown with experience demonstrates that other causes besides prejudice have been at work. It is no part of our present purpose to indicate those causes in detail; our contention is that, while all possible regard should be paid to the new-born Indian sentiment, Indians themselves should be busy in studying, with a view to their removal, the causes of their unpopularity abroad. As yet they seem scarcely to recognise the magnitude of their claim on other portions of the Empire. We have urged that, large as it is, that claim should be generously conceded, and we urge also that the Indian leaders should now set to work to make its justification manifest to the world. It is along these lines, and along them only, that we can hope to realise the great Imperial synthesis of which this month's conferences are but a faint foreshadowing.

THE SHOE.

By John Bashan.

It was a sick, dishevelled little man that the caique spilled out on the beach of this island off the Asia Minor coast, and whom the crew left with such scant parley. For all his smallness he was fleshy, with dark, restless eyes and a never-ceasing fund of gesture when speaking. At present he was profoundly miserable, shivering in the breeze that had sprung up with the first light before the dawn, and the little that he could see of his surroundings seemed even worse than it had appeared from the sea.

The island itself was rugged and forbidding; the path that he would have to ascend steep and loose of surface. For a moment he looked longingly at the caique, fast disappearing towards the mainland, and, in spite of the open dislike and contempt of the crew, wished himself safe aboard her. Then the thought of the treasure that was the aim and end of his journey came to the rescue, and he ascended the path a little less wearily, a little less forlornly, until, finding a comfortable, sheltered spot, he settled down to await the full daylight.

For a time he lay in a semi-drowsy state of reflection, and his dreaming was not unpleasant. For a few days he was safe, and whereas the bones of his friends of fifty months earlier were bleaching among the rocks outside his native city, unburied, and deserted now even by the carrion crow, he was alive and free, a *yuzbashi* in the Turkish Army, and had even in various ways succeeded in amassing a certain amount of money. For long, timorous, shaking months he had managed to steer a true and careful course between the Scylla of undue leniency towards his Christian co-religionists and the Charybdis of being held up as an example of how the ill-treatment of Christians was in nearly every case the much-to-be-deplored work of their Christian notables. Above all, the next twenty-four hours should see him a comparatively rich man, and then he need never return to his own land of danger.

Presently he slept.

When he awoke, it was with a scream of fear. Nothing around was moving, except a fly which buzzed indignantly away. For all the mid-day sun, his dream had left him cold and shaking, and his face was greasy and furrowed, like some white ointment once used and then forgotten. Once again he had lived the day of fear, just after he had made himself safe with the authorities. Once again he had watched from behind his *jalousies* that long, carefully shepherd procession, surrounded by the cruelty of primitive man, but directed from afar by a policy so thorough that it had even considered the insurance policies of its victims. And not very far away were the rocks that were to be their last sight of this earth, the rocks where the three Germans had made their meal among the bones eighteen months later.

He had sat again all day at a table, drinking coffee, whilst a hush hung over the city, he who had dared do no other wise than sit in public as befitted a free man; and he had felt the awful terror of that moment when the doorkeeper of the Kaimakam's house had dropped into a seat opposite, complaining with more than usual profanity that he was tired, and then recounting, as a man describes a day's shooting, the number he had killed with his own hand.

When he had recovered from his dream, he began the weary walk to his destination, stumbling over loose stones, cursing the stubborn thorns of the overgrown path. Sometimes he rested for a few minutes; yet, as if goaded and rowelled by some invisible spur, ever he staggered onwards again. Towards evening he entered the village.

There was almost complete silence in the winding streets, the silence of the setting sun. A curtain fluttered in one of the windows, but the grass was knee-high in the streets. Once he stumbled over the portion of a shattered bed and the few rags of a shredded mattress. A door blew to behind him. A half-starved dog slunk in the shadow of a wooden house that was falling apart, as a stranded ship melts away after a storm.

He was too tired, and it was too late to do anything that night, so he entered the open door of one of the

better houses, stumbling once again on the threshold. With a curse he kicked a small, light object towards the far side of the room. Then he lit a couple of candles and began to look round. On the table were the powdered remains of an interrupted meal; the floor was strewn with broken furniture. After a light supper he arranged a place to sleep, and made himself comfortable for the night.

But somehow sleep would not come. The quest of the morrow obsessed his mind, and not unnaturally his thoughts turned to Azazian, to whom the treasure had belonged, whose whole fortune it represented, except for certain bribes with which Azazian had bought a few more doubtful weeks of life for his family, the only survivor of which now was Takui, a pretty little girl of eight summers, who had been spared from over a hundred children on account of her good looks, and who was now in the household of Raouf Bey, where she would be looked after. What was more natural, therefore, than that he should make himself safe with the money of his friend.

So he dreamed on, vainly waiting the sleep that would not come, until, feeling a cold draught from the direction of the door, he raised himself on one elbow and looked round, to find two luminous green eyes gazing at him. He sprang up, clutching wildly at his breast, only to trip over the same small object that had made him stumble when he first entered the house. His heart, so often tortured by a spirit that saw death in an unaccustomed politeness, failed, and he fell amongst the remnants of that abandoned mid-day meal, which crashed to the ground with him.

The dog, disappointed in his desire for human society, slunk away to further loneliness.

* * * * *

A week before these events took place, the hidden hoard of Azazian had been taken on board a British motor launch to be administered for the benefit of a prematurely grave-eyed little girl named Takui, who had not long before been brought to Constantinople by a British Relief Officer. At the end Azazian had doubted his friend, and had succeeded in ensuring by other means the welfare of his child, should she survive the massacres.

The officer who had recovered Azazian's hoard had entered the same open house in the course of his exploration of the village, and had picked up the small object that had twice entangled the feet of the would-be robber a week later. To him it had appeared the most pathetic of all the evidences of hasty flight and unbridled looting. It was a small baby's shoe.

THE JEWS AND PALESTINE.

In the Assembly of the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh recently the report of the Jewish Mission Committee was submitted by Mr. J. P. Sym. The Rev. Dr. MacLean Watt, in moving the adoption of the report, said we would not escape the Jew. He stood in the way of progress of every nation and every religion in the wide world, and especially in the way of that religion that was founded by a child of the race. We dared not turn from these people. The Rev. James Muir, Kirkoswald, in seconding, said the great hour had struck for that great people, and an avenue had been opened up by the victory of General Allenby for a return to a place among the nations. Professor Kay, St. Andrews, said the Old and New Testaments did not warrant the statement that Palestine was the natural home of the Jew. Declarations of that kind did harm. Those ideas encouraged Jewish immigrants to Palestine to assume their right to displace the Moslem and Syrian and Christian population. A fourth of His Majesty's subjects were Moslems, and had as many of the virtues of Father Abraham as any branch of the family. He thought that while the Assembly would encourage benevolent action towards the Jews in every land it was also anxious to do no injustice to either Moslem or Christian inhabitants of Palestine, and who had been in possession for centuries. He moved an addendum to the report on those lines, and this was accepted, after which the report was adopted.

An Agreement between Great Britain and Norway relating to the suppression of the Capitulations in Egypt has just been published, at the price of 1d., by H.M. Stationery Office (Cmd. 1285). By this Agreement Norwegian Nationals will enjoy the same treatment as British nationals in respect of the administration of justice and public liberties, including rights in regard to property, the liberal professions, commerce, and taxes. Treaties in force between Great Britain and Norway are to apply also to Egypt.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Palestine To-day.

The *Morning Post* of June 10 contains an article on "Palestine To-day," written by "a distinguished City man, well known in commercial circles, who made a pilgrimage to Palestine for Easter." The writer of the article had known the country well under Turkish rule, and noted profound changes on his last visit. Noting first the change in the character of the people, who once were debonaire and careless, and are now "grim, sullen, and brooding," and next, "the overwhelming military display which one meets on all sides at Jerusalem," he turns to high politics. On this subject he says:—

Zionists evidently hope to maintain their grip on Palestine in two ways, first, by Jewish immigration; second, by Jewish predominance in the Government. Now it certainly looks as though the first were already doomed to failure, and it is clear, therefore, that increasingly greater stress will be laid on the second. I personally doubt the accuracy of the official immigration figures recently published by the Secretary of the Zionist organisations, but they undoubtedly show that Zionist immigration is not proceeding at the rate expected, or at a rate sufficiently high to justify the maintenance of a force of some 16,000 British troops for their protection from the people of the country, or, indeed, to justify at all the alienation of the latter's formerly pro-British sympathies. We are told that only 10,000 have come, and that of this number some 3,000 have already left again. The immigrants who do come seem, notwithstanding the assurance of his Majesty's Government that they would be carefully selected, to be of a not particularly desirable class, for they are mostly from the ghettos of Poland and Russia, and are so dirty in their habits and Bolshevik in their ideas that they are a great offence to the people of Palestine, who are, by the way, a very clean and homely people. Indeed—and this is most significant—many Jews who emigrated to Palestine are going back again. Palestine is, of course, an agricultural country, but, compared with Europe or America, its productivity falls far behind, and, naturally, those who have done agriculture in their own countries find they can do better for themselves by going back. Moreover, the staple agriculture of Palestine is cereal cultivation, and though the Jewish immigrant may take up garden cultivation such as oranges, olives, etc., he has no great liking for the hard labour of a cereal crop. I met a Warsaw tailor who said he had come for agriculture, and this is a characteristic type of these immigrants who have no real knowledge of agriculture at all.

He proceeds to give the Christian and Moslem opinion of Sir Herbert Samuel, dilates on the increase in the number of Jews in the Civil Service, and then gives his verdict on British policy in Palestine:—

The military force in the country is costing the British taxpayer about eight millions a year, and it is probable that owing to the recent anti-Zionist riots at Jaffa this sum will have to be increased in the present year. It is understood that the Government now proposes to reduce the garrison by the formation of a national Defence Force for the preservation of internal order, consisting of one battalion of Christian and Moslem Arabs and one of Jews, paid for by local revenues. To demonstrate the feasibility of this scheme a humorist among the local officials suggested that the Jewish unit might be quartered at Nablus, the old Neapolis, a town so fanatically Moslem that Jews are turned back from entering.

It is difficult to grasp the seriousness of the situation created by Zionist immigration and the appointment of a Zionist High Commissioner without seeing it. The salvation of Palestine would be for a representative party of British members of Parliament to visit the country independently, and not like Mr. Churchill under Zionist auspices, and gauge for themselves what Zionism means in practice. Palestine is about the size of Wales, and has a comparable population if the coalfields are excluded. What would happen in Wales if the Peace Conference decided to colonise it, say, with Hebrews, repressed the civil population with a force of Americans, laid it down that the economical development of the country was to be placed in the hands of Hebrews, and gave to Welshmen no real voice in the government of their fatherland? The picture is not an exaggerated one of Palestine of the present day. The country is being goaded into desperation, and the association of Great Britain with this unfortunate experiment is doing incalculable and irretrievable harm to our prestige and reputation throughout the whole Moslem world.

The article concludes with a reference to the fact that the Christian world is moved by these events in Palestine, and the final sentence is:—

Mr. Balfour is said to have justified Zionism as an interesting experiment, but, as a Haifa Arab, who had evidently heard of this remark, said to me, "You do not allow a surgeon to try experiments even on one human body. Why, then, should you experiment on a whole nation?"

Turkey, Russia and Europe.

In the *Morning Post* of May 30 is an article called "Angora's New Friend," in which the "unholy and artificial alliance" between Russia and Turkey is stated to be "a striking testimony to the failure of the Allies in dealing with a problem which is of paramount importance to all

of them." But still the war between Kemal and the Greeks continues:—

Neither side has been particularly successful in their successive offensives, but as the Kemal troops are being reinforced, as moreover, they are beginning to menace the Greek lines of communication by fomenting disturbances in the rear of the Greek Army, and as the moral of King Constantine's forces seems, according to some reports, to be on the decline, it looks as if the balance were beginning to dip in favour of the Turks. But as long as the Anatolian war continues, the Bolsheviks are bound to be masters of the situation. They appear to be urging the Kemalists to turn their attention to Mesopotamia, while they themselves are reported to be ready for a move on Persia. We do not wish to exaggerate the military strength of Trotsky, but it is clear that the Bolsheviks, working through the Kemalists, may shortly cause the British Empire serious trouble in the Middle East. We therefore venture to draw attention to the following considerations: In the first place, the Allies ought at once to sink their differences and concentrate on a common policy in the Middle East. The Treaty of Sévres is dead, and the dream of M. Venizelos is shattered. Italy, it is well known, is anxious to return to that policy of an Anglo-Italian entente on all Mediterranean issues which existed before the war. Another effort ought, therefore, to be made to bring to an end this ruinous warfare in Anatolia by securing from Greece concessions which would satisfy Turkish pride and establish the complete independence of Turkey, economic as well as political, in Asia Minor. The three Powers, each acting on their own initiative, cannot do it, but united on a common policy they can. But they cannot do it on the basis of the Treaty of Sévres. In the second place, the desire of the Bolsheviks to worry this country in a vital part of its dominions is only too evident, though there may be perhaps some difference of opinion as to their capacity to do so. Therefore, we hope that the Government may again revise that ill-omened policy which led to the signing of the trade agreement with Lenin. There can be no compromise, no accommodation with the Bolsheviks. They are our bitter enemies, and recent events in Angora have confirmed what ought to have been to our rulers a self-evident truth.

Articles to Note.

"Our Foreign Policy," by the Right Hon. W. Ormsby Gore, M.P., in the *Nineteenth Century* (June).

"The Internal Situation in Bulgaria," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Fortnightly Review* (June).

"Tales of the Ma'adan," by Fulanain, in *Blackwood's* (June).

"The Viceroyalty of Lord Chelmsford," by H. E. A. Cotton, C.I.E., L.C.C., and "Armenian and English Poetry: Some Parallels," by Zabelle C. Boyajian, in the *Contemporary Review* (June).

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Second Thoughts.

After all, we are to be spared the most objectionable of the proposed new postal charges. Mr. Kellaway came down to the House in a very different mood from that in which he faced the various deputations of protest in the previous week. Then he was unable to hold out any hope that the proposals would be modified, but he was able to tell the House that the Government had decided to abandon the tax on business enterprise abroad, and that a committee of business men is to be appointed to consider what economies can be effected in the working of the Post Office. For this *volte face* the united opposition shown by the Press and the business community is responsible. But it should not have been necessary to teach the authorities the lesson that the welfare of the whole country depends upon the development of our overseas trade. Now that men like Mr. Selfridge are to have a voice in the management of the Post Office there is ground for hope that the alterations will not stop short at the revoking of a tax that should never have been proposed, and that before very long we shall see a reduction in the charges for letters, telegrams, and telephoning.

Deceptive Tractor Trials.

It is an unfortunate fact that trials of tractors in the Near East are very often apt to be misleading. The object of a trial is to discover the tractor best suited to the country, but the conditions under which trials are held do not lead to that result. The demonstrations are carried out by highly-skilled men, under whose handling presumably the best machine takes the first place. Now, it very frequently happens that the winning machine is an exceptionally complicated piece of mechanism, and, while this would be immaterial were skilled hands always available, it matters a great deal seeing that the tractor has to be operated by practically unskilled labour. As it will not answer to such handling the result is that the market may be lost, though there may have been tractors competing which could be driven by inexperienced men, but which, because of their simplicity of design, were not able to give quite as good results as the more elaborate machines. It is satisfactory to note that one of the two machines that have done best in the recent tractor trials in Bulgaria is the Saunderson, which is very easy to operate, and is, therefore, specially fitted for the country.

Egypt's Financial Position.

The Budget Note of Mr. Dowson, the Acting Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, which is dealt with elsewhere in these columns by our Cairo correspondent, gives anything but a promising view of the financial outlook for Egypt. There was a deficit on the last financial year of £E12,900,000, which has been debited to the reserve funds, and these, allowing for the depreciation of securities, have been reduced to £E3,000,000. National food subsidies and emergency coal purchases are mainly responsible for this situation, which has been rendered much more serious by the continued low price of cotton. Mr. Dowson, however, takes a rather hopeful view of the position. He points out that the country is estimated still to possess £100,000,000 in accumulated resources, and is, therefore, in a position to meet the existing conditions. His conclusion is that the financial position of the country is fundamentally healthy, and that so long as its vital resources are not impaired it should overcome its immediate difficulties.

Effect on Irrigation Schemes.

It was obvious that as in this country circumstances would demand retrenchment on an extensive scale wherever possible, and Mr. Dowson anticipates the necessity for the severest economy on public and private account, and holds out little hope of the early resumption of irrigation work. This is one of the most serious aspects of the position. The welfare of Egypt is bound up with the development

of irrigation, and its cessation will seriously retard the economic progress of the country, while putting out of court any prospect of the extension of cotton growing in the near future. It may be noted that it has been decided to stop the works begun at Gebel Aulia, which would require £12,000,000, an amount which is now, of course, quite out of the question; while the Egyptian Cabinet is also in favour of stopping the work on the Mekwar reservoir and the Gezira canal. It is quite possible, however, that the period of economic depression which is looked for may be much shorter than is anticipated. Almost everything depends on cotton, and the price of that commodity in turn depends on the general economic outlook. Circumstances seem to be arising which would tend to create a position in which, if there should be a great demand for cotton goods, there would be a corresponding response in the price of cotton. Then the situation would be fundamentally altered, though in no circumstances is it probable that there will be a return of anything approaching the prosperity that Egypt has enjoyed in recent years.

The World Cotton Conference.

If it does nothing else, the World Cotton Conference, which opened at Liverpool on Monday, will fulfil a very useful service in drawing attention to the various problems with which the industry is faced to-day. Altogether some twenty-five papers are to be read, and these ranging from the question of increasing the production in America and of cotton growing within the British Empire to financing cotton importing and the possibilities of the exact reporting and forecasting of the cotton crops cover practically the whole field of endeavour in the trade. Chief interest attaches to the papers on cotton growing, for, while there is at the present time anything but a shortage of cotton, it needs no demonstration that a time will come when the world will require all the cotton that can be grown. Obviously the interests of the industry demand that when that time arrives an adequate supply of cotton shall be available. Unfortunately cotton is not now a paying crop, and as Mr. de Segundo points out in our columns this week with regard to the American crop, it is impossible to persuade farmers to plant cotton at a cost of 25 cents per lb. when there will only be a return of 12 cents per lb. That is the principal problem before the industry.

The Rubber Exhibition.

I must confess to a feeling of disappointment at the Rubber Exhibition, and so far as I can judge I am far from being alone in that respect. It struck one as being on the whole dull and unimaginative. There were a number of interesting exhibits, but too few to relieve the general monotony, and I should have thought that as the exhibition included allied tropical products a good deal more might have been made of this side of it. Of course, it must be admitted that rubber scarcely lends itself to display, but one could not help thinking that this great industry had not done itself justice in this exhibition.

COMMENTATOR.

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(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

GREECE.

ATHENS, May 29.

The Tobacco Crisis.

One of the most serious problems which the Greek Government is now trying to solve is the question of tobacco. I pointed out in one of my recent letters that thousands of okes, representing the production of 1918, 1919, and 1920, have remained unsold, and it is evident that unless the recent decision of the Government to attempt to exchange tobacco for the products of other countries proves successful, this industry, which has hitherto brought so much money into the country, will be entirely ruined.

The production of tobacco in Old Greece and the Aegean Islands amounted to 15,270,000 okes in 1919, and to 14,105,000 okes in 1920, making a total of 29,375,000 okes. At the end of 1919 the amounts which remained unsold, either in the hands of the producers and merchants or lying on consignment abroad, amounted to 18,478,000 okes. This last figure includes the unsold tobacco of the 1918 crop. Of the 14,105,000 okes produced in 1920, 11,668,000 okes remained unsold. The fact that 11,123,000 okes were left in the hands of the producers themselves shows the seriousness of the situation. Out of the 16,865,000 okes which remained unsold from the 1919 crop, only 6,670,000 okes are in the hands of the producers; 6,965,000 okes are lying on consignment in foreign markets, and the remainder is in the hands of the merchants here. These figures do not include Macedonian tobacco, very little of which remains unsold.

Miscellaneous.

M. Polyvios Lekos, a Greek who has recently returned from Tokio, has been appointed official representative in the Balkan Peninsula for 120 of the leading industrial and export firms in Japan. These firms have sent to M. Lekos seventy cases containing various samples of Japanese goods, which will now be exhibited in Athens.

A Royal decree has been published in the official *Gazette* authorising the import from abroad of carbonate of soda.

The Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce at Sofia has asked the Greek Legation there for the names and addresses of three important Greek firms importing cereals into Greece and exporting olives, olive oil, and soap.

At a meeting of the Greek shipowners it was decided to increase the fares of the passenger boats by 50 per cent., with effect from to-morrow.

Owing to the shortage of coal in the Piræus market, as a result of the requisitioning of all available stocks by the Government, the price of Greek lignite has increased considerably.

EGYPT.

CAIRO, June 5.

Adverse Trade Position.

The Egyptian Customs statistics for the first quarter reveal a very disquieting state of affairs. Not only is there a general diminution in traffic, but the trade balance has swung very heavily against Egypt. Thus, while imports during the three months totalled £E19,396,509, as compared with £E20,545,180 a year ago, exports only came to £E6,546,037, as against £E50,555,666 at the same date in 1920. There is, therefore, an adverse trade balance of £E12,800,000 as compared with one of £E30,000,000 in favour of Egypt a year ago.

The main imports during the quarter were:—Wheat, £E1,218,424; wheat and maize flour, £E4,354,809; coal, £E1,926,731; cotton textiles, £E1,408,844; manufactured iron and steel, £E871,725; barley, £E605,089; and tobacco, £E555,748, the principal increase being under wheat, flour, and coal, the most important decreases being in textiles, which fell off by over £E4,000,000. Under exports, the only item of importance was raw cotton (£E4,757,996), which was just 10 per cent. of the value of the first quarter of 1920, the quantity being a little under half. Other important exports were cottonseed.

The share of the United Kingdom under imports fell very considerably, the proportion being about 25 per cent., as against just under 50 per cent. France and the United States increased their share, the latter by 400 per cent., mainly due to wheat and maize flour imports. The position under exports showed a slight improvement, the United Kingdom's

share being 50 per cent., as compared with 35 per cent. Nearly half the cotton went to Great Britain.

The unfavourable trade position reported above is, of course, what was to be expected from the general depression in the cotton market and the slump in local commerce. Until the situation in both the latter respects improves we must expect a continuation of the adverse trade balance, and as there appears little prospect of a revival until next spring we must not be surprised if the current trade year takes a large slice out of the credit balance which Egypt still possesses abroad out of the favourable trade balances of the later war years.

The Irrigation Projects.

A fortnight ago I referred to the difficulties which the Egyptian Government was experiencing in regard to the Upper Nile irrigation projects, owing to the rise in the cost of the work. This week the Council of Ministers definitely decided to suspend the construction of the dam at Gebel Aulia, on the White Nile, and merely to authorise such work during the current year as might be necessary to consolidate what has already been done; while as regards the works on the Blue Nile the Egyptian Government has agreed to allow the Sudan Government to continue them on the understanding that it does so on its own responsibility, and that no more than 300,000 feddans are to be developed in the Gezira.

Although this decision was not altogether unexpected, it was hoped that some way out of the difficulty would be found. The wording of the decision makes it evident, however, that the Cabinet has been prompted more by political than by financial considerations. In fact, the Cabinet makes it clear that the resumption of the works will be dependent on the result of the negotiations in London. It is true that the financial situation is such as might not, under ordinary conditions, justify the undertaking of such a liability as the White Nile Dam constitutes; but, after all, the liability had already been accepted when the work was started, and in view of the urgent need of the works and the far-reaching benefits which they would confer on Egypt one cannot help feeling that with a little more courage, the Egyptian Government could have continued the work, especially as the money is not required all at once, and the work is of such an immediately remunerative nature.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, May 25.

Criticism of Financial Reforms.

The Bill for the financial reforms has now come before Parliament. The first notable speech on it was made by Professor I. Raducanu, a member of the Opposition, who has studied the whole question thoroughly. His criticism was substantial and dispassionate, and was listened to with great attention by the whole House. His remarks may be summarised as follows:—He regards the tax on turnover as ineffective; the more so as the State has not at hand the adequate administrative personnel, and, further, it hampers commerce and industry. In his view it would be better if the reform were made by degrees in order to avoid a disturbance in the economic life. He foresees that the financial measures will have as a result the maintenance of high prices, expensive living, and the disorganisation of economic life, thereby drying up the revenues of the State.

He complains that there are too many taxes proposed at one time, and advocates an organic and productive system. He believes that it would have been better, if one part only of the project had been proposed. Finally, he doubts whether the Minister of Finance will be able to carry out his scheme, as he takes too much from the individual property, which, after all is said and done, constitutes the basis of the State.

Another member who also spoke about the high taxation said that the whole project had not been sufficiently studied, and that it should have been drafted by a commission of qualified men, instead of being the work of one single person, however capable; and urged that the Minister should accept all reasonable amendments proposed during the debates.

General News.

The Minister of Finance is about to close a contract with a Swiss firm for the coining of money of 50 and 25 centimes,

to the value of fifteen million lei of the former and five million of the latter.

The management of the sample-fair at Prague have arranged for a train carrying samples of all Czechoslovak products, which will first visit the towns of Roumania and afterwards proceed to the other towns of the Near East.

A very large quantity of material necessary for aviation has arrived from abroad.

A delegate of the German Government has arrived in Bucharest to discuss the question of the war debts.

Active preparations are being made in Bucharest for the exhibition and sample-fair of all produce and manufactured goods of Greater Roumania, which will be opened at Park Carol on August 14.

The *Monitor Official* publishes the following export taxes which have come into force since the 14th inst.:—0.50 lei per litre on wine, and the following per waggon of 10,000 kilos benzine, light, 6,000 lei; benzine, heavy, 5,200 lei; petroleum, 2,000 lei; motorine and other light oils, 2,800.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 4.

The Outlook.

The financial position is disquieting and the leva is still dropping. To-day it touched the record low level of 750 levas to 100 francs, while for sterling one could get from 340 to 343 levas. Meanwhile from all over the world come stories of record harvests, and it is difficult to see how the Consortium can for long manage to justify its existence. Hostile criticism is pouring in from all parts, and foreign buyers coming to Sofia do not seem to be able to get any satisfaction out of it. One has only got to look at the situation in Constantinople, where American flour holds the market, to realise what a long way down the commercial hill Bulgaria has gone, and, of course, this factor reacts immediately on the financial position.

The very large hold French interests are gaining in this country is only known and realised by a few people to-day. Many leading banks and insurance companies have recently become affiliated to similar French concerns. The reason for this movement is easy to see. The Bulgarian fears the Government may pass legislation which will materially affect his chances of livelihood.

Naturally, the first thing that occurs to an Englishman is why we do not interest ourselves also in the country. Excellent openings abound there, and the opportunities of success offered to an English bank are very considerable. But it must be started soon to give it an equal chance of success with Allied institutions.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, May 24.

Electric Lighting of Nicosia.

Differences have existed for some years between the municipality and the electric lighting company, and a new contract has now been arranged. It has been decided to double the capital of the company, to purchase a dynamo of 60 h.p. now at Mersina, and to import another similar one. The hours of lighting will be diminished on nights when the moon allows this economy. The fees payable to the company are to be reduced.

TRADE OF DAMASCUS.

H.M. Consul at Damascus, in a recent report, states that the market is at present still rather over-stocked with most commodities, and the steady rise in the rates of the Egyptian (and, consequently, the English) pound to local gold has resulted in British goods bought previously fetching smaller prices in Syria than in the United Kingdom. At present most orders are going to countries where the exchange is low—Germany, Austria, and Italy. It is thought, however, that when stocks are exhausted there may again be a limited demand for good quality United Kingdom goods. It is not possible to compete in the cheaper qualities. The following is a list of goods which the Consul has furnished as being most likely to find a sale in Damascus, and he suggests that United Kingdom exporters interested may care to furnish him with catalogues dealing with these lines for distribution to local commission agents and display in the waiting-room at the Consulate:—Motor-cars, lorries, and accessories; cycles, motor cycles, side-cars, and accessories; electric light fittings and shades; safes, cash and deed boxes; tools; wood-fuel portable kitchen ranges made with piping and on the same principle as heating stoves (that is, not intended to be built into the wall); heating-stoves burning wood; stirrups, bridles, and bits; cartridge-loading requisites; boots and shoes of good quality; toilet preparations; table glass and crockery of good quality. Catalogues, which should preferably be printed in French, should be addressed direct to H.M. Consul, British Consulate, Damascus.

TENDERS INVITED.

[Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.]

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

Egypt.

Pantaloons.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of Bedford cord pantaloons. Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer to the Egyptian Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1. June 17.

Bookbinding Cloth.—The Egyptian Government Press invites tenders for the supply of 4,600 metres of bookbinding cloth. Tenders will be received by the Controller of Printing and Stationery, Cairo. June 30 (D.O.T.).

Metal.—The Controller of Printing and Stationery, Old Ismailia Palace, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 27,200 kilos of virgin metals for printing type. June 30.

Clothing, etc.—The Ministry of the Interior, Egypt (Lunacy Division) invites tenders for the supply of clothing and household requisites to the Abbasiya and Khanka Asylums. Tenders, on the proper form and accompanied by a provisional deposit of 2 per cent., are to be submitted to the Lunacy Division, Abbasiya. July 11 (D.O.T.).

Calcium Carbide.—The Egyptian Postal Administration at Alexandria invites tenders for the supply of 15,000 kilogrammes of calcium carbide for acetylene gas light plants. Quotations should comprise free storage at the sole risk of the contractor and free delivery (by periodical partial supplies during the year) at 62 railways or river stations specified.—(D.O.T.), July 15.

Beans, etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 150 kilos beans, 150 kilos barley, and 4,000 kilos tibia, required for four months commencing August, 1921. July 16.

Silk.—The Central Stationery Stores, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of silk for the Hejaz. July 23.

Yugoslavia.

Disinfectants.—The Ministry of Communications, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply of the following disinfecting materials:—40,000 kilos of pink chloride powder (without iron supplements and without free chlorohydrogen acid); 700,000 kilos of creosote (with the following specifications: minimum 5 per cent. of phenol, cresol, and their "homologues"; it should be liquid at 15 degrees C.). In the offers, which must bear a ten dinars duty stamp, prices must be stated all charges paid Belgrade or port. They must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and addressed "Ekonomsko Odelenje Ministarstva Saobracaja." On the envelope should be written "Ponuda za licitaciju pinkhlorida i creozota." June 22 (D.O.T.).

Oil.—The Ministry of Communications, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply of the whole or part of the following:—799,500 kilos of locomotive and wagon lubricating oil for summer use; 931,500 kilos of locomotive and wagon lubricating oil for winter use; 770,000 kilos of cylinder lubricating oil; 422,000 kilos of cylinder oil for overheated steam; 340,000 kilos vegetable (colza) oil for illumination; 706,000 kilos of oil for Diesel motors; 35,000 kilos of oil for dynamo engines; 25,000 kilos of oil for cleaning; 8,000 kilos of cylinder oil for Diesel motors; 10,000 kilos of machine oil for Diesel motors; 1,200 kilos of special oil for mechanical instruments; 1,370,000 kilos of petroleum; 484,000 kilos of petrol. A deposit of 10 per cent. for S.C.S. subjects, and 20 per cent. for foreigners has to be made before or on the date of tendering. Offers must bear a ten dinar duty stamp. Offers should be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the "Ekonomsko Odelenje, Ministarstva Saobracaja," with the inscription: "Ponuda za licitaciju petroleuma." June 24 (D.O.T.).

Iron Wire, etc.—The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs invites tenders for the supply of 130,000 kilos iron wire, covered zinc, 4 mm. dia.; 5,000 kilos galvanised iron wire, 2 mm. dia. for connection; 80,000 kilos curved transporters (Type 2); 80,000 kilos isolators No. 2. Tenders must bear a tax stamp for 10 dinars, and must be accompanied by a bank guarantee for 20 per cent. They should be sealed and addressed to the "Direction Economique du Ministere des Postes et des Telegraphes," bearing the word "Offre." Tenders must be submitted to the Chancellor's Office of the Section Economique du Ministere des Postes et des Telegraphes, 73, Rue Deligradska, Belgrade, before 11 a.m. on June 27.

Copper Sheets, etc.—The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs invites tenders for the supply of 5,000 copper sheets for underground conductors; 1,000 metres "Bergmann" pipes; 3 dynamometres iron wire, dia. 3 mm.; 3 dynamometres iron wire, dia. 3 mm.; 3 dynamometres bronze wire, dia. 3 mm.; 3 dynamometres bronze wire, dia. 4 mm. Tenders must be submitted to the Chancellor's office of the Section Economique du Ministere des Postes et des Telegraphes, 73, Rue Deligradska, Belgrade, before 11 a.m. on June 27.

Wire, Etc.—The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs of Yugoslavia invites tenders for the supply of the following material:—(1) 18,000 kilos of iron zinc wire, 80,000 curved carriers, and 80,000 porcelain insulators; (2) 250 complete sets of tools; (3) 3 light motor vans (half closed). Tenders close June 29, June 30, and July 6 respectively (D.O.T.).

THE FINANCES OF EGYPT.

DRASTIC ECONOMY NECESSARY

(FROM OUR CAIRO CORRESPONDENT.)

The note on the Budget, which is usually published on April 1, has been delayed this year because, as is explained by Mr. Dowson, the Acting Financial Adviser, it was deemed desirable to obtain a more accurate statement than is usually necessary of the actual financial position of Government at the termination of the preceding financial year. The details now given confirm the unofficial statements in circulation regarding the difficulties which the financial authorities have encountered in drafting the new Budget.

Mr. Dowson sketches the effect on Egypt of the sudden fall in the price of cotton, which constitutes the country's principal product and the great bulk of her export. Although the agricultural population have suffered very severely, they are the very classes which had been able to accumulate profits practically untouched by taxation during the boom, and cultivators have in the majority of cases been able to hold their stocks without financial assistance. This is clearly brought out in the section devoted to Government intervention, where it is stated that the special measures taken by the Government, to meet the demand for assistance, such as facilities for ginning and storing without sale, attempts to foster agricultural societies, advances on cotton, purchase of cotton from small cultivators, etc., have been taken little or no advantage of.

The Financial Adviser refers to the pressure brought to bear on the Government, in proportion as cotton prices dropped, to take action to maintain the market price, but most of the proposals submitted were economically unsound and highly speculative, and the Government had to restrict its intervention to the measures already mentioned, to which must be added the restriction of the cotton-growing area.

The general drop in prices has very seriously affected Government finances, for when revenue falls off expenditure cannot naturally be immediately reduced to a corresponding extent, and the Government has in consequence been faced with the prospect of a deficit in the State accounts. The Acting Financial Adviser points out that during the years of high prices considerable additions were made to the reserve fund until, on March 31, 1920, it stood at over £E17,000,000, and that it has been collected and maintained solely that it may be drawn upon in time of serious financial set-back. He considers, therefore, that drafts on it to meet the deficit in question are legitimate finance. The reserves had, in fact, been reduced to about £E3,000,000 at the end of March, 1921, owing to depreciation in stock of £E1,175,000, and to a deficit on the year 1920-1921 of £E12,900,000.

The latter item is due to a certain extent to high cost of living allowances to public servants, but mainly to national food subsidies and emergency coal purchases, and Mr. Dowson defends the policy underlying these three heads of abnormal expenditure. Government servants had to have some relief from the very serious position in which they were placed by the increased wealth of the agricultural masses and the consequent raising of the cost of living. It was eminently desirable to maintain food supplies at reasonable prices for the masses, not only to save a famine, but also to avoid the political effect to which in a country like this famine might give rise; and in view of Egypt's dependence for fuel on supplies from abroad and the need thereof for agricultural pumps and transport the Government had in the general interest to take steps to guarantee the necessary supplies. On the whole, one is inclined to agree with the action taken on these lines, but at the same time there is no doubt that sufficient foresight and care were not taken in the purchase of the quantities necessary; otherwise such a loss as £E12,000,000 would surely have been avoided.

An interesting section of the note is that devoted to the question of scientific research and its value to the economic life of Egypt. Mr. Dowson indicates the lines upon which such research could be most usefully prosecuted, and is of

opinion that the importance of such work is so great and failure may be so dearly paid for that no consideration of politics, persons, or race should be allowed to hamper its steady prosecution. Amongst the subjects advocated by him are: the factors that cause and regulate rainfall within the catchment basin of the Nile, which must be essentially understood before the accumulated waters of the river can be utilised to the best economic extent; cotton production, in connection with which every assistance and encouragement must be given to the utmost scientific research so as to enable the country to maintain its lead in superiority of quality and increase in yield; the prevention of disease, which has an economic importance to the Egyptian public, which depends for its wealth on manual labour in the fields; the extension of fisheries; the prospecting for petroleum so as to render Egypt less dependent on foreign markets for fuel supplies; and the proper collection and collation of statistics so as to assist scientific research and the proper economic development of the country. Mr. Dowson adds a warning that while scientific research on these and kindred subjects should be prosecuted without delay, the lessons resulting therefrom are largely dependent upon the education of public opinion, and should only be applied very gradually in advance of such opinion.

As already announced, the Budget for the current year is balanced by a draft on the reserve of £E1,981,000, which, after allowing for certain important receipts, will reduce the reserve funds to about £E2,500,000. Much will depend on the efforts made by the Departments to save money during the year, for there exist heavy arrears of maintenance and renewals as a legacy of the war, which can only be accomplished as the resources of the country and the imperative needs of its current life permit. Naturally, this rebuilding should take precedence of all new undertakings, though it is to be hoped that means will be found to continue the urgently needed irrigation works and to carry out a scheme of such economic importance as the establishment of the State university which, together with the irrigation works, has had to be postponed for lack of funds. The Financial Adviser foresees that the essential calls for expenditure during the next decade will exceed public revenue, and the outlook is certainly an anxious one, in view of the restrictions placed at present on the Government's power of taxation. The removal of this limitation will undoubtedly relieve matters, but Mr. Dowson gives a warning that too great hopes must not be placed upon the possibilities of an increase in the public revenues as a result.

In regard to the execution of work which is urgent and has to be postponed, Mr. Dowson replies to those who have advocated the raising of the requisite money by public loan. He points out that during the past half century Egypt's indebtedness has been a serious obstacle in the path of her national welfare and progress, and he considers that it would be imprudent to pledge any further the future revenues of a country whose national wealth depends upon a single staple commodity.

Incidentally, Mr. Dowson very rightly deprecates the continuance of the policy of State interference in the field of commerce and economics, the time for which has now passed. In this respect one cordially agrees with him, as also in his remark that whatever lessons research may give only the nation as a whole can apply the knowledge thus gained in the detailed manner and on the wholesale scale necessary for success.

He points out that while the large excess of imports which has resulted from the fall in cotton prices has, together with other factors, made considerable inroads on the net accumulated resources of the country acquired during and since the war, these have only been reduced by a third, and they are still estimated at upwards of £E100,000,000. One-third is represented by notes in the hands of the people, more than one-third is deposited in the banks, while the balance is represented by direct investments not only in foreign but largely in Egyptian securities purchased abroad. During the last year large blocks of Government and other Egyptian securities have, in fact, been transferred to Egyptian account, and at least one-third of the Public Debt is held in or by Egypt.

As he says, a country which has not increased its debt during the war, but has, on the contrary, repaid a considerable portion of it, and built a credit balance on the other side, is in a position to withstand even such a severe shock as the present. He adds that the country must be prepared for a period of depression which may prove a very severe one, as her national income has been reduced almost to pre-war level, while the prices of her purchases from abroad have not fallen in the same proportion. This situation will involve drastic retrenchment in expenditure, and even distress and loss in individual cases; but one must agree with him that the financial position of the country is fundamentally healthy, and that there are just grounds for expectation that, so long as its vital resources remain unimpaired, it will surmount its immediate difficulties and continue to enjoy prosperity, though possibly on a more modest scale than during the recent period of unexampled inflation.

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THE COTTON CRISIS.

I.—THE AMERICAN CROP POSITION.

By E. C. de Segundo, A.M.I.C.E.

The world cotton position—and pre-eminently the cotton position in Great Britain—is largely, if not entirely, dominated by the character of the American cotton crop, because just that type of cotton which constitutes from 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. of the requirements of our Lancashire spinning mills is at present almost exclusively grown in the United States, although there are large areas throughout the British Empire where climate and soil are suitable for the cultivation of this variety of cotton, and the untiring efforts of the British Cotton Growing Association, extending over a number of years, have shown beyond doubt that the British Empire could easily produce all the cotton of the various grades needed for the maintenance and development of our spinning industry. With characteristic indolence we have allowed matters to drift, and have taken for granted that we should always be able to draw supplies of suitable grades at suitable prices from the United States. This sense of false security has, no doubt, been fostered by the well-intentioned efforts of American cotton growers, notably at the Cotton Conference held in 1907 at Atlanta (Georgia), at which both American and European cotton manufacturers were assured that they could rely with confidence upon the American cotton belt producing all the cotton required by the world's ever-increasing demands, and that the opening up of other cotton fields was unnecessary. At the same time, however, American manufacturers made it clear that their intention was greatly to develop the cotton spinning industry in their own country, the Director of the United States Bureau of Agriculture stating that he looked forward to the time when the greater part of the American cotton crop would be worked up in American spinning mills, so that the United States should retain the large profits accruing from the further manipulation of the raw cotton at present exported by the United States. This forecast has been in a great measure realised, the proportion of the American crop spun in American mills, which in 1907 was about 38 per cent., having reached nearly 60 per cent. in 1917-18, although it is now a little lower. But the American cotton crop has not, on the whole, increased since 1907, when it was 13,500,000 bales. Including the bumper crop of 16,000,000 bales in 1912, the average crop since 1907 has not been much over 13,000,000 bales.

Now, these statistics do not, of course, tell us the whole story. The quantity of cotton available for export depends not only upon the proportion retained in America for spinning purposes, but upon the actual size of the cotton crop. It is conceivable that if the American crop be largely reduced for one reason or the other, the quantity available for export might—other things remaining the same—approach zero. One of the unfortunate effects of the world-war has been radically to alter the economic relations upon which prices and values were established before the war. Most of us, and in particular manufacturers, formed the idea that owing to the decreased production of commodities during the war there would of necessity be an unprecedented demand for all manufactured products on the conclusion of hostilities. Few seemed to bear in mind the axiom that for every seller there must be a buyer, and few realised that the world would be left immeasurably poorer after the war than before. It is certainly the fact that in the spring of 1920 there was every appearance of a boom in trade and industry in this country, and manufacturers redoubled their efforts to produce goods in anticipation of the expected post-war demand. The promise of the spring of the year 1920 was short-lived, and while it is as yet early days to form a reasoned judgment, there seems little doubt that the increase of the Bank rate to 7 per cent. in April, 1920, and the increase by 50 per cent. of the excess profits duty, in direct contravention of what the business community had been led to expect, severely checked all enterprise and activity in trade. The position to-day is that manufacturers are overstocked with goods produced at high prices, which can only be slowly absorbed because the purchasing power of the world, as a whole, has been very considerably reduced. Clearly production has had to be severely curtailed, with the natural result that the demand for raw materials has diminished and prices have fallen away.

Perhaps the most sensational fluctuation in prices has taken place in the case of cotton, which at one time during the war reached a price in this country comparable only with that during the American Civil War. Since July, 1920, the price of cotton in the United States has declined from 43 cents to 12 cents per lb., and the American cotton industry is to-day in a very parlous state. In spite of recent reductions in the cost of labour, the average cost of growing cotton in the United States is stated to be about 25 cents per pound this season. It does not call for the wisdom of a Solomon to forecast the inevitable effect of

this upon the forthcoming American cotton crop. You cannot expect any sane person deliberately to grow cotton at 25 cents a pound with the prospect of selling it at 12 cents, and, even should a few enthusiastic speculators be optimistic enough to think that "somehow or other" the price of cotton must rise greatly during the next few months, it is not probable that the banks and other financial interests in the United States will be over anxious to finance the planter in the circumstances as we know them to-day. That the forthcoming American cotton crop will be considerably reduced is inevitable, but it is not so easy to say to what extent. The most optimistic estimates point to a reduction of 30 per cent., the least optimistic to a reduction of 50 per cent., as compared with the last crop.

Opinions upon the immediate effect of a short cotton crop in America on the British industry are sharply divided. The carry-over of cotton last year is stated to have been the largest on record, and it is estimated by some authorities to be as high as 15 million bales.

It is all very well for optimists to say that the world is screaming for commodities of all kinds, and to argue that in increased production lies the way to economic salvation. These good people again forget that it is of little avail to produce commodities at a price the buyer one wishes to attract cannot afford to pay. After all, money is only a sign, as Montesquieu has told us, and, in ultimate analysis, the world's trade is based upon the principle of barter. It is manifestly a condition *sine qua non* of the rehabilitation of our export trade in cotton goods that our spinners be placed in a position to obtain their raw material, and the necessary labour and power, on terms and conditions that will enable them to put their manufactured products upon the market at prices within the reach of buyers. The British cotton spinning industry is one of the largest and most important of our staple industries. The value of cotton goods exported (before the war) was about £114,000,000, or about one-quarter of the value of our whole export trade. Our very existence as a first-class Power depends upon the rehabilitation and maintenance of our export trade, for only by this means can we continue to pay for the enormous quantity of foodstuffs we have to import annually. The deplorable conflicts in the coal industry have already deprived the country of a considerable portion of her revenue, and the vital necessity of maintaining our exports of cotton goods has become doubly acute. There should no longer be the slightest doubt in the minds of anyone having this country's interests at heart of the absolutely vital necessity of producing, within the Empire, the supplies of cotton required for our spinning industry. But no one, within the British Empire or without, will grow cotton unless it pays in competition with other crops. Hence, any means by which the revenue derived from the cultivation of the cotton plant can be increased will naturally operate as an inducement to the planter to grow cotton. Many ways have been pointed out whereby efficiency in the growing of cotton can be promoted, but most, if not all, of these methods involve organisation and time for development. It is, therefore, interesting to note that in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST attention was drawn to one way that lies close to our hand, namely, by turning to adequate account the hitherto neglected residual fibres retained by the majority of varieties of cottonseed after ginning. I propose to deal with this subject in a future article.

Applications from intending exhibitors at the Prague Industrial Fair, which is to be held in the autumn, have been so numerous that the committee have been obliged to reject several hundred applicants, and also to restrict the space previously reserved. About 200 French firms, as well as large numbers from Belgium, the United States, and Japan, will be represented.

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ENGINEERING TOPICS.

By our Engineering Representative.

The New Bridge.

The rebuilding work in connection with Southwark Bridge was commenced about ten years ago, but, like several other pieces of engineering work not of immediate importance, it was suspended on the outbreak of war. At the earliest opportunity after the armistice work was recommenced, and the new bridge was crossed by a carriage for the first time a few days ago when the King, who was accompanied by the Queen, drove to Southwark after performing the opening ceremony.

The new bridge, whilst making no pretence towards originality from an engineering point of view, either as regards design or methods and material used in construction, is nevertheless a very fine piece of work, and one of which all concerned may well be proud. In its way it is as fine an achievement as the widening of Blackfriars Bridge, a task which was beset with many difficulties unknown to and not realised by the general public.

most conspicuous mark of that process of evolution which has changed the complete self-contained city of the past into what it is to-day. . . .

The point in H. M.'s reply lies in the regarding of the river as the chief highway of the City. Our forefathers were wise in so doing. As time was not of chief consideration they gained immensely by the use of the water for light passenger and cargo-carrying craft. They did their business largely by skiff and wherry when the opposite side of the river had to be visited, and the unspoken thought at the back of H. M.'s mind may have been a query as to why it is not possible to-day to make greater use of the magnificent waterway as a means of communication. Granted that time was of little value in the old days compared with its worth to-day, are we not driven to the admission that, just as the value of time has increased so has the efficiency of our engineering devices. In that case it would seem to be that our neglect of our river arises either from lack of apprecia-



THE NEW SOUTHWARK BRIDGE.

(Photograph taken by kind permission from Messrs. J. Spicer's wharf.)

[Near East Special.]

The chief difference between the old and the new bridge is that, whilst originally three cast-iron arches carried the whole of the traffic, in the new design the load is taken up by five steel arches built of steel specially selected, after exhaustive tests for the purpose. The new bridge will be able to carry considerably more traffic, both foot and vehicular, than the old, as will be realised when it is pointed out that the width of the roadway has been increased from 29 to 35 feet, and the footpaths on either side are 10 feet in width instead of just over 6 ft., as in the case of the older structure.

It was not, however, by reason of its inadequacy to carry the traffic that the old bridge was superseded. The design of the approaches was faulty in the extreme, the gradients leading to the bridge on either side, and the curvature of the structure itself being such that it was a matter of difficulty to get heavy horse-drawn loads up the slopes. The arrangement of the arches, too, was such as to interfere unduly with river traffic, and in both these respects considerable improvements have been made. The new arches, although more in number, offer less obstruction, and the gradients have been reduced by no less than 7 feet, the bridge being now quite as easy for traffic as either Blackfriars or Waterloo.

Engineers will find a certain amount of food for thought in the reply of the King to the address handed him by the Lord Mayor. He said: "Nowhere in the world is there a traffic problem equal in importance and difficulty to that which is presented by the site and construction of the City of London. Every day more than a million people have to be brought into this famous square mile and taken out again, and provision must be made for an immense circulation of goods between warehouses, factories, and railway stations. One of the chief difficulties in the smooth working of this huge traffic is the division of London into two parts by the river. . . . For many centuries our ancestors could rest content with one bridge, because they regarded the river not as a barrier, but as the main highway of the City. The gradual increase in the number of Thames bridges is the

tion of the facilities it affords or from a lack of knowledge as to how to make use of them.

The Motor Show.

The proposal, or, rather, the intention of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders is to hold the forthcoming Automobile Show in two sections, as last year, one being housed at Olympia and the other at the White City.

So far as my information goes, there is considerable dissatisfaction amongst those exhibitors who were allotted space at Shepherd's Bush last November, and something approaching the nature of a revolt is threatened. Candidly, I do not wonder at it. Readers of THE NEAR EAST will remember my criticisms of last year's arrangements, which were faulty in the extreme. The White City side of the Show was singularly neglected by the public, and not even the attraction of being hustled into queues, marshalled about by youths in authority, and driven like trippers through West London in charabancs between Olympia and Shepherd's Bush seemed to appeal to them. True, some of the more adventurous, perhaps feeling something of the enthusiasm and the daredevil spirit of those who go slumming, essayed the journey, but I think they were comparatively few in number. Evidently the English love of wild adventure is dying out.

The White City section of the exhibitors have already held a meeting to consider their position, and I understand that they are sending a deputation to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders in order to make a dignified but at the same time vigorous protest. Their view, which is undoubtedly correct, is that the White City Show is looked upon by the public as being of a secondary character, and that in consequence it does not attract either the class or number of visitors that go to Olympia. As a result, they have no chance against their older-established rivals, who are able to exhibit their products at the more popular section.

It is not that the White City had any reason to complain as to the quality of the exhibits; the whole point is not that the choice was poor or unfair, or that exhibitors there were shut out of the fold, as it were. The point simply is that, as I said at the time, Olympia would certainly be visited first, and after that very few members of the public would trouble to go down to Wood Lane. It is admitted by all in the trade that what may be termed the old brigade of motoring firms—the Rolls-Royce, Napier, Wolseley, Lanchester, Vauxhall, Daimler, Darracq, Renault, and others who have been pioneers of a great industry, and who have made painstaking and untiring efforts to build up the trade—should have pride of place; but in saying that one gives away the whole position. By admitting that Olympia is undoubtedly the best venue one tacitly admits the White City's inferiority, and it is at that point on which emphasis is being laid by the more discontented. At the White City there were such well-known firms as Hispano-Suiza, Packard, Spyker, Farman, Vandys, Argyll, Jarrott, Chenard-Walcker, Metallurgique, and a host of others whose exhibits were not seen by the public to the anticipated extent. The entire light car section of the industry suffered by the aloofness of the visiting public, and it must be admitted that it is not in the interests of the British motor trade that so important a branch should be side-tracked, so to speak.

The alternatives are the holding of the show at a more suitable locality, where every car can be displayed to advantage, and where ample ground is available for demonstration purposes; where unlimited visitors can be accommodated, and where the immense growth and development of the motor business can be appreciated, or by the holding of the show in two sections at two distinct dates. The ideal place for the exhibition is not far away, and, as I said to the S.M.M.T. last year, "Get back to the Crystal Palace." There is no building in Europe more suitable in every way. No matter what arrangements have to be cancelled, or contracts broken, or penalties paid, the Crystal Palace is the place for the 1921 Show, and the sooner the S.M.M.T. recognise the fact and commence their preparations the better.

Oil or Coal.

It is interesting to note that the coal strike has had the result of inducing a large number of firms to substitute oil fuel for coal. Not only has this course been adopted by the majority of the largest power-producing concerns, but throughout the north of England, particularly in Sheffield and district, it is being used with marked success for heating steel, small forgings, raising steam and, in at least one instance, as the fuel for steel melting furnaces.

I hear that a Sheffield firm, the Lawton Machine Tool Company, are specialising in a new oil burner that can be adapted immediately. It is simple in design and construction, is so reasonable in cost, and so quickly and cheaply installed, that there appears no reason whatever why every works that has a Lancashire, Cornish, marine, or other type boiler should not immediately fit one of these burners to each furnace. I gather that the only part that fits in the furnace is a half-inch tube, which goes through a hole in front of the furnace just above the doors; and a small tank, rectangular, circular, or any shape that will contain from 30 to 500 gallons, can be rested on the top of the boiler, so that the oil can be fed by gravity to the burners.

A fitter who has a small tank and a length or so of half-inch piping can equip a boiler furnace within the space of one or two hours; and the apparatus, when not in use, does not interfere with the original methods of stoking with coal fuel. Thus the oil service may either be used for emergency only or for constant purposes. The cost of oil is possibly slightly higher, power for power, than that of coal, but there is no trouble in stoking and no waste in ashes or cost of removing clinker. I hear that several Sheffield firms have already had their boilers fitted with the Lawton burner, and express complete satisfaction at the results obtained.

A Rolls-Royce Note.

Lord Reading, the recently appointed Viceroy of India, is a keen motorist and a discriminating "judge" of good cars. Before sailing to take up his viceregal duties his lordship purchased one of the latest Rolls-Royce cars, with limousine body, which presents a remarkably handsome appearance, and has peculiarly graceful lines. In Lord Reading's progress from city to city the Rolls-Royce will be a fitting equipage to carry the man who represents the King Emperor of India, and will assuredly impress the Indian population.

The T.T. Races.

I hear that in connection with the daily service of steamers to the Isle of Man between Liverpool and Douglas which is being run during the week the Automobile Association has arranged for A.A. patrols to assist motor cyclists embarking at Liverpool.

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING.

GRANT OF £1,000,000.

Mr. Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for the Colonies, made a notable speech on the occasion of the dinner of the British Cotton-Growing Association at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, on June 7, at which Lord Derby presided.

Reviewing the progress that had been made by the British Cotton-Growing Association, he said that small beginnings had developed into a considerable enterprise. Jungles which bloomed in their pristine exuberance had now turned into cotton plantations which were sending every year substantial cargoes of useful and even of superior cotton to the Lancashire mills. The Northern Nigerian Railway, which they planned together—even in that very hotel—which Lord Derby, the father of the chairman that night, pressed upon the Government of the day—was now prosperous and carrying a heavy traffic. A railway in East Africa which he applied for in vain in 1906 was now at work, and a whole new cotton-growing province had sprung into being. That province, which did not exist a few years ago as an economic entity, exported to Lancashire last year more than twelve times the total Imperial production of cotton when he was last at the Colonial Office.

Those achievements were gratifying and encouraging, and in the main they vindicated the work of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Lord Rosebery, and others to whom was owed the acquisition of those fertile African possessions. But although the progress had been constant, it had been on a comparatively small scale. The cotton produced within the British Empire was only one-fortieth of what was needed to keep the mills of Lancashire in full activity. Nearly three-quarters of their whole supply still came from the United States. On that they must for years and generations count. But he wished to draw attention to two adverse and even menacing tendencies. First of all, they owed a great debt to the United States. It prejudiced their exchange and made buying from without less profitable than purchasing within their own bounds. In the second place, the United States itself was consuming a very high proportion of its own cotton crops, and, one must feel, would go on increasingly to do so. Even though the American cotton supply was continually extended, the surplus available for foreign export, upon which the life of Lancashire depended, would only be obtained in competition with ever-increasing domestic demand in the United States. That was a formidable fact, and a realisation of its existence had led to the formation of that association.

Cheapness of production was essential to the continued industrial power and survival of Great Britain, and particularly to the Lancashire cotton industry. The great Eastern markets which Lancashire served to such a great extent contracted almost instantaneously when prices were unduly raised to the native consumer. The native consumer quite easily did without the product. They were not in the position of compelling him to take the product. Cheapness required a steady and abundant supply of raw material. They could not obtain a steady and abundant supply of raw material without numerous and various sources of origin, so that the climatic conditions in one part of the world should be averaged out against the climatic conditions of another. In no other way could they insure against exceptional variations of nature or against the manoeuvres of speculation. Much had already been done, but it was little compared with what might have been done or with what yet remained to be done.

The neglect to develop the tropical possessions of the Crown was one of the most extraordinary features, to his mind, in the history of the last twenty years. Let them give those great, fertile, teeming, virgin countries the scientific, modern, technical apparatus and the transport facilities they required, and they would return a plentiful reward for every pound invested in them. Every pound would go out to those countries, and could only go out, in the shape of the products of British labour, and for every pound would come back raw materials such as cotton, rubber, fibre, and half a dozen other things, by which the industries of Great Britain would be nourished and revived and strengthened for the future that lay before them. It was a process that benefited everybody, and he would like to testify to the fine attitude of the British Cotton-Growing Association in keeping their word so strictly to the natives of West Africa in regard to the purchases of cotton which had been undertaken, without any doubt or question, although at a very great sacrifice.

He applied this principle of inter-Empire trade to the whole scope of the British Empire. Within the circle of the British Empire they found almost everything that they required for their great central world-wide industry here. Let them develop it. Let them establish ties and connections here and there across the world with those who were united to them by political association within the circle of the Empire. That was not to say that they should exclude all those great and varied branches of commerce into which British enterprise and Lancashire enterprise had penetrated, and without which they could not maintain themselves at their present altitude. But he did say they ought actively to push and develop and foster the growth of inter-Imperial trade, whether in their tropical Crown dependencies or their great self-governing dominions.

They had lately become responsible for two other countries, Palestine and Mesopotamia, and they would do their duty by them. But he did not hesitate to say, speaking as the Colonial Secretary, that he grudged the enormous military expenditure which these new acquisitions had demanded of them. He wished they could reduce that expenditure. He would do his very best

to cut it down, and he hoped to show them by deeds, by actions which spoke louder than words, that before a year was out it would be a substantial cut. But in Africa the population was docile and the country fertile; in the Middle East the country was arid and the population ferocious. A little money went a long way in Africa, and a lot of money went a very long way in Arabia. His efforts would be directed in the sense which these cryptic observations indicated.

The second source of cotton supply was Egypt and the Sudan. All their affairs there were hampered by the political instability and uncertainty which prevailed, and which ought to be terminated, and would be terminated, he hoped, before very long. Their relations with Egypt must undergo a change in character. They must do all in their power to secure an honourable status for the Egyptian people, and one which would render their co-operation with the British Empire easy and simple to them. These were matters of great consequence to Lancashire. Egyptian cotton was second only in quantity to that of the United States, and superior in quality. He was bound to say that he did not regard their great work in Egypt as finished. He did not think the time had yet come when the British armies should withdraw and be relegated to living upon condensed water on the banks of the Suez Canal while the mobs of Cairo and Alexandria made short work of the European and foreign populations, and of the great constructive toil and achievement which forty years of British administration had secured.

The funds of the British Cotton-Growing Association had been placed on a much more durable foundation by decisions which they had taken and carried out. The levy of sixpence a bale on the cotton imported into the country for the purpose of developing cotton-growing within the British Empire had now acquired the assent of 90 per cent. of the spindles of Lancashire. The Government had promised £50,000 a year, conditional upon this contribution, this act of self-determination on their part, and this year in the estimates of the Board of Trade £50,000 was taken as the first of five yearly instalments. But it happened that during the war they became co-operators with the Egyptian Government in the transportation and marketing of their cotton, in order to secure the sale of the cotton, which otherwise would have been interrupted by the dangers of the sea and the savage submarine warfare. Out of this joint operation between Britain and Egypt £4,000,000 of profits were made, and it was agreed that this should be divided between the two countries. On consideration, however, the Government had decided to devote £1,000,000 of its £2,000,000 to the care of those who had been injured or had suffered from the conditions of forced labour which were imposed during the war upon large classes of the Egyptian population. It had been decided to devote the other £1,000,000 to the fostering of cotton-growing within the British Empire.

Sir Montagu Webb has been elected chairman of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce.

A catalogue and reading-room has been opened by the Government in Palestine for the benefit of the general public, and catalogues are requested from business firms in Great Britain. Catalogues may be printed in English, Arabic, Hebrew, or French, and should quote prices.

There were exhibits from 100 firms at the 13th International Automobile Exhibition at Prague, which closed on June 5, seven nations being represented. Ten firms exhibited motor-cycles, while accessories were shown by 33 firms, mostly from foreign countries.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmas to £	25'22½	60'50-61'50
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25'22½	125-130
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee ..	24d.	1'3½-1'3½
Bucharest	Lei to £	25'22½	248-255
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee ..	24d.	1'3½-1'3½
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	514-534
New York	Dollars to £	4'86½	3'72-3'74½
Paris	Francs to £	25'22½	47'20-47'45
Prague	Kronen to £	24'02	265-275
Rome	Lire to £	25'22½	73-76
Sofia	Levas to £	25'22½	324
Teheran	Krans to £	50	50½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24'02	1,650-1,775
Warsaw	Marks to £	20'43	4,300-4,700

In some cases quotations are nominal.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—Business has been rather better than in the previous week. Currants have been in fair request. The supply of sultanias is very inadequate, and rates are again higher. The demand for Persian dates continues. Figs are going into consumption rapidly, and stocks are being depleted.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in fair request at the official rates. West Indian crystallised is down 5s. at 48s. to 54s., and American granulated at 50s. 9d. is 1s. 3d. lower. Czecho-Slovakian has shed 6d. at 31s. 6d.; while white Java at 22s. has dropped 1s. Quotations are:—June-July, 19s.; August, 18s.; September, 18s.; October, 15s.; November, 14s. 6d.; October-December, 15s.; and December, 14s. 6d.

Coffee.—Futures market has remained steady. Quotations are:—July, 42s.; September, 43s. 3d.; December, 44s. 3d.; and March, 44s. 9d.

Oilseeds.—A firm tone has prevailed during the week. Indian linseed has gained 1s. 3d. at 20s. and La Plata 2s. at 19s. Rapeseed is lower, with Toria at 20s., and bold Ferozepore at 19s. 6d. down in both cases, while brown Cawnpore at 18s. 6d. is unchanged. Cottonseed is higher, with Egyptian black 1s. up at 11s. 3d.

Oils.—There has been very little change in prices. Linseed oil is 2s. 3d. up at 34s. 6d. Rape oil is unaltered, with crude at 54s. and refined at 62s. Refined cotton oil at 42s. and deodorised at 48s. are the same, but Egyptian crude has gained 6d. at 35s. 6d. Turpentine during the week has shed 11s. to 74s.

VINES DAMAGED BY RAIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, May 29.

According to a telegram received from Smyrna by the Ministry of Agriculture, the heavy rains which fell recently in that region caused a damage of about 15 per cent. to the vines in the districts of Magnesia and Kasamba. On the other hand, the rains in the Oushak region will prove very beneficial to the production of cereals.

ROUMANIAN AGRICULTURISTS' DEMAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 25.

In view of the large crops of wheat, barley, oats, beans, etc., that are expected, the big landowners and agriculturists intend to ask the Government to allow the export of the new crop to be entirely free, as in pre-war times. This would bring about a rapid and considerable improvement of the exchange.

According to official data the aggregate area put under cultivation in the month of April alone amounts to 1,143,025 hectares.

THE CYPRUS HARVEST.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NICOSIA, May 27.

The barley harvest has been completed in the plains, and the wheat is being reaped. It is still too early to speak of the carob crop and the vines, but the outlook is so far favourable.

The s.s. Aquitania, which burnt oil as fuel, has beaten the s.s. Mauretania, which was burning coal, in a race across the Atlantic by the big margin of 29 hours.

A Yugoslav industrialist is negotiating on behalf of a syndicate with Czechoslovak manufacturers to form a limited company for the purpose of establishing a textile industry in Yugoslavia.

The annual meeting of the British-Armenian Chamber of Commerce will be held at the London Chamber of Commerce on June 29 at 3 p.m. Prior to the meeting a luncheon will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel.

H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier states that, according to accounts in the local press, it was announced at the meeting of the Mazagan Chamber of Commerce, held on May 13, that the egg Consortium would be abolished as from May 15, after which date there would be no restriction in the price of eggs.

Profits in Foreign Exchange Dealings.

An expert writer has compiled for us a series of Articles explaining Foreign Exchange transactions from the English Investors' point of view. The writer explains the Exchange value of the English £, shows an actual transaction resulting in 60 per cent profit, explains the profit possibilities of the French franc, the German mark, the Italian lire, &c. This Article will be sent free of charge by

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THE WINE INDUSTRY OF CYPRUS.

Association of Manufacturers.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A movement which has been in progress for some time has now taken definite shape, in the formation of an Association of Wine Manufacturers in the Limassol district—the chief producing area. In order to place Cyprus wines on a higher footing, an entire rebuilding of the whole industry would be necessary. Many years ago a French expert was invited to report on the vines, with a view to the adoption of better methods of cultivation. And again, some ten years ago, a Commission was appointed by the High Commissioner, Sir Charles King-Harman, to report on the industry. But the results have been in each case disappointing, as very little practical effort has been made to give effect to the conclusions arrived at. The present co-operative movement has been brought about among the people themselves, and is a welcome and interesting sign of progress. It does great credit to the promoters, and ought, if well directed, to lead to decidedly good results for a large class of agriculturists now suffering from a fall of prices and general depression.

Whether, in the present state of the world wine trade, Cyprus produce could be so improved as to find new and better markets outside the island is very doubtful; but that there is need for very great improvement in connection with the qualities supplied to existing markets, and everything connected with a strangely neglected business, there can be no question. The object of the Association is to protect the village producers from unfair profiteering on the part of the merchants, to free the wines and spirits from adulteration, which now seriously affects the trade, to teach better methods of vine cultivation, to improve the general system of manufacture, and to facilitate the transport and disposal of wines. The capital of the company, which will probably be soon increased, is fixed at £10,000. The headquarters will be at Limassol, with agencies at Alexandria, Cairo, and Port Said. About 2,500 manufacturers, representing sixteen villages, recently met at Omodhos, one of the largest villages, and approved the draft articles of association. The number of wine villages joining (there are over sixty in the district) is rapidly increasing. The Government warmly supports the movement, and the Agricultural Department has taken an active part in promoting it. The board of directors is to consist of twelve members, to be replaced annually, one of whom will be a Moslem, as many of the Turkish villagers have joined the Association.

With regard to the merchants, who are generally also moneylenders, no doubt the complaints of the villagers as to unfair dealing are largely justified. There are hard and unscrupulous dealers in all branches of trade, here as elsewhere. On the other hand, there are those who deal fairly, and some of the merchants have done a great deal for the improvement of wines and spirits, and the state of the trade, backward as it is, is very different from what it was some years ago, especially as regards red wines and spirits. Progress, however, has been very partial and uneven, and it is time that energetic steps should be taken, having regard to the bad reputation which Cyprus wines in general have acquired in late years, owing not only to careless manufacture, but also to the increase of adulteration in many forms. The strongest complaints have been received from Egypt and elsewhere that quantities ordered have been quite different in quality from the samples submitted. A fair start has now been made, and it is hoped that the movement will continue to be well directed and will be successful.

BRITISH INTERESTS IN EGYPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I understand neither politics nor diplomacy. But those at home who do, and who perchance have business interests in Egypt as well, will be well advised to lift the veil and try and foresee approaching events.

Because, should the British troops leave Egypt and the public security be left to the care of Egyptian Police, supported by the Egyptian Army, then such a panic in prices will ensue as will reduce the commercial status of Alexandria to that of Brindisi, and that of Egypt generally to that of Tunis, within an incredibly short period.—I am, etc.,

C. L. B.

EXPORT to ROUMANIA

Agent with first-class references wishes to act as agent for British firms. English correspondence.

WRITE TO

S. N. JANCOVICI, Bucharest, str. Academiei. 6.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 130s. 6d. cwt.; butter, 171s. cwt.; cheese, 132s. cwt.; chillies, 120s. cwt.; eggs, 18s. 6d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 79s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 118s. cwt.; coffee (East Indian, bold), 113s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Mocha, longberry), 93s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos, superior), 55s. cwt.; coffee (Nairobi), 97s. 6d. cwt.; lard, 68s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 124s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochin), 37s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 10½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 8½d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 105s. cwt.; raisins (sultana, Smyrna), 140s. cwt.; currants, 80s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 61s. 7½d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 63s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 57s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (West Indian crystallised), 52s. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 25s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 16s. 3d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon, No. 2), 16s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), £6 2s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 6½d. lb.; tea (Ceylon, common to good common), 6½d. lb.; tea (Java, common to good common), 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 82s. 6d. qr.; wheat (English white), 94s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 84s. 6d. qr.; barley (malting), 67s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 44s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata), 30s. 9d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 51s. 6d. qr.; flour, 68s. 6d. sack.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 10½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 6d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 8½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £17 5s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £45 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £19 ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 139s. cwt. Potassium: Bichromate, 9½d. lb.; chlorate, 5½d. lb.; caustic, £45 10s. ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 9d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £21 ton. Sodium: Crystals, 145s. ton; bicarbonate, £10 5s. ton; bichromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 15s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 10s. ton; prussiate, 7½d. lb.; nitrate, £18 11s. 3d. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial), 1260 per cent.), £155 ton; sulphate of copper, £32 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 2d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 7½d. oz.; red lead, £39 ton; white dry lead, £42 15s. ton; white ground lead, £51 15s. ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulus), £39 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £16 16s. 3d. ton; copper (electro), £76 10s. ton; gold bars, 105s. 11½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 130s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 160s. ton; galvanised sheets (24 G), £22 ton; lead (soft foreign), £22 7s. 6d. ton; manganese Pot., 1s. 3½d. unit; molybdenite, 48s. 9d. unit; nickel, £185 ton; platinum, 365s. oz.; plumbago, £25 ton; quicksilver, £11 2s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 34d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 1s. 4d. ton; tin (standard), £172 5s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 25s. 3d. box; wolfram, 12s. 7½d. unit; zinc sheets, £36 10s. ton.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90lb. and up, 8½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 8d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 8½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 7½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 6½d. lb.; (second) 90 lb. and up, 7d. lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 6½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 4½d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lb. and up, 7d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 7½d. lb.; (second) 60 lb. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 4½d. lb.; Bulls (first), 4d. lb.; (second) 3½d. lb.; Kips (first), 6d. lb.; (second) 5d. lb.; (third) 3½d. lb.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 8.25d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian), £12 ton; linseed (La Plata), £17 2s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £20 ton; soya beans, £12 10s. ton; palm kernels, £19 15s. ton. Oils: Linseed, £32 5s. ton; soya, £34 ton; cotton (crude), £34 5s. ton; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton; ground nut, £40 15s. ton; palm, £34 ton; rape (crude), £54 10s. ton; coconut (Ceylon), £47 5s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 2d. gallon; turpentine (American), 83s. 9d. cwt. Shellac (TN, second orange), 397s. cwt.; shellac (AC, garnet), 310s. cwt.; rosin (American), 21s. cwt.; copra (Ceylon), £30 15s. ton; copra (Straits F.M.S.), £29 7s. 6d. ton; tallow (Australian mutton), 33s. 6d. cwt.; tallow (Australian beef), 35s. cwt. Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 7½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 10½d. lb.

ALEXANDRIA WATER.

The revenue of Alexandria Water Company for year ended March 31, 1921, was £202,841, against £190,781 previous year. The revenue from Port supply increased by £1,903. The contract for purchase of liquid fuel into which company entered in 1920, and which in the long run has been beneficial, is still in force, and has prevented company from obtaining any material benefit from the recent general fall in price of fuels. £14,505 has been written off as depreciation of machinery and other wasting assets, but it has not been thought necessary to provide for new machinery paid for during year but not yet put into service. The board have deducted £4,000 to meet part of the depreciation in securities, which they have placed to provision for depreciation of securities account. £4,400 has been provided for corporation profits tax and £3,000 for compensation claims, leaving, after deducting interim dividend of 4 per cent. paid, £42,000, from which should be deducted 6 per cent. on capital of £600,000, £36,000, leaving £6,000, of which one-half is due to municipality, £3,000, and other half to shareholders, which represents 6d. per share, making a total dividend of 10s. 6d. per share.

COTTON AND COTTON GOODS.

RESTRICTION OF EGYPTIAN AREA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, June 5.

The Council of Ministers has this week decided to extend for a further two years the restriction imposed on the cotton area in regard to this year's crop. This measure will thus prohibit the general mass of cultivators from putting more than one-third of their land annually under cotton during the period 1921-1923. The extension of the restriction for a further two years will afford the land a much needed rest, for there is no doubt that many estates have during the past few years been overcropped with cotton, and it is a well-known fact that while the ideal is once every third year, the planting of cotton on the same land more than once every two years means deterioration for the land as well as the crop.

GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR COTTON GROWING.

Mr. Churchill's speech at the dinner of the British Cotton Growing Association, in the course of which he announced the decision of the Government to make a grant of £1,000,000 for the fostering of cotton growing within the Empire to replace an annual subvention, will be found on page 728.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

Events in the market during the past week have been overshadowed by the continuance of the coal strike, and also the strike in the cotton industry. It is impossible for any development to take place until the industrial situation is much brighter. At the moment of writing roughly half a million cotton operatives are locked out as a result of declining to accept a reduction on present-day wages of 5s. 1d. in the £. Although the dispute has been in progress for a week, the general opinion is that an amicable settlement will be arrived at some time this week. In the meantime business drags itself wearily along. In the cloth section a fair inquiry has been met with for India, but the bids generally have been impracticable. Evidently the dealers out there think they can go on purchasing goods at low prices for ever and anon. Only a miscellaneous trade has been done for the remaining outlets of the Near East. Egyptian yarns have been well held in price, but the off-take has been patchy. Cloth inquiry for India has been about, but actual transactions of any weight have been few and far between. Nevertheless, here and there fair sales have occurred for Bombay and Madras. The position with regard to China appears to be improving, and recent reports from that outlet show that it will not be long before a revival of buying takes place. South America still lags behind. American counts have not met with an extensive demand, but prices have ruled steady. In export numbers bundles of moderate weight have again gone through for India.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended June 9:—

It is difficult to write on this subject. There is no change in the situation to report since last week, except, perhaps, that affairs have drifted from bad to worse. A small—very small—enquiry persists for the hand-to-mouth requirements of the few mills which are still running, but business is on such a small scale that it is almost impossible to gauge the true value of cotton on the spot. Until the industrial clouds which overhang the country are cleared away, it is useless to expect anything else. As we write, the outcome appears hopeful in all directions, but negotiations are very protracted, and it is impossible to forecast the date of settlement. On the whole, the market here rules very steady, and Manchester reports show no signs of panic, but rather indicate a spirit of quiet and expectant optimism. C.i.f. business is entirely neglected. To-day, for the first time for many years, "No business reported" was the official pronouncement on the Egyptian spot. Total sales for the week 250 bales, which includes 30 bales Sudan. Quotations are unchanged. Fully good fair Sakellaris 16.00d.

It is reported that the production of attar of roses in Bulgaria during 1920 amounted to 1,000 kilograms.

A number of Italian banks are beginning operations in Yugoslavia, and among these the Banca Commerciale Italiana is opening branches at Belgrade and Agram.

BRITISH COTTON-GROWING ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the British Cotton-Growing Association was held on June 7 at the offices in the Manchester Royal Exchange, the Earl of Derby, President of the Association, being in the chair.

Lord Derby, in moving the adoption of the report and the statement of accounts, said that he thought that from a financial point of view the accounts might be taken as eminently satisfactory. After making an allowance for income-tax they carried forward a balance of £67,738 which, after making good their previous deficit, left a credit balance of £9,811. Dealing with the various spheres of activity, he said that in Mesopotamia, the Association had erected a ginners near Baghdad. A fair amount of cotton was being grown by the Government, and also by several independent cultivators. There was no doubt that that country offered great possibilities, not only for cotton, but also for other products. Before any big results could be achieved, however, some money would have to be spent on irrigation and transport. It was gratifying to note that during the whole of the troubles of the past two years the Association's staff had been plodding along, and had not suffered any accident. When people talked glibly of evacuating Mesopotamia, they should bear in mind that it was a possible vast field for cotton growing, and at the cheap rate so valuable for this district. In India the lease of 7,500 acres of land on the Khanewal Canal in the Punjab district had been completed, and part of the land was now under cultivation with winter crops. It was hoped to commence direct operations within a year, and if results were satisfactory it should go far to stimulate the production of long-stapled cotton in this neighbourhood.

The total amount of cotton produced in new fields in the British Empire during 1920 was 105,800 bales, of an estimated value of £3,617,300, as compared with the previous record in 1914 of 82,350 bales of a value of £1,044,750. As to the future, there was no doubt that in Nigeria, and also in many other places, they had got to the point where no very large increase could be looked for without additional transport facilities and largely augmented agricultural departments. In Nigeria larger and better harbour and wharfage were required at Lagos and Port Harcourt. It was also necessary to push on with the completion of the eastern railway from that port. Moreover, additional railways were required to open up important centres 200 to 300 miles distant, the only means of transport at present being by canal or donkey. The Association had taken up these matters with the Government, but unfortunately at the moment it was not possible to press any desired scheme owing to the world-shortage of money.

The new Empire Cotton-Growing Corporation had come into being. The levy of 6d. per bale had been agreed to by the trade, and very shortly the Corporation should be in possession of funds so as to carry out their programme, a part of which was to supply trained experts and attach them to the Colonial Agricultural Departments for work in connection with cotton growing. Without such assistance he feared that it was not possible for very much progress to be made, as the Colonial Governments had not the funds to provide large agricultural staffs for any one purpose. He might also mention that the work of the Empire Cotton-Growing Corporation would in no way clash with the work of the Association. In the early stages, and in all fields, commercial work in connection with the provision of markets for the growers' cotton, of ginners for ginning the cotton, and merchanting the same were absolutely essential. This had chiefly been the work of the Association since it handed over its agricultural experts to the Government many years ago, and the Association would continue on these lines, always working in close co-operation with the Empire Cotton-Growing Corporation.

Mr. James M. Thomas seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

HEMP AND FLAX INDUSTRIES OF YUGOSLAVIA.

The most highly developed of the textile industries of Yugoslavia are the hemp and flax industries, according to the *Beogradski Dnevnik*. The area annually sown with hemp, it states, approximates to 42,000 hectares, and with flax to about 50,000 hectares. The annual production of hemp is 18,000,000 kilograms, and of flax 800,000 kilograms. The country possesses thirty factories for these industries, and their annual production is about 1,000 wagons of hemp and 300 wagons of flax. In addition, these factories prepare 600 wagons of a special kind of hemp called "peasant hemp" in the province of Backa, and 100 wagons of the same product in Southern Serbia. The hemp and flax industries have great difficulties to contend with on account of the small number of spinning mills, and producers are obliged to export the raw material, which mostly goes to Komoran in Hungary. Domestic consumption is estimated at 20 per cent. of the total production, the remaining 80 per cent. being available for exportation, chiefly to Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The country also produces 200 wagons of hemp seed, which is approximately the quantity required for home cultivation.

From January 1 to the end of April, 421,447 tons of coal were imported into Alexandria. Of this total, 54,126 tons were Welsh, 12,918 tons were Scotch, and 354,403 tons other qualities.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated June 6:—

Markets.—(a) Cotton and Piece-goods.—Bombay cotton market firm. Fine M.G. Oomra July Rs. 302, September Rs. 317. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to May 27, 1921, were 2,186,000 bales, as compared with 2,853,000 bales during the corresponding period of the last year. Bombay piece-goods market quiet, but stocks in warehouses are estimated to be steadily decreasing.

(b) Jute and Gunny.—Calcutta jute and gunny markets show some improvement; good inquiry for heavies with buyers of cornsacks up to Rs. 35 per 100 bags for the season.

(c) Rice and Paddy.—Rangoon Paddy arrivals poor. Prices steady at Rs. 203 to Rs. 206 per 100 baskets of 46 lbs. each. In White Rice there has been fairly large business since last week. Small Mill qualities rose to Rs. 535 per 100 baskets of 75 lbs. each for May-June delivery. Specials followed advance, and large mills sold about 8,000 to 10,000 tons for June delivery at Rs. 520 to Rs. 522.8.0, and for July at Rs. 525.

(d) Tea.—At last tea sale of the season held on May 31, offerings were mostly poor and uninteresting, the majority of invoices being common tea from Sylhet and Cachar. Tone of sale better, and only commonest grades were not inquired for and sold at extremely low prices; all other kinds dearer, especially Pekoes, which advances three pices per pound. 833,997 packages sold to date at an average price of five annas one pie per lb. New season opening sale June 14.

New jute weather and prospects continue very favourable, and plants growing well. A spell of strong sunshine wanted in Northern Bengal. Imperial Bank of India Rate—5 per cent. from June 2.

All India Crop Forecasts—1920-21.—Wheat (third forecast), 25,127,000 acres, 6,596,000 tons. Linseed (final forecast), 2,234,000 acres, 269,000 tons. Rape and mustard (final forecast), 4,912,000 acres, 848,000 tons.

THE SALONIKA MARKET.

An Imperial Ottoman Bank report from Salonika for March and April states:

—The new crop of cereals is expected to give a yield of about 30 per cent. less than that of the previous year. Prices are: Wheat, 1.65—1.73 drachmæ; maize, 0.90—0.95 drachmæ; barley, 1.10—1.15 drachmæ. There have been no transaction in cocoons. The old stock is unsold, and the nominal price per oke is 30—32 drachmæ.

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ON 'CHANGE.

DEPRESSED MARKETS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

The position remains much as before. Business continues to be restricted to the smallest possible dimensions, and there are at present no indications of the return of public interest. When the coal strike is out of the way, however, it may be expected that before long a brighter tone will be in evidence.

Gilt-edged stocks have been dull. War Loan Fives are $\frac{3}{4}$ down on the week, while Consols have shed $\frac{1}{4}$ at 45 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Indian loan is now 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ premium, while the new Ceylon loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ premium.

An irregular tone has been in evidence among Industrials. On the prospects of a settlement of the coal strike Iron and Steel shares have been rather firmer. Shipping securities have been dull, P. and O. deferred closing at 332. Oils have been weak, owing to the lack of demand, while Rubbers, as usual, have been weak and irregular.

Near Eastern securities have been weak. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. are $\frac{3}{4}$ up at 69, but Greek Guaranteed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. 1889 are $\frac{3}{4}$ down at 66, while Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 have shed 1 at 70.

Greek shares have been firm. The 5 per cent. 1881 loan is 2 up at 40, while the 5 per cent. 1884 loan has gained a point at 39. The 5 per cent. 1890 at 40 is 1 up, but Fundings are $\frac{1}{4}$ down at 35 $\frac{1}{2}$. The 4 per cent. 1910 loan is unaltered at 29, while the 4 per cent. 1902 loan remains at 34. The 5 per cent. 1914 loan is, however, $\frac{1}{4}$ up at 36 $\frac{1}{2}$.

In Land shares Beheras have lost $\frac{3}{4}$ at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, but the preference shares are unchanged at 3. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and Egyptian Consolidated Lands at 1s. are unchanged, but Egyptian Delta Lands are 3d. down at 6s. 6d., while Gharbieh Lands have shed $\frac{1}{4}$ at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. New Egyptians are 6d. down at 21s. 6d., while Union Foncières at 1 15-16 xd are 1-16 down. Sudan Plantations have been a firm spot, and are closing 3-16 up at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$.

In Oils Anglo-Egyptians are 5-32 lower at 1 21-32. Phoenix have, however, gained 1s. at 11s. 9d. Roumanian Consolidated are unchanged at 13s. 6d., as are Steaua Romanas at 16s. Burmahs are 1-32 firmer at 6 21-32.

In Banks Agricultural 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Bonds and the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are unchanged at 51 and 53 respectively. Imperial Ottoman Banks are $\frac{1}{4}$ down at 8 $\frac{1}{4}$, but National Bank of Egypt are 3-16 up at 17 9-16. Land Bank of Egypt have lost 1-16 at 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are unchanged at 2s., while Alexandria Waters remain at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Morums are 10s., and Egyptian Markets 18s. 6d. xd. Egyptian Salt and Sodas are 6d. down at 27s.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway Company have declared a dividend for the half-year ended March 31, 1921, of 6 per cent., together with bonus of 1 per cent., on ordinary stock, payable, less tax at 3s. 9d., July 25.

The Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended March 31, 1921, of 4 per cent., together with bonus of 1 per cent., on ordinary stock, payable, less tax at 3s. 11d., July 25.

The Bengal and North-Western Railway Company, after placing, as usual, £35,000 to sinking fund, have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended March 31, 1921, of 4 per cent., together with bonus of 1 per cent., on ordinary stock, payable, less tax at 3s. 9d., July 25.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGÉ.

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

Prices on June 2 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 1-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 $\frac{1}{4}$; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2 $\frac{1}{2}$; Associated Cotton Ginners, £23-32; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 52; Bahera Ord., £E7 $\frac{1}{2}$; Behera Priv., £3 3-32; Bonded Stores, £9 $\frac{1}{2}$; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 75; Building Lands of Egypt, £11-16; Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 102 ex; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com. d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt. 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 780 ex; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 595; Credit Foncier 1885 Oblig., Fr. 317 $\frac{1}{2}$; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 224 $\frac{1}{2}$; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 228 $\frac{1}{2}$; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 77; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 103; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 27s. 6d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4 $\frac{1}{2}$; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £9 15-16; Gabbari Lands £11-32; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £4 15-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2 $\frac{1}{2}$; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £4 7-32; Kom Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £33 9-16; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turc, Fr. 41 $\frac{1}{2}$; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 230 ex; Nungovich Hotels, £6 7-16; Ramleh Railway £1 $\frac{1}{2}$; Salt and Soda, 27s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 35; Tram. d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 45V; Union Foncière d'Egypte, £2 1-32 ex; Egypt Hotels, £2; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 27-32.

OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

Oilfields of Egypt.

The directors of the Oilfields of Egypt, Ltd., in a recent circular, state that after consultation with, and at the suggestion of, Mr. Cunningham Craig and the company's consulting engineers, they have decided to vary in some measure the drilling programme previously agreed upon. This variation has been adopted partly for technical reasons and partly to comply with the requirements of the Egyptian Government.

The latest advices from the field indicate the following position:—Ras Dhib.—On Mr. Cunningham Craig's recommendation, work on No. 1 hole has been suspended, for the reason that geological information obtainable from deepening this well could be more suitably gained at shallower depth at a new site located by him. Well No. 2 has been drilled through the upper limestone formation, and is now down 549 ft. From the gas and oil indications encountered the field manager has expressed the opinion that oil may be found in fair quantity at the base of the Miocene series, and that drilling should be continued if necessary to reach the Nubian sandstone. Well No. 3: The plant and machinery are on the site ready for immediate drilling by the mud flush system. Well No. 4: Drilling has been commenced on this location, and the hole is down 162 ft. It is proposed to drill either or both wells Nos. 3 and 4 to sufficient depth to test the limestone in the Miocene, and subsequently, if found desirable, to continue the holes into the Nubian sandstone, which is expected to be met with at from 1,200 to 1,500 ft.

Ras Bahar.—Instructions have been given to erect a heavy rig for deep drilling on a carefully selected site on this section. The consulting engineer in Egypt reports very favourably on the rapidity with which operations have so far been carried on, particularly having regard to the great difficulties experienced in the earlier stages in connection with transport of plant, machinery, fuel, and water. Unless serious unforeseen delays or accidents occur, the directors consider that the financial resources of the company should be quite sufficient to complete the work at Ras Dhib and Ras Bahar as recommended by their consultants.

It is announced that the Greek Government have decided to establish a Ministry of the Treasury under the direction of M. Bonissios.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

A PORT FOR POLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, May 25.

It is proposed to grant Poland shipping facilities in the port of Braila. Roumania expects thereby to attract a portion of Poland's foreign trade, which would otherwise gravitate towards Danzig. It will be somewhat similar to the existing convention between Italy and Yugoslavia as regards Trieste. The opposition is against this concession.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Imani, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 18); s.s. Masirah, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 2).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 22); s.s. Lancashire, for Rangoon (London, June 25); s.s. Oxfordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 6).

Byron Steamship Line.—A steamer will sail on June 24 from Liverpool for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Macindor, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 23).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople (Swansea, July 2; Glasgow, July 6; Liverpool, July 11); s.s. Brescia, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, etc. (Swansea, July 12).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Gerano, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, and Catania (Liverpool, June 16).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Manchester, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 17); s.s. City of Exeter, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, June 25); s.s. City of Karachi, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 4).

Ellerman's Westcott and Laurance Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glentara, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 30); s.s. Glenariffe, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, July 14).

Glynn Line.—S.s. Riposto, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, middle of June).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Gladiator, for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 22); s.s. Collegian, for Calcutta (Liverpool, July 9).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Amarapoora, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 13).

Holt Line.—S.s. Atrous, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 17); s.s. Calchas, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Glasgow, June 17); s.s. Keemun, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, June 17).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 20).

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Transport, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, end of June).

Moss Line.—S.s. Siptah, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople (Liverpool, June 21); s.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria [taking cargo for transhipment to Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports] (Liverpool, June 29).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Asturian, for Malta and Alexandria [taking cargo for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Haifa, Mersina, Jaffa, Port Said, and Cyprus] (Liverpool, June 18); s.s. Bosnian, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Morea, for Bombay (London, June 24); s.s. *Caledonia, for Bombay (London, July 1). *Taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports. S.s. Sicilia, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London, July 15).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. †Mashobra, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 24); s.s. *Merkara, for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 1); s.s. †Mandala, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 8). *Taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar coast ports; †taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden.

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria [taking cargo for Beyrout, Jaffa, Haifa, Tripoli (Syria), Lattakia, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus ports] (Manchester, June 28).

CZECHOSLOVAK CREDIT FOR ROLLING STOCK.

A bill providing for a credit grant of 540 million crowns to the railway administration for the purchase of rolling stock in 1921 has been submitted to the Czechoslovak Chamber of Deputies. The accompanying application in support of the bill points out that in the course of this year the railways still require 27 locomotives with tenders, and 4,140 carriages. The grant suggested in the bill would cover the cost of about 63 locomotives and 5,860 carriages. By the end of 1926 it will be necessary to purchase about 1,050 locomotives and 50,000 carriages.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway for the week ended June 4 amounted to £9,067.

It is reported that the asbestos mines on Mt. Troodos have been sold to an English company for £125,000.

The profit of the Bengal Coal Company for the half-year ended April 30. (including Rs. 1,70,000 brought forward) was Rs. 16,14,000. A dividend at the rate of 65 per cent. per annum was proposed, setting aside Rs. 2,23,000 for depreciation, paying Rs. 97,500 for commission, etc., placing Rs. 2,00,000 to reserve, and carrying forward Rs. 1,18,500.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting into touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge. Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

114. Importer in Karachi (India), travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers, and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs, dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples, with prices and terms.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 528.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Reported Death of King Peter.

We deeply regret to hear by private advices from Yugoslavia, as we go to press, that the illness of King Peter of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes has terminated fatally. Writing on June 14, our Correspondent in Yugoslavia was able to quote the official assurances that King Peter was out of danger, and this circumstance will necessarily prompt the hope that the later report is, happily, incorrect. The gravest anxiety, however, was felt immediately the aged monarch was taken ill, as it was clear that his general condition left much to be desired, and the official bulletins were far from convincing. Although he had ceased to take an active part in State affairs, the loss to the country is rendered the more pathetic as it occurs within a few days of the ratification of the new Constitution of the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes—the coping-stone to aspirations entertained, indeed, before he came to the throne, but peculiarly identified with, and brought to realisation during, his eventful reign.

The Paris Discussions.

The meeting of the Supreme Council that was expected to take place at the end of last week has been postponed, and in its place the Marquis Curzon has paid a visit to Paris, in order to discuss with the French Government the Near Eastern problem. On this subject, unhappily, British and French official opinion has been divided; but in the case of the Near East, in contradistinction to other questions, events and the stern logic of facts show a disposition to assert themselves in a manner that makes it increasingly difficult to adhere to a wrong policy, however sincere the conviction with which it was originally supported. If, therefore, as a result of the Paris discussions, the two Governments are once more agreed on a Near Eastern programme, it is to be hoped that it will be based not on a mere diplomatic compromise, but on the actual requirements of the situation. There can be no real settlement, if the problem is approached from the standpoint of the extent to which France can give way on the one hand and Great Britain on the other. The problem turns on certain stubborn facts, not on French or British predilections, and until these are faced the end of the world-war will not have been reached.

A Fresh Start.

It must be admitted that French policy has come nearer than British policy to the requirements of the situation, but one of the reasons why it has failed to win the support to which it was entitled is that it was

inspired by motives which commanded no respect. The British Cabinet, confronted with the bankruptcy of Turkish government over the debatable territories of the Near East, decided that the substitution of Greek rule was the only possible alternative, and one that must necessarily introduce a better state of affairs. France acquiesced in the transfer of alien populations to Greek rule, because it was made a personal favour to M. Venizelos, and enabled her to gratify her spite against King Constantine. When M. Venizelos fell, she showed no hesitation in throwing Greece over, and encouraged Nationalist Turkey to abandon an attitude of reasonable protest for a show of aggressive unreason. It is probably equally hard for both Governments, British and French, to admit their mistakes, for the personal element is so intimately concerned. If, however, peace is to be restored in the Near and Middle East, personal considerations must be eliminated. Both parties have so much ground to abandon, not with a view to finding a middle line of action, but to coming together again on an entirely new line, that the process may well be regarded as satisfying the sacred cause of compromise.

Proffered Openings.

In the meantime the renewal of the Greek offensive, which in the matter of solicitous bulletins resembles a distinguished patient in *extremis* rather than a pending military operation, has been postponed. If we may judge from the remarks of the French Press, the contention of THE NEAR EAST for many weeks past that Great Britain and France ought not to allow any further hostilities to take place in Asia Minor now commends itself to the French Government, and we trust that, as a result of Lord Curzon's visit to Paris, it will form the basis of the new Allied programme. The obstacle of Nationalist intransigence is not overlooked; but it is possible that there is some discrepancy between the fulminations of the Angora Press and the innermost wishes of Mustapha Kemal's Government. The new mission of Bekir Sami Bey points to this possibility. It is by no means certain that even with a French negotiator at Angora British or Allied intentions are clearly understood. Most probably indignation over the Greek attack, which would be considered as out of the question if Allied support or connivance were not behind it, tinges the whole Nationalist outlook, making Angora see red and causing it to approve even of the Moscow shade of that colour.

A Change of Tactics.

The public in Great Britain and France, which has been asked both by the Governments and the bulk of the Press to regard Turks and Greeks alike as hope-

lessly unreasonable, is gradually coming round to the belief that the fault does not lie exclusively with the two Eastern peoples. The conduct of the Allied Governments towards Greece has not had reason, good manners, or fair play to commend it, and King Constantine's Government has virtually been driven into the course of action now deprecated. As for the Turks, having been exasperated by being subjected to and then attacked by the Greeks, they were presented with the spectacle of Great Britain and France at cross-purposes in their proposed settlement of the Near East. Angora would hardly have been human, it would certainly not have been Turkish, if it had not reverted to the traditional policy of the Orient. If the Allied Powers would conform to the ordinary canons of diplomacy in their dealings with Greece—recognising her legitimate ruler, receiving her accredited representatives instead of maintaining ostentatious touch with members of the political opposition, and sending to her as their own representatives diplomats personally acceptable to the Government—and if they maintained a united front towards Turkey, while presenting terms of peace which can be morally justified and offer a practical settlement, there would be no need to despair of an amicable and speedy adjustment of the Near East problem.

France and the Emir Faisal.

Nothing better illustrates the one-sided view that our French Allies adopt on most international problems than the comments in the French Press on Mr Churchill's announcement that the British Government has decided to put no obstacle in the way of Emir Faisal's candidature for the rulership of Mesopotamia. Stress is laid on the enmity between France and the Emir Faisal, and it is regarded as a grievance that the latter should be "restored in Mesopotamia." The more accurate way of looking at the matter would be to remember that it was France who made war upon the devoted ally of Great Britain, after he had assisted in the conquest of Palestine and Syria, and had received from both the French and British Governments definite promises. General Gouraud's action in Syria was a flagrant breach of these promises, and the ultimatum which preceded the downfall of the Emir Faisal may have been couched in as forceful terms as the Austro-Hungarian ultimatum to Serbia in 1914; but its statements were no more convincing than its notorious prototype. Syria does not happen to be in Europe, and the world is too occupied with other matters to be concerned overmuch with the fate of an Arab chieftain. The French Press, we cannot help thinking, would be better advised to congratulate France on the prospect of a worthy position having been found for a victim of her high-handed action, and on her own escape from a possible cause of permanent unrest in Syria, as a result of the British sense of fair play.

The Egyptian Delegation.

If there has been any change at all in the situation in Egypt during the past week, it has been for the better. Adly Pasha and his Cabinet continue to receive expressions of confidence from representative bodies and influential Egyptians, and the Premier has announced that the official delegation will leave Egypt for London about July 1, confident that the majority of reasonable and responsible opinion is behind the Ministry, and prepared to support negotiations along the lines it has indicated. Another hopeful sign is that an appeal for unity has been addressed to the nation by the ex-Grand Mufti, Sheikh Bekhit, the Sheikh el-Bakry, and many of the leading *ulema*, who refer to the invaluable services of Adly Pasha and of Rushdy Pasha, and praise their capability and their conscientiousness. The appeal suggests that while the official delegation should work for attainment of the national desire, the people can co-operate with Zaghloul Pasha's delegation for the purpose of effecting unity until the General Election. In the circumstances, it was probably advisable to include the reference to the masses' idol, and in other respects the appeal is both wise and timely; while the standing of the signatories should secure its being received with respect.

Zaghloul Pasha's Manœuvres.

Meanwhile Zaghloul Pasha appears to have made up his mind that as he cannot prevent the official Delegation

from coming to London, he will do his best to make things as unpleasant as possible for them here; and he is reported to be sending two of his lieutenants to Europe, for purposes that may be easily guessed. He has, however, had two rather nasty points scored against him: Adly Pasha has exposed one of his methods of securing public support by sending to the provinces printed telegrams which were subsequently wired back to him as expressions of "local opinion"; and the Sheikh el-Bakry, referred to above, whose house was used during his absence to hold a meeting of protest against Mr. Churchill's Manchester speech, has let it be known that he was not aware that the meeting would take on a tone hostile to the Premier. At this meeting Zaghloul Pasha is reported to have said that "if through pressure by the European Powers British troops remained in the country, Egyptian relations with European residents would become strained." This kind of thing may go down with his Egyptian audiences; but it almost inevitably makes people over here recall Stephenson's remark when asked whether it would not be a bad thing if his steam-engine collided with a cow, "Aye," said the great engineer, tersely, "bad for the cow!" Zaghloul and some of his supporters, who seem to spend much time in passing foolish resolutions and telegraphing them to the Press of foreign countries, might do worse than try to get the Egyptian cow and the European steam-engine into true perspective.

Unfortunate Georgia.

M. Jordania, President of the Republic of Georgia, arrived in this country last week, and it is to be hoped that his presence in our midst will arouse sympathy for his unhappy country and eventually lead to some action being taken on its behalf. For the past three months Georgia has been in the hands of the Bolshevik hordes, and it is almost superfluous to add that its condition is now deplorable. It put up an extraordinarily good fight against the attacks of Soviet Russia, and it certainly deserves a better fate than the one that has overtaken it. Its chief fault has been its failure to co-operate with Armenia and Azerbaijan, though it does not seem to have played its cards very well with the Kemalists; and in the future the desirability of some form of federation will doubtless become apparent to the three Caucasian republics. At present, however, there is no chance of anything of the kind. The first thing to be done is to gain a hearing from the Great Powers; and this, it is understood, is what M. Jordania is now endeavouring to do on behalf of Georgia. He has a good case, for the independence of Georgia, both *de facto* and *de jure*, has been formally recognised by the Allies, while no such recognition has been accorded to Soviet Russia; and that is—or should be—worth something to M. Jordania. Moreover, the British Government need not hesitate to take any action on behalf of Georgia for fear that it would arouse the wrath of Labour by so doing. On the contrary, Labour should surely support such action. For M. Jordania is founder and leader of the Socialist party in Georgia, and his country is—or was before the Bolsheviks arrived—a model Socialist State. Labour, therefore, could hardly refuse to support it in its struggle against the tyranny of Bolshevism, unless it is prepared to be labelled Bolshevik itself.

India and the Dominions.

An interesting suggestion was made last week by the Maharao of Cutch, the representative of the Indian Princes at the Imperial discussions now in progress, who urged that some of the statesmen of the Dominions should come to India and realise for themselves the rapidity of the political advance, and also the strength of feeling on the question of status, a subject to which we referred in our leading article last week. We believe that at the present juncture such visits might do an incalculable amount of good, and we trust it may be possible to arrange them in spite of the obvious difficulties of time and distance. These difficulties, it must be remembered, do not affect all the Dominions alike. It is a far cry from Canada to India, but Australia and South Africa are more conveniently situated, and a little money spent on speeding up transport might enable visitors from

Melbourne or Cape Town to spend Christmas in Calcutta and travel at least as far as Delhi, two centres which should serve as samples of Indian politics. If that could be done, and, perhaps a little later on, return visits could be made by some of India's popular Ministers, the effect on Imperial relations would be even greater than what can be looked for from periodical meetings in London.

Direct Inter-Imperial Relations.

Closely allied to this subject is the idea, which has recently been again mooted, that India and the Dominions should exchange resident representatives, something intermediate between full-fledged ambassadors and mere commercial agents, charged with the duty of interpreting local sentiment to their Governments. There are, of course, weighty bureaucratic objections to this proposal. The representatives, it is said, would not find enough work, and at the same time their activities might prove inconvenient to the denizens of Downing Street and Whitehall. Both objections are valid, but, in our judgment, by no means conclusive. An Australian, for instance, at Delhi might not have enough files to keep him tied to his office-table like his neighbours, but he might be well worth his salary for all that; and surely it is better that possible causes of friction should be adjusted amicably on the spot than that they should be sent home in despatches charged with passion, to be disposed of eventually by an overworked Cabinet. For our part, we think the experiment well worthy of a trial; at the worst, it could do little or no harm, while with well-chosen representatives it might do a great deal to ease the working of the great Imperial machine.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Morning.

The Coal Ballot.

The result of the ballot on coal was disconcerting to everybody. It had been assumed, both by the miners' leaders and by the Government, and also by the press and the public, that there would be a vote in favour of resumption of work; for it is known that after ten weeks' stoppage the miners are in desperate financial straits, and the terms offered were certainly better than those originally fixed by the owners, although less than those demanded by the men. For all that, and despite the fact that the subsidy depended on a resumption of work, there was large majority in every coal-field but one—and that one the least important—in favour of rejecting the terms offered.

The vote needs explaining, and so far it has not been explained—it has only been explained away, which is not quite the same thing. The idea that, say, another month or two of stoppage would secure better terms for miners may be the underlying motive; if it is, it is likely to be a grave error. The miners' leaders are known to hold the opinion that they have done the best they could in the circumstances—they have not indeed by any means been utterly routed, as the owners have made at least three several advances over their first ultimatum. But the miners' leaders did not demand a vote in favour of resumption; they left it open to the men. They are being blamed for this in some quarters, but I cannot see that any blame attaches to them on that score. It would simply have made the ballot a farce to have issued instructions. After all, if one has democracy, one must put up with the inconveniences of democracy—one of which is that voters are permitted to vote which way they like. And if the leaders had advised the men to vote for resumption, I doubt whether their advice would have been followed, as the result would have been that they would have lost whatever authority they possess.

The situation is now uncertain, and full of difficulty for both employers and employed—and to a less extent for the general public. All the pits will be open for work. In some cases, especially in the smaller and more isolated mines, work will be resumed; but it is unlikely that this will be general. There may be some trouble between the large minority which wants to resume work and the majority which does not, and this will make the position very difficult. Many of the leader-writers are

propheying exactly what will happen, but their predictions have been so signally falsified during the past few days that one doubts the reality of their inspiration. In the meantime the train service is again steadily improving.

Sinn Fein in England.

There has been another outbreak of Sinn Fein outrages, in England this time. Armed men in motor-cars have attacked lonely signal-boxes on the railways, bound and gagged or shot the signal-men, and burnt the records or damaged the instruments and driven away. This is an attack, not on a Government but on society; it is not politics but anarchy. The plot was evidently carefully planned, as the attacks were simultaneous and the method of operation the same in each instance; the object can only have been the spreading of terror, perhaps the wrecking of trains and loss of life.

It is curious how deeply rooted this primitive idea of "frightfulness" (which the Germans after their manner reduced or raised to a definite science) persists. Experience shows that it always fails to achieve its end, and merely rouses anger against the perpetrators. It is significant that no repudiation of these methods comes from Sinn Fein leaders, which must be taken as an indication that they either do not or dare not disapprove. So long as that is their position, they will merely alienate any sympathy which their political objects might otherwise have had in this country.

In any event, their attitude in Ireland is not calculated to encourage those Independent Liberals and others who, from old sympathy with Ireland, have done their best to defend Sinn Fein before English audiences. The Southern Irish Parliament exists, but Sinn Fein, with an overwhelming majority of its members, is doing nothing to work it; in the Ulster Parliament its minority has abstained from attendance, and the official Sinn Fein policy is to boycott Ulster industry, and to refuse any dealings with Ulster banks. This senseless procedure will certainly do Ulster some harm, but it will be more hurtful to Sinn Fein and to Ireland as a whole.

The island needs unity and abstention from politics more than anything else; but this simply stereotypes partition, and makes destructive politics the main industry. The hopes of a concordat, which were evoked by the recent meeting between Sir James Craig, the Ulster Prime Minister, and Mr. de Valera, are therefore fading. If, as some hold, the latter is essentially a Moderate, he is unable to restrain his own instruments, and has become a tool of the tools he has used. Many a revolutionary leader has suffered the same fate.

A Clerical Feud.

An ecclesiastical battle is impending. It is announced that next week an assembly of Evangelical and High Church clergy is to hold a three days' confer-



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ence to demonstrate "the Fundamental Truths" of Christianity. Demonstrations on behalf of truth usually resolve themselves into demonstrations against somebody's error, and in the present case the victims are Dean Inge and Canon Barnes, who are accused of going over to the enemy and giving up the doctrine of Scriptural inspiration, which is to be reaffirmed. Dr. Wace, the aged Dean of Canterbury and the old opponent of Huxley, is the most notable figure among the protestors, and he is to read a paper on the historicity of Genesis.

The meeting will probably be followed by a Broad Church demonstration in defence of the audacious Dean and the explosive Canon. The humble layman will probably think that questions of historical fact can best be left to the study, and that the problems of philosophy and science are debated to better advantage by philosophers and scientists than by indignant clergy. At the same time, I am not sure that the position of Canon Barnes is logically tenable. By giving up the fall of man, he seems to have placed himself in a difficult position as a Churchman. The trouble with the Dean is that he has publicly spoken of some of his own cloth as bigots and reactionaries, and, being hit, they hit back again.

As a mere outsider, one would suggest that if our divines were to cease quarrelling over the already ancient controversies as to Pentateuchal accuracy, and to try to introduce the reality of Christian goodwill into the social, and more particularly the industrial, life of this country, they would be doing both Church and State a better service.

The Einstein Lecture.

Professor Einstein delivered his long-promised lecture before London University last week, and Lord Haldane, who has adopted both the Professor and his theory, presided over the function. The explanation of Relativity was in German; but although I can understand that tongue and have, at least, thought I understood the main principle of relativity in English, I will confess that the combination of relativity and German was too much for me. Others who declared themselves entranced by the clarity of the exposition were no doubt more intelligent than I.

Professor Einstein is a pale man with long black hair and thoughtful eyes. He looks like a first violin in an orchestra—he is a connoisseur of music as well as a mathematician—and his manner of speaking is naturally that of the lecturer, not the orator. He seemed a little shy of his audience, and I doubt if he really likes being lionised. Let us hope he was impressed by the journalistic sense of relativity. The high-brow newspapers gave him a column to the three columns of the Test Match; the popular Press gave his photograph and three lines and six columns to the Test Match.

A Second Test.

There was a general sense of relief that England saved the innings defeat in the second Test Match at Lord's—so low have we fallen that an eight wickets' licking is considered better than we had any right to expect. It is said that there will be drastic alterations for the third match at Leeds—if we lose that we lose the rubber. It is as much a question of nerves as anything. The Australians are a magnificent team, but not better than England teams in the past; if our men could take things more lightly and show less reverence to the visitors' attack they might almost snatch a victory. They play well enough in county matches, but the moment they see an Australian bowler they tremble at the knees, and begin to wish they were back in the pavilion. To do them justice, their wish is quickly fulfilled. Woolley is, so far, the only exception.

Doctors versus Dentists.

As though we had not enough troubles on hand, there is war to the knife, or rather to the teeth, between doctors and dentists. Every doctor, of course, admits that if everybody went to a properly qualified dentist as a matter of course every six months there would be far less disease, but the controversy has broken out over a side issue. Are bad teeth the result of indigestion, or is indigestion the result of bad teeth? One party says one thing, the other asserts the opposite; and *amour*

propre and the reputation of two great professions are directly involved. If bad teeth are the cause of indigestion, then the dentist is in fault—unless he puts it on the patient; if indigestion is the cause of bad teeth, then the doctor is the villain of the piece.

To the mere ignorant journalist it would seem that the existence of such a controversy reveals limitations of knowledge in both parties. Certainly doctor and dentist often disagree. I know of cases in which the medico has advised the patient to have all his teeth out as a cure for rheumatism or what-not, while the dentist has refused on the ground that the teeth were perfectly sound, and that the doctor must have made a wrong diagnosis. The truth of the matter probably is that sometimes bad teeth make bad tummies, and sometimes the process is reversed.

The Week's Books.

"Impressions and Comments, Second Series" (Constable), by Havelock Ellis, is a continuation of the series of short essays in diary form on art, life, and war which first delighted readers some years ago. In his last pages Mr. Ellis seems to hint that this is his farewell to the world of letters; but we may hope for yet a third series from his gifted pen.

"The Psychology of Everyday Life" (Methuen), by James Drever, is a brilliant study of ordinary phenomena by one of the most competent exponents of modern psychology. It is a relief to get away from the abnormal in this subject to the average healthy man's experiences and impressions.

In "The Psychology of Day-Dreams" (George Allen), by Dr. J. Varendonck, we enter the region of psycho-analysis again. The book has the inevitable introduction by Professor Freud, and all the technical impedimenta of the new fashion; but it does not impress me.

"The Analysis of Mind" (George Allen), by Bertrand Russell, does not impress one so much as the same author's "Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy." It has one merit which most psychological books lack—its wit; and one virtue—it applies a destructive analysis to some of the absurdities of psycho-analysis. But Mr. Russell is not certain that consciousness exists—he has already stated this view—and he conceives of the universe as neither mind nor matter, but a "neutral stuff" out of which both are constructed. This view has, of course, been frequently formulated in America; one would like some evidence of the existence of this non-mental and dematerialised "stuff," and the construction of some hypotheses as to the manner in which it has been converted into, let us say, you and me, and St. Paul's Cathedral and the Pope. Mr. Russell only says that the pudding is there—his other works show he thinks it a pretty bad pudding—and it isn't made in the way we thought. But what the ingredients are he doesn't even tell us in the index.

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THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 1.

In Parliament: Agrarian Reform.

All parties are agreed on the fundamental principle of the proposed agrarian reforms. There are, however, two points, and not the least important ones, on which the Government and the Federationist Opposition are at variance: the extent of land to be expropriated, and the price to be paid to the expropriated landowners. The Bill provides that, for the moment, only two million hectares should be expropriated, leaving only 250 h. of arable land, as a maximum, for any one landowner, and that the price to be paid should be based on the pre-war regional rental of the land, multiplied by *forty*, of which half will be paid in annuities by the peasants who receive the land, and the other half will be borne by the State.

The Opposition contends that only 100 h. of arable land should be allowed to belong to any one person, and all the rest should be expropriated and passed on to the peasants, at the price of rental aforesaid, multiplied by twenty only.

All the speeches made this week have been more or less explanatory of these conflicting views.

The discussions this week have been rather unfavourable for the Minister of Finance. The speakers did not use any new arguments, but reiterated the old ones, that the proposed taxes exceed the contributive power of the taxpayers; that the whole production of the country will be absorbed by the taxes; that the text of the Bill is indistinct, its mode of application impracticable for lack of the necessary administrative fiscal personnel, and so on.

As the Budget has not yet been passed, a monthly vote on account has been granted for June.

The Parliamentary session has again been extended for a month, until June 28. At one of the sittings a visit was paid by General Badoglio and his suite. The members of both houses had assembled in the Lower Chamber, where the General was officially received with great demonstrations of welcome. The Speaker and prominent representatives of the different parties addressed the General, expressing sympathy and affection for the elder Latin sister, and recognition of Italy's help towards the realisation of the Roumanian national ideal. The General was visibly moved, and made a fitting reply. He and his suite have left for Galatz and Jassy to confer on those two towns the Cross of War.

The Senate, Cattle and Timber.

A very important debate has taken place in the Senate regarding the supply of cattle in Transylvania and in the Old Kingdom. There is a superabundance of cattle in the former province, and the price of meat has fallen to 2 lei a kg. wholesale and 4 lei retail; and the cattle-breeders are on the verge of ruin. In the Old Kingdom, on the other hand, cattle are scarce and meat costs 16-20 lei a kg. The logical course would be to transport from one province to another. But in the first place there is the continued transport difficulty, and in the second the wholesale butchers' trust simply refuses to buy cattle in Transylvania, with the obvious object of maintaining high prices here. The Government promised to remedy both evils. Meanwhile, the cattle-breeders in Transylvania are clamouring for free export of their surplus cattle, for which there is a great demand in Central Europe, the buyers being willing to supply the necessary rolling-stock. As these exports have to pass through Hungary, that State claims, as compensation, nothing less, than a frontier rectification. The Government hopes to overcome this obstacle diplomatically, and has decided to allow the export of oxen over six years old and of cows over eight years, on paying the export tax of 20 per cent. *ad valorem* and 2 per cent. commission tax. This measure will, however, only alleviate the

congestion; and, on account of insufficient pasture land, the cattle are suffering very much.

The timber trade in Transylvania, also, is sustaining heavy losses, through lack of adequate means of transportation. Immense quantities of timber are lying in the forests, and a portion of it is rotting. The Senator for Bukovina affirms that in his province also the situation regarding both cattle and timber is unsatisfactory.

Bratiano Centenary.

The centenary of the great Roumanian statesman, Ion C. Bratiano, is being celebrated in the principal towns of the country. On this occasion his body, which has been resting for the last thirty years in a provisional tomb, has solemnly been transferred to a chapel, specially built for the purpose, on the family estate at Florica. Prince Carol represented the Royal Family at his ceremony; the Primate conducted the religious service, and the Government was represented by the Minister of Public Works. There was a large attendance of political notabilities and delegations from many parts of the country. Several speeches were made, extolling the high merits of the late illustrious statesman, and recalling the great services he rendered to the country during his fifty years of patriotic activity.

The refusal of the Senate to send a delegation to this commemoration is not to be considered as a slight upon the memory of the great statesman. It is merely a momentary political incident. The present majority did not wish to give the ceremony the character of a national celebration for fear of their opponents, the Liberal party, using it politically.

A Widespread Plot.

A great sensation has been caused by the discovery of a vast plot at the Petroscheni coal-mines in Transylvania. The Magyar element which was employed there had secretly organised an irredentist conspiracy. They had made all the necessary preparations, with the intention of destroying the mines and blowing up all the bridges and tunnels of the coalfield region. The outrage was planned for execution on the day of the arrival in Bucharest, from Greece, of Prince Carol and his bride. The director, engineer, doctor and lawyer of the mine are implicated and arrested. One of the principal organisers, Maderspiech, a large landowner, stabbed one of the detectives whilst being taken into custody. Many others have been arrested, among them former officers in Horthy's army. Large quantities of arms, explosives and some syringes with strong poison, have been discovered. The correspondence and documents which have been seized prove the connection of this conspiracy with the headquarters of the Irredenta in Budapest.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 11.

At the present time public interest is chiefly concerned with internal affairs, and once again party politics are to the fore. M. Stambolisky, who writes over the pen-name of "Stambol," has made two vigorous onslaughts on the Opposition parties through the medium of the Agrarian journal *Zemledelsko Zname*. He points out that the Agrarian Party stands solid for a Bulgaria-for-the-Bulgarians policy, while some of the most prominent members of the Opposition would like to see the country influenced by foreign Powers.

What prompted the Prime Minister to open up a fresh campaign against the Opposition is not quite clear. If, however, as many people think, he fears that the policy of the Opposition members referred to above is to intrigue with foreigners, then, in the light of relations between Russia and Bulgaria during the past thirty or forty years, he has ample justification for his action. It is not Russian influence that he fears, no doubt, but that of another Great Power, whose aspira-

tions in the Orient are too well known to need further reference here. The policy of this Power has lately tended towards a close *rapprochement* with Bulgaria; and if this should fail to secure the support of the Government it might well be that Opposition support would be sought. The Opposition parties, though loyal to their country, are always on the look-out for means of returning to power, or even of improving their position; and thus they might become instruments of a foreign Power's policy.

The country is not yet sufficiently awake to the seriousness of a situation which, although still remote, might one day bring about a serious crisis. At the same time it would seem that the peasants, although they may grumble against the Government over a few points, are not likely to forsake the Agrarians for another party.

From the British point of view the situation is decidedly interesting, for we are in the position of a perfectly impartial observer; and in the long run we may come to be regarded as the one stable figure in European politics.

France, Bulgaria, Serbia.

A speech made by M. Georges Picot at the opening of the French Chamber of Commerce at Sofia on May 19 has raised a veritable storm of protest in the Belgrade Press. Commenting on the French Minister's statements, the *Tribuna* says, *inter alia*:—

France must know that it was Bulgaria who broke the peace in the Balkans, and only for that reason does her representative in Sofia now say that France and Bulgaria will together keep the peace. When one talks of peace in the Balkans, it is the Balkan States themselves that have the last word in the matter, and not our French friends. It is much more important to us than to France that peace should be maintained in the Balkans. If, as one is forced to believe, M. Picot spoke with the force and authority of the Quai d'Orsay behind him, the effects of his declaration may well be far-reaching, as the time for a *rapprochement* between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria is not yet, and the latter country may well find herself in the position of having to choose between the nations. She would like to take both, but at present that is impossible.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, June 7.

How the Flood-tide was Missed.

Before these lines are in print, in all probability the tide will once again be flowing strongly against the Turks. For this the Nationalist leaders themselves, and the Nationalist leaders alone, will be to blame. Never has a conquered nation been afforded such a magnificent opportunity of re-establishing its fortunes as the Turkish nation during the last few months; but the leaders of a docile and unperceiving people have refused to take the tide at its flood. By this time the world has learnt that Angora has definitely committed itself to the same policy of bitter and uncompromising hostility to the Allies, and Great Britain in particular, as was espoused with such ardour by the Unionists. Bekir Sami Bey has, indeed, started off on another tour in Europe, but this time he cannot possibly expect the slightest importance to be attached to his overtures. Hitherto, although the mask was not absolutely impenetrable, the true friends of the Turks—and they are by no means few in number—were reluctant to believe that the Nationalist leaders could be guilty of such folly as to reject deliberately the unexampled opportunity offered to them of a reconciliation with Great Britain. To-day it is impossible to ignore the truth, for the Nationalists have deliberately struck at the hand which was held out to them. How has this

been brought about? What has become of the moderate party which Bekir Sami Bey represented, and with which Mustapha Kemal himself was believed to sympathise? The answer to that question involves a reference to the history of the Nationalist movement during the last twelve months, and the activities of the Unionist leaders during the same period. At first Mustapha Kemal and the Nationalist leaders would have nothing whatever to do with Talaat, Enver, and the other members of the Committee of Union and Progress who had fled to Europe. The latter, therefore, concentrated all their efforts upon acquiring a preponderating influence with the Bolsheviks in regard to matters Turkish; and at the same time they made careful plans for what might be termed the peaceful penetration of the Anatolian Administration. The brains of the whole scheme undoubtedly were Talaat's, and success had been practically obtained already when he was assassinated. To such an extent has Unionist influence honeycombed the Nationalist Administration that at the present time Mustapha Kemal could not retain his position for twenty-four hours without the support of those who were once prominent members of the Committee. Thus, the Vice-President of the new "National Defence Party," formed by Mustapha Kemal to conjure the danger presented by the sudden onslaught of the extremists, is Sherif Bey, of Adrianople, one of Talaat's favourites, who was furnished with a document bearing the Unionist leader's own signature to save him from arrest for embezzlement of the funds of the Brusa Municipality. Mustapha Kemal owes his position to-day to the circumstance that he is supported by Unionists who are as undesirous as himself of witnessing the return of the exiles, who would promptly seize all the spoils for themselves, and would reward only those who had been consistently faithful. On the other hand, as Unionists, the bulk of Mustapha Kemal's supporters know they are compromised in the eyes of Europe, and realise that a reconciliation with the Allies would involve their consignment to permanent and well-merited obscurity, if nothing worse. Hence the dangerous onslaught when there seemed to be some prospect of a reconciliation crowning the undoubtedly sincere efforts of Bekir Sami Bey, despite the opposition of certain of his colleagues. The structure of the so-called Moderate Party was suddenly revealed in all its weakness, and once again in the kaleidoscopic history of Turkey, national interests were subordinated to personal interests and ambitions. There is no longer any mystery concerning the situation among the Nationalists: there are no moderates worth mentioning, and no extremists. The strife amongst the ædiles of Anatolia is but the squabbling of vultures over the corpse of the Turkish nation. How long it will be before the Old Gang return to Turkey depends upon the success attending Mustapha Kemal's efforts to stem the flowing tide of their agents. He has succeeded in holding off the released internees from Malta for the moment, but it may be predicted with comparative certainty that the reign of the Nationalist dictator is drawing to a close. The Bolsheviks have in all probability already selected his successor, and have possibly fixed the moment for his return to the limelight. Now that Talaat is dead, who will oppose the candidature of Enver?

The Greeks.

Meanwhile, the Greeks have been steadily pushing forward their preparations, which, it is understood, this time include asphyxiating gas and flame-throwers. It is to be hoped that they will not forget wire-cutters! So far as material and numbers are concerned, there seems to be little need for doubting the complete superiority of the Hellenes over their opponents; but, unhappily, political factions are still making havoc of the moral of the army. Constantinist and Venizelist passions are raging with unabated ferocity, and it is difficult to say which side is more to blame. A few months ago, the Royalist officer Dragoumis was murderously attacked, and on the evening of June 4 a Royalist officer shot two Venizelist officers, of whom one was killed outright, in the open street. If such occurrences are possible in the capital, what must be the state of affairs in Anatolia? Feeling is, indeed, running very high again, and the nervous tension generated by

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the period of expectancy since the last Greek offensive has almost reached bursting point. There is little doubt that within the next week or so important events will take place. The Greek army cannot sit upon its haunches for ever. The Greek fleet has received permission to take action against Turkish shipping in the Black Sea, and it is generally believed that after the return of General Harington, the effect of the policy pursued by the Nationalists towards Great Britain will be manifested in unmistakable fashion. This time, the British Government will have the support of practically the entire British colony in Turkey if it decides to take drastic measures—but those measures must not be half-hearted as hitherto. The Sultan himself and a considerable body of conservative Turkish opinion would support such action provided that the final settlement would be made without rancour, and if justice were tempered with that mercy which should characterise civilised victors.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, June 14.

The King's Illness.

Great anxiety has been felt on account of the illness of King Peter. The first news was alarming; that His Majesty had inflammation of the lungs and a high temperature, a dangerous thing at his advanced age. It was reported, and then contradicted, that the Regent had been recalled by wireless, and finally it was announced that His Royal Highness had arrived back in Belgrade, accompanied by Princess Helen and Prince Arsene, his uncle, younger brother of the King. Later bulletins are more reassuring, but one must be prepared for the worst, since King Peter is 77 years of age, and his health, far from robust during the past eight years, cannot have been improved by the trying years of exile and the terrible retreat through Albania.

The Political Crisis.

The political crisis is not finally solved, although the Press makes relatively little of it. The Peasant Party has decided not to abandon the Constituent Assembly, although they have resolved to vote against clauses 42 and 43, which deal with agrarian reform. As a matter of fact M. Pashitch has to choose between the Peasants' Party and the Mohammedans, for their views and interests are irreconcilable. The Communists have followed the example of the Narodny Club, and left the Assembly. The example seems catching, for it looks as though before long the whole Opposition will walk out and leave the majority to pass their resolutions at their ease.

Foreign Policy.

M. Take Jonescu returned to Bucharest by river to Turnu-Severin. Before his departure he was entertained at a number of official and semi-official banquets, and decorated with the Star of Kara George, First Class. The understanding with Roumania is of great importance, sealing the Little Entente; and is, in fact, a reminder to the Powers that the Secession States are vigorous entities and quite prepared to defend their own interests, which are fundamentally opposed to the French policy of a Danubian Confederation and restoration of the Hapsburgs or revival of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in however garbled a form. It also implies a united front against former enemy States, in respect of which all members of the Little Entente have similar interests. All are afraid of Hungary, while Roumania's sentiments towards Bulgaria are much the same as Serbia's.

But Yugoslavia stands alone in its dealings with Italy. Belgrade shows no disposition to meet Rome half-way in the matter of the Gulf of Barosh, for Yugoslavs feel that they have given away quite enough in the Treaty of Rapallo. Fortunately, it seems that the evacuation of Shibenik (Sebenico) is proceeding smoothly and rapidly, but it is probable that the Government will issue a formal *dementi* to statements in the Italian Press of an understanding on the Barosh question. Dr. Trumbitch has done well to define his position a little more clearly, for he is so prominent a man that he can scarcely keep to a

lonely furrow at this critical moment. In his latest speech he insists on the necessity of absolute national union and of avoiding rivalry and jealousy between the "intelligentsia" of the towns, and the peasants of the villages, who are the backbone of the country. He does well, too, to remind his hearers that Croats need no more be afraid of Serb hegemony than Serbs of being drowned out by the Croats; no one branch of the Yugoslav people is strong enough to be able to dominate the others. The tactlessness of some Serb officials has certainly alienated many Croats, and there is undoubtedly a growing feeling in favour of decentralisation; but still, no serious Yugoslav can entertain the idea of a breach of the union.

ALBANIA.

TIRANA, June 2.

Relations with Yugoslavia and Greece.

Colonel Ali Riza Kolonia, who, as reported in my letter of April 28, was sent to Belgrade on a mission to Yugoslavia, returned to Tirana yesterday, the mission having failed. This is the third time that the Albanian Government finds itself faced by a refusal on the part of Yugoslavia to open up pourparlers. One mission was sent last year to Belgrade, and another sought to open up conversations at Scutari with the Serbian agent, M. Mishitch. On each occasion the Serbians have declined to go on with the negotiations, seeing that Albania was bent upon maintaining her neutrality; for M. Pashitch claims that one must be either the ally of Yugoslavia or else her enemy.

The difficulties with Greece have not taken on an acute character, but still remain in a state of simmer, so to say. The Albanian request to the League of Nations, that Yugoslav and Greek troops may be compelled to evacuate her territory, appears to have caused annoyance to Greece, who is reported to have refused the League's invitation in the first place. But in the end the Athens Government decided to send delegates to Geneva. The Albanian delegate, Monseigneur Fan Noli, left Durazzo yesterday evening.

Parties in Parliament.

Already two parties have been formed in Parliament: The People's Party (*Populloré*), led by Mgr. Fan Noli, and

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the Progressist (*Perparimtare*) Party, whose leader is M. Mehdi Frasheri, Minister of the Interior. There are also some deputies who wish to form an Independent Party. A point worth mentioning is that the Progressist Party appears to be more conservative than its rival; but we must wait for the debates on the new measures proposed to learn the real tendencies of the parties.

Albanian Representative for London.

As most of your readers are doubtless aware, Albania has hitherto been represented in Paris and in London by delegations. I learn that Dr. Michael Tourtoulis, one of the four members of the Supreme Council, has just been appointed Albanian Minister Plenipotentiary in London. Dr. Tourtoulis is known for his Anglophile sentiments. His nomination and the mission entrusted to him are of good augury for the future of Albania, and it is hoped here that official relations between the two Governments will enter on a normal and very friendly era.

Methodist Mission in Albania.

Messrs. Blake, Jones, and Frank Baker, of the Methodist Mission of America—which has its headquarters in New York—arrived in Albania a few days ago. The Mission desires to establish a college in Albania, also a model farm. It is understood that the college would make a beginning with a technical school, and that various faculties would be added later on. Choice has just been made of Valona as the centre of activities of the Mission, and an agreement between it and the Government seems to be on the point of being concluded. The schools will be under the control of the local government.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, May 25.

More Memorials.

It would seem that the "union" leaders are not even yet weary of framing and submitting memorials, although their monotony is certainly tedious to many readers, and must be trying to officials of the Colonial Office. Replies should, however, presumably present little difficulty, since they, too, can hardly do more than repeat what has been quite definitely said already. The only new feature in the Greek dispatches—if it is new—is that it is now the practice to send copies to the Foreign Office at Athens, in the hope, no doubt, that the Greek Government will give its support and make representations accordingly to the British Government. A memorial signed by villagers is to be sent to the High Commissioner for transmission to London, and a copy of it to the Hellenic Government is to be taken to Athens by the acting Greek Consul, M. Artemis. Yet another protest regarding the deportation of M. Katalanos and other matters is also to be forwarded from the Secretary of State. That the Cypriot Greek Councillors should persist in imagining that the present is a time for proposing that Greece should be saddled with the administration of Cyprus shows how utterly blind they are to the actual situation, as viewed by any except those of their little insular circle of busybodies.

The Legislative Council.

The High Commissioner has summoned the Council to consider several draft laws, including one to deal with the improper use of gold and silver coins, and another to amend the law (of 1889) relating to the marriage of British subjects other than Cypriot British subjects, which the new status of the island renders necessary.

A Moslem has written to the Limassol paper *Aletheia* (*Truth*) to contradict a statement that for forty years the Turkish members of Council had invariably voted with the British official members. This, he says, is a very erroneous assertion. The Turks have always voted for measures which they have honestly believed to be for the real benefit of the island, and have often joined forces with the Greeks, e.g., in advocating measures for economy.

General News.

A large number of lands situated within the delimited State forests, but recognised as private properties, which had been placed under Government protection, have now been declared free of such care and control. They are mostly in the Famagusta district.

The results of the island census should be of interest, and are expected to show a very satisfactory increase. Public health is good, and does credit to Government vigilance and to the quarantine restrictions which are observed against Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Asia Minor, and Syria, on account of plague, cholera, smallpox, and typhus.

Athletic sports are being held in various parts of the island, and have succeeded to a good football season, now very popular, during which a number of matches have been played between the military garrison and various clubs and schools of the different communities.

GREAT BRITAIN AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

MR. CHURCHILL'S STATEMENT.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, June 14, Mr. Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for the Colonies, made his long-expected statement regarding British policy in the Middle East. He said:—

I must make my starting point this afternoon the obligation and responsibility into which this country has entered in the Middle East, and which, in accordance with the policy of the Government, I am endeavouring to discharge. During the war our Eastern Armies conquered Palestine and Mesopotamia. They over-ran both these provinces of the Turkish Empire, and in order to gain the support of as many of the local inhabitants as possible, pledges were given that Turkish rule should not be reintroduced in those regions. In order to gain the support of the Arabs against the Turks, we, in common with our Allies, made during the war another series of promises to the Arabs of the reconstitution of the Arab nation, and, as far as possible, of a restoration of Arab influence and authority in the conquered provinces. In regard to Palestine, a third promise of a very important character was made on behalf of the Government by the Lord President of the Council on November 2, 1917. It was that Great Britain, if successful in the war, would use her best endeavours to establish a Jewish national home in Palestine. Under decisions arising out of the Treaties of Versailles and Sèvres, we have accepted before the world the position of Mandatory Power over Palestine and Mesopotamia. We are at this moment in possession of these countries; we have destroyed the form of government which existed there, and we must endeavour to do our duty in a sober and honourable manner. We cannot lightly repudiate these undertakings; we cannot move our Armies hastily to the coast and leave the population a prey to anarchy and confusion of the worst description. It is no use consuming time and energy at this stage in debating whether we were wise or unwise in contracting that obligation. We were bound to make a sincere and resolute effort to redeem it; and whether the course be popular or unpopular, it is the only course which any British Government or British House of Commons would in the end find itself able to pursue.

The obligation was, Mr. Churchill continued, not an unlimited one. A point might be reached when we should have to declare that we had failed, and that we were not justified in demanding further sacrifices from the British taxpayer; that the condition of our finances or our military resources were such that we could do no more. That would be a very humiliating and melancholy confession to have to make, and, after giving the most careful consideration to the whole subject, he did not think it would be true to say, at the present time, either that we had failed or that our resources did not enable us to discharge our obligations. On the contrary, he believed that it was our duty to persevere, and he hoped that by persevering we might find an honourable and inextricable and ultimately a prosperous issue from our affairs. But if we were to avoid the shame of failure to bring our enterprises to a satisfactory conclusion, the only key lay in the reduction of expenditure on those countries within reasonable and practicable limits.

He found it impossible from the War Office to enforce the military reductions in Mesopotamia, because they depended absolutely upon political action exercised by other departments. He therefore pressed most strongly that the Middle East should be placed under a single Minister, directly responsible to Parliament, and having a separate Estimate presented to Parliament. The Middle East Department was set up under the Colonial Office in December last, and after being pressed most strongly by the Prime Minister, he agreed to accept the post of Colonial Minister.

Finding it impossible to arrange by telegram for the reduction of expenditure, he convened a conference at Cairo of the British authorities concerned in the affairs of the Middle East. At that conference conclusions were unanimously reached which, if they succeeded, would achieve the essential conditions of reduction that he had set before himself as the paramount object. At any rate, within the whole Arabian peninsula they had a



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single clear policy upon which all the authorities, military and civil, were agreed.

At the Armistice there were in Mesopotamia and Palestine over 700,000 persons (soldiers, followers, and refugees) upon our pay list and ration strength. Counting in battalions, the Army numbered 175 battalions. During the financial year 1919-20 the expenditure upon these two countries was between 70 and 80 millions sterling. At the beginning of the financial year 1920-21 the numbers had been reduced to 250,000, or a scale of 70 battalions, and the expenditure fell to 40 millions sterling. Owing to the outbreak of the rebellion in Mesopotamia last year two divisions had to be brought back from India, and the present financial year opened with a total of 200,000 persons on our pay lists in Palestine and Mesopotamia, or, not counting 30,000 refugees, a military force of 48 battalions. When all the reductions decided upon by the Government had been effected there would still be an estimated expenditure this year of 35 millions sterling. At the Cairo conference he had the help of the most able soldiers responsible on the spot, as well as representatives of the General Staff, and no violence had been done to responsible military opinion. It was determined immediately to reduce the garrison in Mesopotamia from a 33-battalion scale to a 23-battalion scale, and that reduction would be completed by July 15. They also decided upon a further prospective reduction, after October 1, to a 12-battalion scale; upon the immediate disposal of surplus stores in Mesopotamia, and upon a reduction in the number of horses from 47,000 on April 1 to 17,000 on August 1—a large number of them having to be destroyed, as they could not be transported elsewhere or provided with decent homes among the natives—and also upon a large reduction in the number of followers and native labour. All this would effect a total saving of £5,500,000, with an additional saving of £500,000 obtained by a further scrutiny of the estimates. Against these savings there were to be set certain other charges, representing a total of nearly £2,000,000, making a net total reduction of £4,500,000.

While he was still at Cairo the Cabinet decided that the War Office should anticipate the result of the savings up to a sum of over £4,000,000, and the Army Estimates were presented to Parliament on that basis; and as a consequence the actual net reduction which he was able to submit to the House that day amounted only to a further £379,000 over and above the £4,250,000. The total expenses of these two countries during the present year were therefore not £35,000,000 but £27,250,000. If the arrangements they were making were successful, and if the policy which rendered them possible were carried out, and if their anticipations were not overthrown by events, he expected and proposed that the Estimates for 1922-23 for the normal current expenditure of both Palestine and Mesopotamia would not exceed £9,000,000 or £10,000,000. If this further saving of approximately £18,000,000 could really be achieved, it would constitute a very considerable relief to the British taxpayer.

Let them now see what was the policy and what were the methods by which they hoped to achieve this enormous reduction in military strength and expenditure, while at the same time carrying out the obligations and pledges into which they had entered. He would take Mesopotamia first. In June of last year the High Commissioner of Mesopotamia was directed by His Majesty's Government to announce the early setting up of a distinct Arab Government under an Arab ruler. That declaration they had already, to a very great extent, carried out. A Provisional Government, which had been in existence for a good many months, had been formed by Sir Percy Cox, under the headship of the Nakeeb of Baghdad. It was their intention to replace this Provisional Government, in the course of the summer, by a Government based on an Assembly elected by the people of Irak, to instal an Arab ruler acceptable to the Assembly, and to create an Arab Army for national defence. They had no intention of forcing upon the people of Irak a ruler not of their own choosing. At the same time, as the Mandatory Power, they could not remain indifferent in a matter so vital to them. He thought he was right in leaving these matters entirely in the hands of Sir Percy Cox, who was a great believer in the Arabs, who was acquainted with every aspect of Arab politics, and was accustomed to deal with the Arab notabilities. He hoped that under his guidance the people of Irak would make a wise and at the same time a free choice.

He felt it necessary, in consultation with his advisers, to state quite plainly the view which the British Government took of what would be the best choice of ruler. There were two possible policies. One was to keep the Arabs divided, which had been done with some success by the Turks; the other was the sincere fulfilment of the pledges we gave to the Arabs during the war. If we were to endeavour so to shape Arab affairs in the sense of giving satisfaction to Arab nationalists, we should find the very best, in fact the only, structure to build around which was available was the house and family and following of the Shereef of Mecca. It was King Hussein who, in the crisis of the war, declared war on the Turks and raised the Arab standard. Around that standard gathered his four notable sons, of whom Emir Abdullah and Emir Faisal were perhaps the best known, and the notabilities of the Arab world. With them at our side we fought. With them at our side Lord Allenby hurled the Turks from Palestine. Both the Emir Abdullah and the Emir Faisal had great influence in Irak. Both among the military and the religious classes. The adherents of the Emir Faisal in Irak had sent him an invitation to Mesopotamia to present himself to the people and to the Assembly which was soon to gather; and King Hussein had accorded his son permission to accept the invitation. The Emir Abdullah had re-

nounced his claims. He (the speaker) had caused Emir Faisal to be informed, in answer to his inquiry, that no obstacle would be placed in the way of his candidature, that he was at liberty to proceed forthwith to Mesopotamia, and that, if he was chosen, he would receive the countenance and support of Great Britain. The Emir Faisal was now on his journey to Mesopotamia, where he would arrive in about ten days. They must then see how opinion formed itself, and what was the view of the National Assembly when it was elected. He could not attempt to predict the course of events, but he did not hesitate to say that if the Emir Faisal should be acceptable to the people and to the Assembly, that solution would be one which offered, in the opinion of the highest authorities on whom he was relying, the best prospects of a happy and prosperous outcome.

There had lately arisen, however, in Irak, and particularly in the Busreh province, a considerable movement in the direction of continuing British rule. That reflected great credit on Sir Percy Cox; but we could not continue those direct responsibilities. He could not say with regard to Mesopotamia that there were primary direct strategic British interests involved. The defence of India could be better conducted from her strategic frontier. Our policy in Mesopotamia was to reduce our commitments and extricate ourselves from our burdens, while at the same time honourably discharging our obligations and building up an effective Arab Government which would always be the friend of Britain and, he would add, the friend of France. We were leaning strongly towards what he might call a Sherifian solution, both in Mesopotamia and Trans-Jordan, where the Emir Abdullah was now in charge. We were also giving aid to the Shereef of Mecca, whose finances had been grievously affected by the interruption of pilgrimage, in which our Mohammedan fellow-subjects were so deeply interested, and which we desired to see resumed. The repercussion of this Sherifian policy on other Arab chiefs must be carefully watched. In the vast deserts of Arabia there were powerful nomadic tribes at the head of which was a remarkable chief Ameer Ibn Saud who had long been in a state of warfare with King Hussein and his neighbours generally. A large number of his followers belonged to the Wahabi sect which bore, roughly speaking, the same relation to orthodox Islam as the most militant forms of Calvinism would have borne to Rome in the fiercest times of the religious wars. This sect professed a life of exceeding austerity, and what they practised themselves they ruthlessly enforced on others. They held it as an article of duty as well as of faith to kill all who did not share their opinions, and to make slaves of their wives and children. Women had been put to death in Wahabi villages for simply appearing in the streets, and it was a penal offence to wear a silk gown. Men had been killed for smoking cigarettes, and as for the hatred of alcohol, the most energetic supporter of the temperance cause in this country fell far behind them. Austere, intolerant, well-armed, and blood-thirsty, in their own region they were a distinct factor which must be taken into account. They had often been, and they still were, very dangerous to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina and the whole institution of the Pilgrimage. Their chief had shown himself well disposed towards Great Britain, and was in intimate relations with Sir Percy Cox. The Government had arranged to continue the subsidy of £60,000 a year, together with a lump sum of £20,000, which was the cost of a single battalion of infantry. This subsidy would be paid monthly in arrears, contingent on the maintenance of peace and order externally. It must be understood that the granting of this subsidy gave the chief the power to establish that order on which control depended. We should pay only in so far as good behaviour was assured. If injury was done, a deduction would be made from the subsidy of the aggressor, and would be handed over as compensation to the victim. King Hussein had expressed his willingness to enter into negotiation with this chief. If we were successful in our plans, by the end of the financial year the Arab ruler and Government would be installed in Baghdad.

Before Sir Percy Cox left Baghdad he intimated to the Turks that, in anticipation of the plebiscite which was provided for them in the Treaty of Sevres, he would continue to administer Kurdistan direct. The Kurds did not appreciate the prospect of being ruled by the Arab Government. They had instituted inquiries throughout the Kurdish area, and the result had been to confirm the view that the people of Southern Kurdistan would only accept union with Irak if they were dealt with by the High Commissioner direct. Therefore Sir Percy Cox would perform a dual function in regard to Irak and Kurdistan. He trusted that under his influence Southern Kurdistan and Irak would be drawn closer together; but in the meantime they were developing the principle of Home Rule for Irak within the general area of Mesopotamia at the same time as they were developing the general self-government of Mesopotamia. In proportion as the Arab Government grew strong and efficient they would hope to reduce the forces they had in that country, even below the limit he had mentioned, till ultimately the main, if not the whole, responsibility for order would be assumed by the Arab ruler and Government, with the possible assistance of the Kurdish levies, which would furnish a most valuable bulwark against infiltrations from Kemalist or Bolshevik sources. When the Arab Government had been set up and a ruler chosen they were prepared to enter into negotiations with that ruler to enable them to readjust their relations with Mesopotamia upon a treaty basis—that was, recognising in a much more direct form the independence and still further disengaging ourselves from the problems, burdens, and responsibilities of these embarrassing regions. About £1,252,000 of the £7,000,000 or £8,000,000 of the normal cost of military and aviation arrangements for Mesopotamia was for the Air Force, and the rest for levies and certain subsidies.

The Committee might ask if he guaranteed that these arrangements would actually work and would permit the great reductions in the garrisons to be made without leading to a renewal of disorder and of war. He could give no guarantee. All he could say was that he believed they were the best arrangements that could be contrived, that they had gathered behind them a very general measure of support among the experts, military, civil, and aerial, who had been concerned in making them. The High Commissioner was prepared to go forward on that basis, and the military authorities were in accord. If they succeeded they would relieve the Exchequer of an immense burden and ultimately lead up to a condition where the country would be self-supporting. The carrying out of that policy would require great skill and prudence as well as resolution from Sir Percy Cox and from the military and civil authorities concerned.

The Arab Army was already partly formed under Ja'afar Pasha, the Mesopotamian Secretary for War, who had a most dramatic career. He began by fighting against us in the Dardanelles and received the German Iron Cross. Then he commanded the Army of the Senussi against us in the Western Desert. He won two battles against us, but the third went amiss from his point of view, and he was wounded and pursued by the Dorsetshire Yeomanry; and finally he was caught and imprisoned in the Citadel at Cairo. In trying to escape, the rope by which he was endeavouring to descend from the walls broke, and he was precipitated into the ditch. While in hospital he read in the papers that the Shereef of Mecca had declared war on the Turks, and immediately he saw he was on the other side. As the result of representations to the Arab leaders at Mecca, he was given a command, and distinguished himself greatly in the next two years. He was finally given the command of St. Michael and St. George by Lord Allenby in a hollow square of British troops, composed almost entirely of the Dorsetshire Yeomanry, which had ridden him down. Such was the personality of the Mesopotamian Minister of War.

The cost of the Arab Army would be defrayed from Mesopotamian revenue, but there were in addition Arab levies which would be gradually absorbed into the Arab Army, as well as Kurdish and Assyrian levies, which he had endeavoured to form out of the refugees who had long enjoyed our hospitality. This force was engaged in taking over and holding the stations from which British troops had been withdrawn. Behind these levies and the Arab Army there would stand at the end of the year about twelve battalions of British infantry. These, with their auxiliary units, would be sufficient to hold the vital communications of Baghdad and the river communications which connected it with the sea. Last of all, there were arrangements for maintaining public security by means of a powerful air force. There were at present six squadrons of aeroplanes in Mesopotamia, and next year two more would be added.

The air service was in reserve, but they hoped by its agency to be able to keep in amicable touch with the troops of the local centres and to ward off in good time movements of unrest, to sustain and if necessary relieve detached posts, to keep political officers in close relation with their districts, and to maintain a reasonable degree of order in the country. There was also a squadron of the Air Force in Palestine, and three squadrons in Egypt. Arrangements were being made which would make it possible for aeroplanes to fly regularly to and fro across the desert between Baghdad and Cairo. Once this route across the desert had been marked out, and it was possible for it to be flown in the regular course of affairs, the whole of the Air Force in Mesopotamia could be speedily transported to Palestine or Egypt or vice versa and be sent to reinforce the Air Force in Mesopotamia. That might be the means of securing the total reduction of the aggregate number of squadrons they would have to employ. He was counting on friendly sentiment in the desert; he had every reason to believe they would get it. Arrangements could be made to fly a certain number of commercial aeroplanes, which could carry mails and possibly passengers, and incidentally afford a most valuable link in the chain of Imperial communications.

He turned to Palestine. At the present time the problem there was more acute than in Mesopotamia, but it was a much smaller problem in a military sense. The only cause of unrest in Palestine arose from the Zionist movement and from our promises and pledges in regard to it. But for those promises and that movement the British garrison maintained in Palestine could be sensibly reduced. At the end of last year our forces there were reduced from a ration strength of 16,000 to one of 7,000, giving a combatant strength of 5,000. That was the number there at the present time. He could not hold out any hope of diminishing that force in the immediate future. On the contrary, it was possible it might require some slight reinforcement. The total cost to which we were put on this account in Palestine last year was £6,500,000, and this present year it would be £4,500,000. But of that £4,500,000, £2,000,000 represented the repatriation and demobilisation charges on the very large body of Indian troops which had now evacuated the country. The expense of the British military garrison would be £2,500,000 next year. It was not quite fair to say that that expense could all be reduced if, for instance, they had not got Palestine, because the bulk of the troops in Palestine were regular British units, and if they were not stationed in Palestine it was probable that they would be stationed elsewhere, unless this House were to embark on a further policy of disbanding the pre-war units of the British Army. But still, there it was, and he was not at all minimising the difficulties of the problem.

Let them see how they stood towards the Jews and the Arabs of Palestine. Mr. Balfour's declaration, endorsed by the Supreme Council of the Allies at San Remo and incorporated in the draft mandate, would shortly come before the League of Nations. The

difficulty about the promise of a national home for the Jews in Palestine was that it conflicted with our regular policy of consulting the wishes of the people of a mandated territory and giving them representative institutions as soon as the people were fitted for them. With such institutions they would certainly veto all further Jewish immigration. Numerous and vexatious though the difficulties were, he believed that with coolness, patience, and a little good fortune we should be able to find our way. The British Empire had been built up by optimism, by positive assertions rather than bare negations. There were in Palestine 500,000 Moslems, 65,000 Christians, and about 65,000 Jews. The Jewish immigration and propaganda had greatly excited and alarmed the Arab population, who feared that Jews would come principally from Central Europe, and especially Russia, in scores of thousands, swamp them, push them off their land, and eventually gain control of the country's institutions and defence. Those fears were quite illusory.

The Zionists, in order to obtain the enthusiasm and support which they required, were bound to state their case with the fullest ardour and hope, and it was those declarations which alarmed the Arabs. Sir Herbert Samuel, a skilful, experienced, Liberal politician, was also a most ardent Zionist, and he (Mr. Churchill) was following with confidence Sir Herbert's actions and giving him all possible support in his difficult task. Sir H. Samuel had lately had made a further declaration to the people of Palestine stating his interpretation of the words "a national home" as used in the pledge given by the British in 1917 to be that the Jews, who were scattered throughout the world but whose hearts were always turned to Palestine, would be able to come there and develop the country to the advantage of all its inhabitants. There was really nothing for the Arabs to be frightened about. Jewish immigration was being watched as regards both numbers and character. No Jews would be brought in beyond the number which could be provided for by the expanding development of the resources of the country. At present it was greatly under-populated. Anyone who had seen the work of the Jewish colonies established in Palestine during the last 20 or 30 years would be struck by the results shown, and he defied anybody who had seen that work not to feel that the British Government, having taken up their present position, could not cast it aside and allow it to be brutally and rudely overturned by fanatical attacks of the Arab population. With a proper development of the resources of Palestine, and if capital were available for the creation of irrigation works on the Jordan, there would be, year by year, new means of a good livelihood for a moderate number of Jewish immigrants, and that would inure to the well-being of the whole community. We could not agree to allow the Jewish colonies to be wrecked and future immigration to be stopped without definitely accepting the position that the word of Britain no longer counted in the East. If representative institutions were conceded to the inhabitants of Palestine, some definite arrangement would have to be made to safeguard within reasonable limits the immigration of Jews into the country.

In Trans-Jordan, where there were no British troops, a state of continuous disorder had prevailed for the last two years. It was necessary to bring that region under some form of settled government, not only from our point of view, but from that of the French. We had had recourse to the good offices of the Emir Abdullah, with whom he had a long conference at Jerusalem. The Emir had undertaken to maintain order in Trans-Jordan and to restrain hostile action against the French. The British Government were assisting the Emir, and an air squadron and a few armoured cars were available for his support. So far those arrangements had been successful. The Emir Abdullah had maintained an absolutely correct attitude, both towards us and the French, and if he found it necessary to lay down the charge which we had persuaded him to take up, he trusted it would be possible to find another Arab ruler who would assume it.

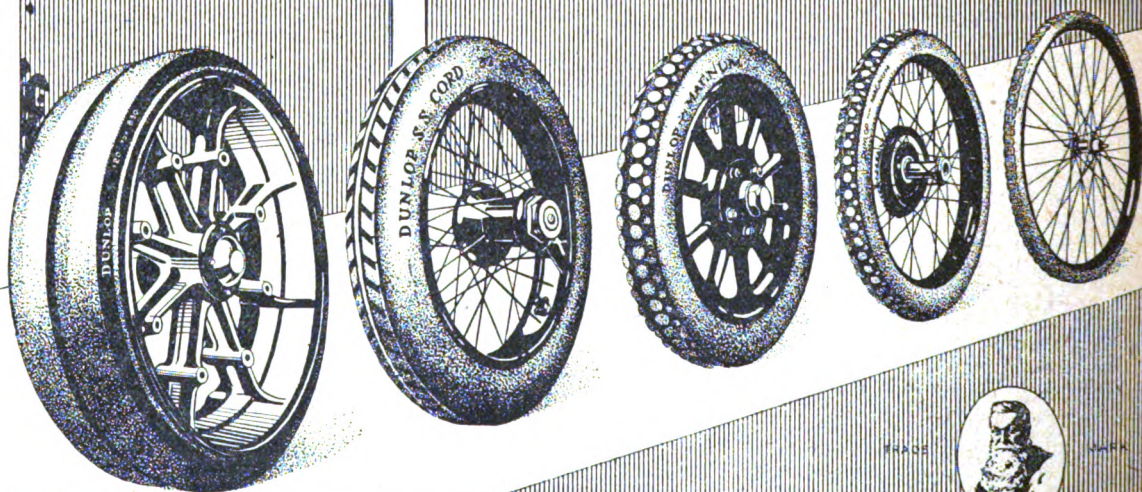
The general policy which we are pursuing, Mr. Churchill continued, is in no way opposed to the interests of France. On the contrary, it is the surest method open to us of securing France from disturbance in Syria by Arab influences with which she has unhappily disagreed. There is, unfortunately, an undercurrent of recrimination among the French and British officials in the Middle East. This does not extend to those in responsible positions on either side, and will, I am sure, be firmly repressed by superior authority wherever it manifests itself. It would be deeply injurious to both if France and Great Britain should be unable to act together in the Middle East. It would be absolutely fatal to our joint interests if the impression were to continue, as it has done during the last two years, that one country was indifferent to Arab aspirations and the other especially opposed to the Turks. In such a way we should unite all the forces in these lands in hostility against us at the time when we wished to reduce our military forces and the heavy expense to which both countries are put thereby. If we wish to maintain our position and discharge our responsibilities in the Middle East, England and France must act together and pursue a policy of appeasement and friendship towards both Turks and Arabs.

The policy he had been endeavouring to explain was animated throughout by a sincere desire to establish a solid community of interests between the Arabs on the one hand, and Great Britain and her Allies on the other. But all these efforts would be frustrated and brought to naught unless we could combine with that a peaceful and lasting settlement with Turkey. It was not to be expected that such a settlement could be reached by the exhibition of absolute powerlessness on the part of Great Britain and France. We must have the means of defending our vital interests; we must show that we possess these means, and that, in the last resort, we are capable of using them. Otherwise there

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was no limit to the extent of the humiliation and maltreatment which will be inflicted on those victorious Allies. If we showed ourselves incapable of defending ourselves, we should not get that peaceful settlement which was our goal.

The paramount object which we must pursue, are pursuing, and have pursued for many months, said Mr. Churchill, has been to secure a real and lasting peace with Turkey. It is only upon the basis of such a peace that the prospect I have held out of substantial abatements in the heavy charges which will fall on both countries can be realised. I am bound to bring this matter before the House, as it is fundamental to the whole of the argument I have made and the policy we are endeavouring to pursue. Such is the counsel which I respectfully offer to the Committee. I cannot say with certainty that the unknown future which lies before us will enable this policy of reduction and of peace to be carried out with complete satisfaction, but I do believe that the measures we are taking are well calculated to that end, and I advise the Committee to give us their support in the difficult and delicate process of reduction and of conciliation which lies before us, and on which we are already definitely embarked.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Mr. Churchill's Speech.

Below we give some extracts from various articles which appeared on June 15, the day following Mr. Winston Churchill's speech on the Middle East.

The *Daily News* hails the speech with general praise. It says:—

In his picturesque and lively survey of the whole Middle East problem yesterday Mr. Churchill did at least succeed in laying down a policy. After the two years of planless drift that followed the Armistice, that in itself is something. But it is due to the Colonial Secretary to go further and give him credit for making himself responsible not merely for a policy, but for a sound policy. The Middle East means more than Palestine and Mesopotamia, but it means these two countries pre-eminently, and of the two Mesopotamia is the more perplexing problem. Palestine is strategically much more simple to handle; it is in a more advanced state of political development, and since the Balfour declaration of 1917 as the national home for the Jews, one of the main planks in our Palestinian policy has been laid down in the eyes of the world. In regard to Mesopotamia, the dangers and the responsibilities are much greater. Since the Armistice nearly every conceivable mistake that could be made has been made. Being pledged, at any rate, since the acceptance of the mandate for Mesopotamia, to set up an Arab government and confine our part to what is described as "administrative advice and assistance," we proceeded to tie down a nomadic tribal population under an army of bureaucrats on the Indian Civil Service model, with the result that the military expenditure involved in holding down a country theoretically almost autonomous amounted to roughly £35,000,000 a year. All that Mr. Churchill, or Sir Percy Cox, or Colonel Lawrence, or all three, in co-operation, is going to change. An Assembly is to meet and choose its own ruler. Its choice will apparently be free, though Mr. Churchill yesterday gave a strong lead in favour of the Emir Feisal, who would beyond doubt prove more effective than any other probable candidate. Apart from that—though it is not legitimate to press this consideration very far—the fact of Feisal's relationship to his brother Abdullah and his father Hussein would make for stability in the East in other regions than Mesopotamia. Whatever the choice of Mesopotamia may be, two declarations made by the Colonial Secretary are much to be welcomed. We are not under any circumstances going to stay and rule Mesopotamia ourselves, and we are not going to regard Mesopotamia as a strategic frontier of India.

The *Times*, on the other hand, is more critical, commenting on Mr. Churchill's "bold attempt to reconcile his schemes for the administration of Mesopotamia, Kurdistan, and Palestine with the exigencies of our financial situation." It continues:—

His whole argument is too hypothetical to admit of summary acceptance or rejection, and his assurances are qualified by so many "ifs" and "buts" that they fail, at first sight, to carry conviction. His speech leaves an impression that he is building upon foundations dangerously unstable, and that he is incurring contingent liabilities which, should they eventuate, this country might not be able to sustain. There is, moreover, a disconcerting air of topsy-turvydom about his structure. While we agree with his conclusions that it would be absolutely fatal to the joint interests of England and France were they unable to act together in the Middle East, and that a real and lasting peace with Turkey must be a principal object of our policy, we cannot affect to feel confidence in a Middle Eastern policy obviously inspired by the very influences which encouraged friction between France and England in the Middle East, and failed from the beginning to perceive that, as regards the Arab world and Turkey, the substantial interests of the two countries are coincident. The British force which he proposes to maintain in Mesopotamia seems too large to be compatible with a sound financial policy, and too small to be effective in case of trouble, despite air patrols and provision for reinforcement by aeroplane. Upon the question of Palestine many of his statements were sound, some less sound, and others, in our view, erroneous. We

doubt, in particular, whether he has really understood the meaning of the Zionist movement or the nature of the difficulties that have been created in Palestine, or the consequences of Sir Herbert Samuel's failure to deal energetically with them.

The *Daily Telegraph* does not in any way criticise the proposals, and appears generally to approve of them.

The *Morning Post* entitles its article "Arabia—Felix aut Infelix," and proceeds sharply to criticise British policy in Palestine, for "that policy is, as we need hardly explain, a Jewish policy."

Now Mr. Winston Churchill admits—and, indeed, it would be idle to deny—that "there was more danger of trouble in Palestine than there was in Mesopotamia." And he admits also—that also cannot be denied—that "the cause of unrest in Palestine, and the only cause, arose from the Zionist movement." But when he goes on to say that "there is really nothing for the Arabs to be frightened about," he is not perhaps upon such firm ground of veracity. It may be true that Jewish immigration is now being, as he says, "carefully watched and controlled"; but the position is that the Arabs of Palestine have been put under a Jewish Government; and that the Jews have boasted that Palestine is to become "as Jewish as England is English."

It proceeds to enumerate certain Arab grievances, and concludes:—

Such, then, is the Arab case; and what does Mr. Churchill oppose to it? There is really nothing which he opposes to it but vague reassurances, and the statement that a considerable British garrison is to be kept in Palestine. Our garrison in Mesopotamia is to be reduced because there we are in harmony with the native population; but, so far as we can gather, there is no prospect of any substantial reduction in the garrison of Palestine. And we see that Zionists are demanding that no Arab units are to be raised for the Palestine Defence Force, but that Palestine is to be held by a "British garrison, including a strong Jewish contingent." Palestine, in fact, is to be held under a military heel—not exactly a "Modernist" policy, we should have thought—and dangerous also, since the Arabs of Palestine are part of that Moslem world with which England has no desire to quarrel.

The *Manchester Guardian*, which begins by calling Mr. Churchill "a politician with whom no Government seems able to dispense," sets out, before judging the speech, our commitments to the Arabs, and finds that our motives in Mesopotamia, though mixed, were not unworthy. Its final paragraph contains a suggestion:—

Is it now too late to find a better course than simply scuttling from Mesopotamia, confessing our failure, cutting our losses, and abandoning our undertakings? Mr. Churchill thinks there is a middle way. In a speech notably careful, for him, he estimates that we can bring down our Mesopotamian expenditure next year from its present swollen figure of some twenty-eight millions to nearer ten, if the work of policing and organising the country can be taken off our hands by the Arabs themselves, and if we can settle them under a ruler of their own choice whom they will respect and obey. For this post Feisal has been approached, and the consent of his father, King Hussein, has been obtained to his candidature. A national assembly of Irak will shortly be held to choose a ruler. If they elect and follow Feisal the whole prestige of the Shereefian family will be vested in the new kingship, and a hopeful step towards a united Mesopotamia will have been taken. That, in brief, is Mr. Churchill's plan and hope for lightening our burdens and carrying out our promises in that land. It ignores one overshadowing consideration which his critics were quick to remember. If we continue to back and to establish the Arab, and if France, on the other hand, aims in the Middle East mainly at accommodating the Turk, we may yet find ourselves in honour bound to assist Feisal, or whoever rules Mesopotamia, against the invasion from the north of a Pan-Turkish Kemalist army seeking to profit by the division in European counsels on Middle Eastern questions and to restore Turkey's rule once more from the Levant to the Persian Gulf. Mr. Churchill's plan is the ideal one, no doubt, and all of us will hope that it may prove feasible. But even he unfolded it with an unusual lack of decision and was bogged in a welter of "ifs" as he advanced. A more practical view will not fail to realise that it is not by the enthroning of Feisal, or the slow transference of government to the Arabs, that the future of Mesopotamia can be assured. For that a common policy towards the Turk by France and England is the essential.

Article to Note.

"Quo Vadis Europa. V. From Belgrade." By Stephen Graham. in *Country Life* (June 11).

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MUSICAL NOTES.

The British Music Society Congress.

Last year, when the British Music Society held its first congress, I mentioned in this journal how good an institution it is to join, especially for foreign readers who may find it difficult to keep in touch with recent musical developments in this country; and now that the second Congress week has come and gone, I should like once more to impress upon readers the advisability of joining the Society.

During the week June 13 to June 18 many things were done, most of them good and a few bad. Nothing could have been better, for instance, than to get Mr. John Coates to give the first of three historical song-recitals under the auspices of the Society, for if there is anyone who can demonstrate how far advanced musically England was in Tudor, Elizabethan, and Stuart times it is this inimitable singer. Mr. Coates does indulge in a few illegitimacies, but nobody minds, so rarely refreshing is his personality. Again, no one, so well as Mrs. Gordon Woodhouse, who with the English Singers gave a recital of old English music, can prove the supremacy of English keyboard compositions in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, for her harpsichord playing is faultless. And, further, what modern English composers have already achieved in the writing of chamber music was convincingly shown by the English String Quartet in works of Bridge, Hurlstone, and Vaughan Williams. (This concert, by the bye, was made memorable by some extraordinarily fine playing by Miss Marjorie Hayward and Mr. Harold Samuel in the first two movements of Ireland's first violin sonata, a work which normally seems much inferior to the second.) But on the other hand there were mistakes. The first was in the orchestral concert consisting wholly of British works, for owing to insufficient rehearsal the orchestra was not well enough acquainted with the works, with the unlucky result that Eugene Goossens' "The Eternal Rhythm" seemed too long and Holst's "The Planets" wearisomely commonplace. (Incidentally, it will need a very different performance from that which Mr. Adrian Boult was able to secure from the British Symphony Orchestra to convince me that "The Planets" has many of the epoch-making ideas that are claimed for it. However, this is not the place to discuss the merits and demerits of the work.) Another and more serious error was the inclusion, at an orchestral plebiscite concert, of some American music by J. A. Carpenter, W. Damrosch, and McDowell, and of Mr. Damrosch as its conductor. Mr. Damrosch is no conductor, and for the mysterious sake of international courtesies we had better leave it at that. But it will take Mr. John Alden Carpenter a very long time to live down the impression he has caused by the creation of a series of the most tiresome puerilities, called "Adventures in a Perambulator." Stuff turned out by American machinery and interpreted by an American mechanic is not the thing to convince people that the British Music Society has that earnest purpose which we know it to have, and we hope profoundly that in future years such erring gallantries will be omitted.

Stravinsky.

A great opportunity arose during the past week of making up one's mind about Stravinsky—possibly the most discussed composer of our time—for at the Queen's Hall on June 7 Mr. Eugene Goossens conducted "Le Sacre du Printemps" and on June 10 M. Kussevisky the "Symphony for Wind Instruments," which is written to the memory of Claude Debussy. Before the "Sacre" Mr. Goossens had given us glorious performances of the "Spanish Fantasy" of Berners (the last movement of which, the Pasodoblé, was done with unforgettable brilliance), Ireland's prelude, "The Forgotten Rite," and Ravel's overlong "La Valse"; yet fine as all these things were, they were overshadowed by the Stravinsky. It is useless to quarrel with Stravinsky's method (or with anybody's, for that matter), for here undoubtedly was a personality, sometimes inspiring, sometimes awful, and sometimes unpleasant. The rhythmic genius of the work one is tempted to call unparalleled; certainly it was the rhythm and little else that moved one. One cannot like or dislike such work, for one's ordinary feelings are not touched. If one can imagine verse written with the primitive vigour of C. M. Doughty, with the directness of Bart Kennedy, and with the curiously individual perversities of Rimbaud, one might get somewhere near the "Sacre"; but one will be wiser after hearing Mr. Goossens conduct it again at the Queen's Hall on June 23.

In speaking of the "Symphony for Wind Instruments," one can be bolder, however imperfectly it may have been played. For in this work it is the methods of the composer which distract the attention, because there are no results worth considering. Here the passion for independence, and the pernicious desire (instead of the inevitable impulse) for

unprecedented sounds, have led Stravinsky to create an incomprehensible series of noises. One is inclined to think that he has reached a stage, well known in the history of some geniuses, which his admirers may call prophetic, but to which others may give a less charitable name, a stage where the wilful coincides with the purposeless.

A Novel Concerto.

There is probably no English composer who has further explored the combinations of unusual timbres than Arthur Bliss, who himself conducted his new concerto for piano-forte and tenor voice at the Wigmore Hall on June 11. In this concerto the voice is given words of fine sound but of no meaning, and the whole thing is to be regarded as abstract music. Now Bliss has been too successful in his past researches (and notably in the second rhapsody, in which soprano and tenor voices are used instrumentally) for this, his latest effort, not to be taken as he means it; but, all the same, it proved impossible at the first hearing not to listen for the words of the voice, to the consequent detriment of the experiment. In time, no doubt, one could listen to the voice merely as a producer of sound, like the other instruments. The combination of voice, piano-forte, strings, and percussion was brilliantly made, with that joyously keen impulse which Bliss possesses abundantly. Repetition of the work, which is certainly merited, alone can show whether the use of words, which, of course, helps the voice, helps also the larger scheme. I rather think that they will prove to be a distraction, and that wordless syllables would have been better.

Mr. Arthur Rubinstein.

Of this young pianist's ability in modern, and especially in Spanish, music I have often written in high praise. He has an exuberance of life which is very exciting, if not moving; and his technical command is particularly great in colour and in tone. His playing at his last recital at Queen's Hall on June 11 of a study and prelude of Szymanowski, and then of this composer's "Serenade de Don Juan" was extremely lucid, and, besides forcing home the inexplicable neglect of the Pole in this country, showed us that the later Szymanowski is no more like the earlier one than the later Rachmaninoff is like the composer of the C sharp minor prelude. It appears that pianists still love to play Liszt's "Liebestraum" and the "Mefisto" waltz, and I had to hear Mr. Rubinstein in them to listen to his Chopin polonaise. But the great classics suffer in this pianist's romanticising hands; and he is essentially an artist of to-day, to interpret the composers of to-day (or of a recent yesterday).

Two Singers.

Miss Ethel Frank, the American soprano, whose last recital was at the Queen's Hall on June 9, is a singer of quite uncommon refinement and perception. Moreover, she does not share with many American artists a lack of judgment in song, and for the most part her programmes are irreproachable. Her singing of Bach, Buononcini, and Mozart was delightfully fresh and reverent; and two new "Hindoo Poems" of Delage she sang with a reserve of power that at once characterised her as a musician. The "Naissance de Bouddha" is a fine song, and it was exquisitely given.

On a different plane is the singing of Miss Jenny Sonnenberg, a South African contralto, whose recital was at the Wigmore Hall on June 9. She has a voice of good volume and quality, but her breath control is comparatively weak, with the result that her words sometimes wobble. Her choice of four Strauss songs was difficult to comprehend, so sugary, so gusty, and so outworn were they: as a display of her undoubted emotional ability one would have sufficed. There was a falling off in three songs of Debussy, and her final group of English songs, which included the cheap ballad, "Lullaby," of Frederic Keel, and three of the art ballads of Frank Bridge, was scarcely chosen for its musical worth.

A Week of Scriabin.

During the past week there were no fewer than four recitals wholly devoted to the pianoforte works of Scriabin—a striking testimony to the popularity of the Russian composer in this country—though I was able to go to but one of them. That given by the pupils of George Woodhouse at the Wigmore Hall on June 9 I was particularly sorry to miss, for in it Miss Eurydice Draconis, the Greek pianist whose Scriabin recital last year was a notable event, was playing the fourth Sonata. At the Aeolian Hall, on June 9, Dr. Eaglefield-Hall lectured authoritatively on Scriabin's works, and Miss Katherine Heyman, an American pianist, played representative works of Scriabin's three periods. Miss Heyman has excellent technique; her gradations of tone are beautiful, and her appreciation of the formal originality of Scriabin's work is unusually developed. In particular, her performance of the eighth Sonata was very good indeed.

ANDANTE.

KING PETER OF THE SERBS, CROATS AND SLOVENES.

In King Peter, news of whose death reaches us as we go to press, there has passed away one of the most romantic figures of modern times, and one of the most picturesque monarchs of history. A thorough democrat, grandson of that strange character, Kara George, who was a fierce, illiterate, tempestuous peasant, but a patriot and a military genius, King Peter was the personification of the intense patriotism of his people; and even during the long years of exile he never missed an opportunity of furthering the cause which he had at heart, the freedom of his beloved compatriots, in which he employed both sword and pen. In this respect he was in striking contrast with the representatives of the rival dynasty. The brilliant debauchee King Milan and his obstinate and tyrannous son Alexander held mediæval views of the Throne, and were in many ways comparable to our Charles II. and James II. The history of their reigns is one of subservience to Austria-Hungary and oblivion of the high national ideals which are always the characteristic of the Serbian people, in spite of all their faults. But the eighteen years of King Peter's reign is a period of unceasing and strenuous endeavour and sacrifice for that very ideal. In many respects his reign recalls that of his predecessor, George Brankovitch, for both were called to the Throne late in life; both spent their declining years in fighting with all their power against enemies on all sides; and both spent many years in exile, when their country was overrun by enemy hordes, finding refuge abroad—George fleeing from the Turks to Dubrovnik (Ragusa), Peter from the Austrians and Bulgars to Salonika. And both knew that the Magyars were really their most dangerous foe.

Peter Karageorgevitch was born on June 20, 1844, at Belgrade, the eldest son of the then reigning Prince Alexander. Doomed to exile by the accession of the Obrenovitch dynasty, he went to Geneva in 1858 to be educated, and three years later to France, graduating at the military academy of Saint Cyr. In 1864 he received a commission in the French Army, and three years later passed Staff College. When the Franco-Prussian war broke out he fought as a French officer, was taken prisoner by the Germans, but succeeded in escaping by a bold dash into a river, which he swam, in mid-winter, among a shower of bullets. On rejoining the French troops he was rewarded with a Staff appointment.

Five years later there broke out at Nevesinje, in Herzegovina, the rising against the Turks, which was the first step towards the liberation of that rocky province. Peter could not resist an opportunity of fighting for Serbs on Serbian soil, and hurried off to raise a band of *komitajis*, which he led under the name of Peter Mrkonjitch. When the rising was crushed, he was hunted, with a price on his head, and his life was saved by some simple peasants, who gave him food and shelter. The old couple are still living, and last year the aged King sent them his greetings, with a memorial plate to insert in the wall of the old house.

A long period of peace now lay before the young soldier. He divided his time between Vienna, Paris, and the French Riviera, and in 1883 moved to Cettigne, where he married Princess Zorka, the eldest daughter of the then Prince Nicholas. King Peter was thus brother-in-law of the present Queen of Italy, and of the Grand Duke Nikolai Nikolaievitch of Russia. Princess Zorka died in 1890, leaving two sons and a daughter—that is, Prince George, the eldest son, who resigned his rights in favour of his younger brother, Prince Alexander, and Princess Helena, who married the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, who was murdered by Bolsheviks, and has one son.

After the death of his Consort, Prince Peter went to Geneva, where he lived quietly until 1903, when the hideous but beneficial revolution of May exterminated the Obrenovitch dynasty, thus wiping away the Royal blood feud that had been the curse of the country for three generations. On June 2 of that year the National Assembly invited Prince Peter to the Throne, which he mounted on June 12, and was crowned at Belgrade on September 8 of the following year.

With his accession a new epoch opens in Serbian history. In striking contrast with the autocratic and tyrannous régime of Alexander, King Peter was a most conscientious and strictly constitutional Sovereign. Army reforms were instituted, and preparations made for the campaign of liberation. The first step was the emancipation from the tutelage of Austria-Hungary by an economic war, which was followed in 1912 by the Balkan Alliance and the cleansing of the country of the Turks, and by the consequent Bulgar War, where the Bregalnitsa atoned for the disgrace

of Slivnitsa, the Obrenovitch's unhappy war, just as Kumanovo and Monastir avenged Kossovo.

Then came the Great War where little Serbia stood alone exposed to the onslaught of the Austrian and Magyar armies. The story has often been told how, in November, 1914, the Serbs, outnumbered and driven back to the heart of the country beyond Kosmaj, began to despair, when the old King emerged from the solitude to which he had retired after the Bulgar war. He came himself into the trenches and issued the following order: "As King and Commander-in-Chief of the Army, I release from his oath everyone to whom it is hard to fight and shed his blood for his fatherland. Whoso will, let him return in peace to his home. I remain here with those who prefer to die rather than let the enemy put our hearths to fire and sword." Then turning to a soldier near him he took his rifle and started firing at the enemy lines. Needless to say, the word went round like wildfire that the king was in the trenches with the men; the Serbs sprang forward, and sent the astonished enemy in full retreat, which rapidly turned into a rout, hurrying back to the Save; and King Peter entered his capital in triumph before the last shots were fired at the retreating Austrians, who had held the city a bare fortnight.

When, in 1915, the massed artillery of the Central Powers and the attack by the Bulgars on the flank compelled the Serbs to tread the *via dolorosa* through Albania, through snow and ice, the old King went with his army, riding on an ox-cart. Many a time the primitive conveyance was in danger of falling into the frozen torrents as they crossed the high-angled, Turkish bridges, without a parapet and floored with ice; but the devotion of his men brought him through, and in spite of his years and his rheumatism, the tough old monarch safely reached Greek territory, where he found rest and refuge. During those three years of exile he let his beard grow in token of mourning, and so few who saw him in Salonika recognised in the old gentleman with flowing white beard the smart and dapper prince of earlier years. In those days his martial bearing had made a favourable impression on the Turks, who are good judges of a man, when he paid a visit to Constantinople, being in striking contrast to that of his rival Ferdinand of Bulgaria, who required two orderlies to hold his horse.

After the liberation he was crowned "By the Grace of God and the Will of the People, King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes," though the young Crown Prince Alexander filled the office of Regent. Thus King Peter lived to see the consummation of his life's work, the emancipation and union of his people, for which he had worked in three wars, and also in peace, when, in order to educate his folk to the idea of liberty, with its privileges and responsibilities, he exchanged the sword for the pen and translated into Serb John Stuart Mill's "On Liberty."

THE RICHARD BURTON MEMORIAL LECTURE FUND.

The first meeting of the committee was held on June 14, at the rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society, 74, Grosvenor Street, kindly lent for the occasion. Sir Richard Temple being unable to attend, the chair was taken by Brig.-General Sir Percy Sykes, K.O.I.E., C.B. It was resolved that an appeal should be made forthwith to the Press for support, and that steps should be taken to bring the movement to the notice not only of the United States, but also that of foreign countries, including especially France and Italy, in which Burton had many friends and admirers. It was decided that an annual lecture should be delivered, and that the lecturer should be some person who had distinguished himself, or herself, in contributing to our knowledge of those countries in which Burton was particularly interested. Also that a bronze medal should be struck, which, together with suitable remuneration, would be presented to the lecturer; and perhaps to others, for services that may be rendered.

While there has been some controversy on a few matters connected with Sir Richard's writings, there can be no disagreement whatever as to the fact that as an explorer, linguist, and contributor to science and literature, he had few, if any, equals in modern times. Already in 1885, when he was not yet 45, at a dinner given to him by the Anthropological Society, Lord Stanley said truly that "into a life of less than 45 years Captain Burton had crowded more of study, more of hardship, and more of successful enterprise and adventure than would have sufficed to fill up the existence of half a dozen ordinary men." The pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina alone would have immortalised his work. But this included also explorations in Harar, Somaliland, East Africa, Dahomy, the Cameroon Mountains, the Land of Midian, the Country of the Mormons, Brazil, and Iceland, in addition to work done during the years at Trieste, that "polyglot settlement of Austrians, Italians, Slavs, Jews, and Greeks." His merits were inadequately recognised during his lifetime, and it is time that justice were rendered to them by the present generation. The movement now referred to is a step in the right direction.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

June 23 (New Style).

June 10 (Old Style).

Shawwal 17, 1339 of the Moslem Calendar.

Sivan 17, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. Arnold J. Toynbee has recently arrived in Sofia.

M. Jordania, President of the Georgian Republic, arrived in London on June 18.

The Bulgarian Minister has returned to London from Brussels.

Sir Cowasjee and Lady Jehangir have arrived from Bombay and are staying at the Hotel Cecil.

Sir Horace Rumbold, British High Commissioner at Constantinople, has arrived at 8, Lowndes Street.

Sir John and Lady Barran have just reached London, through Constantinople, on their return from Egypt and Palestine.

The Nizam of Hyderabad has given the British Red Crescent Society £6,666 for the relief of Moslem refugees in Constantinople from Anatolia and Thrace.

The Queen, attended by Lady Elizabeth Dawson, has visited the Brook Street Art Gallery to view the exhibition by A. B. Cull of "The King's Ships—Burma and the East."

The Right Hon. Frederic John Napier, Baron Chelmsford, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E., has taken the title of Viscount Chelmsford, of Chelmsford, in the County of Essex.

H.H. the Maharaja Sir Chandra Shum Shere Jung of Nepal has contributed 3,000 rupees (nominally about £200) to the funds of the Mt. Everest Expedition, and has wished it every success.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will shortly take place, between Roderick Llewellyn Baylis, of Delhi, India, and Phyllis, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Baylis, of Westcliff-on-Sea.

Mrs. Alec Tweedie, who has lately spent two years in the East, has made impression-sketches of her journey instead of writing a book. They will be exhibited at the Alpine Gallery on July 2 to July 7 inclusive, including Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place early in July, between Major Frederic Baring Leman, Indian Army, second surviving son of the late George Downton Leman, I.C.S., and of Mrs. Leman, of Raleigh, Bideford, and Kathleen Frances, elder daughter of the late John Henry Clarke and of Mrs. Clarke, of Clifton, Bristol.

The engagement is announced between Colonel Commandant Arthur D. Kirby, C.B., C.M.G., R.A., Headquarters, Eastern Command, India, and Mary Muriel, second daughter of the late William Wilson, of 52, Prince's Gate, S.W., and Las Delicias, Uruguay, and of Mrs. Wilson, Norton Grange, Malmesbury, Wilts, and 15, Princes Gardens, S.W.

Under the leadership of Bishop Gwynne and the Rev. A. Shaw, the Church Missionary Society is making marked progress in the Sudan, the officials, British and African, Christians and Moslems, joining in recognising the excellence of the work being done. In Egypt it is likely that a Christian university centre for higher education will be established.

The marriage arranged between Major Hugh Stuart Glass, M.C., of the M. and S.M. Railway Company, Limited, Madras, and Amy, widow of Captain Leslie Young, 20th London Regiment, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Petrie, of Antwerp and Anningsley Park, Ottershaw, Surrey, will take place at Bangalore, India, on July 4.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place at Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika Territory, between Arthur Stanley Cremer, Colonial Audit Department, second son of the Rev. F. D. Cremer and Mrs. Cremer, Shermanbury Rectory, Henfield, Sussex, and Gwyneth, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Ashhurst, 16, Palace Mansions, West Kensington.

The Maharaja Holkar of Indore arrived in London last week. The visit is of a purely personal nature, his Highness wishing to see for himself the conditions in Europe after the war. It may be recalled that the Maharaja was one of the first of the Indian rulers to send troops to the front during the late war, and he also contributed 8,000,000 rupees towards the cost of the war, and subscribed freely to the Red Cross and kindred societies.

The Church Missionary Society will send a delegation to India next autumn for the purpose of investigating the strength of the movement for self-government of the Church in that country. The movement has made such great progress recently that the Society feels that it must be dealt with. The transference of responsibility to Indian shoulders has been C.M.S. policy from the beginning, and much that is progressive can be claimed to have been done already, but the native Christians do not think it enough.

Our Smyrna Correspondent writes (June 6):—

Sir Harry and Lady Lamb held a reception of the Smyrna British Colony in the Consulate-General in honour of the King's Birthday. A large and representative gathering thoroughly appreciated the kindness shown by the host and hostess and their two daughters in entertaining them, and not for many years has the Colony known such gaiety as was seen on this occasion. Sir Harry and Lady Lamb evidently wished the entire Colony to respond to their cordial invitation, as arrangements were made to entertain 400 guests, and though but half that number attended, the "slackers" much regretted their absence from a delightful evening's entertainment.

H.B.M.'s Consul A. B. Geary held an informal reception of the Bournabat British community in the local club on the eve of the King's Birthday, and was ably assisted by Major Johnston (British Liaison Officer with the Greek Army) and Mr. C. E. Winter (manager of the National Bank of Turkey) to entertain the hundred guests who "made merrie" till midnight. A Greek military band provided music for the dancers, and "petits chevaux" helped to amuse those who have escaped the "fox-trotter" craze. Mr. Geary gave an exhibition dance in full Albanian costume, which both startled (at first) and amused his guests.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The Bey of Tunis has appointed Lieut. H. A. Hine, R.N., to be Chevalier of the Order of Nichan Iftikhar.

Prince Michael Soumatoff has been appointed Councillor of the Georgian Legation in London.

The following lecturers to Cambridge University have been appointed by the Board of Indian Civil Service Studies:—Indian Law, Mr. R. H. McLeod, Caius; Indian History, Mr. G. P. Moriarty, Pembroke; Tamil, Mr. J. L. Wyatt, Christ's; Burmese, Mr. L. Allan Goss, Emmanuel; Sanskrit, Mr. Rouse, Christ's; Hindustani, Lieut.-Colonel Phillpott, Caius; Marathi, Mr. R. A. Leslie Moore, Peterhouse; Bengali, Mr. S. N. Das Gupta, Trinity.

OBITUARY.

The death has occurred of Mr. William Warde Fowler, Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, the well-known writer on classical subjects.

Major-General George Thorp Onslow, C.B., late R.M.L.I., died last week at the age of sixty-two. His active service included the Sudan, 1884-1885.

Sir William Lawrence Young, Bart., died last week, after a long illness. The family honours devolve upon his brother, Sir Charles Alban Young, K.C.M.G., M.V.O., born in 1865, one time Counsellor of Legation at Teheran.

The death has occurred, at the age of 79, of Mr. Alan Cadell, C.S.I. He passed the I.C.S. examination at the age of nineteen, and his thirty-five years' service was in what are now the United Provinces, which he represented on the Viceregal Legislature for two years before retirement. He rose to be a Divisional Commissioner, to be Commissioner of Excise and Opium Agent, and to be the senior member of the Board of Revenue. In 1895, for ten months before Sir Anthony (now Lord) Macdonnell took charge, he acted as Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces.

THE RIOTING IN ALEXANDRIA.

By an Eye-Witness.

The insurrection of May 20—30 was the fifth within my recollection; and in all of them there was a monotonous similarity in the symptoms that preceded the final explosion. Everyone knew what was coming except the Government at Cairo; and if they foresaw the catastrophe they have imitated the ostrich! First, there was an outrageously hostile attitude toward Europeans on the part of students and the lower classes; then an evident want of discipline in the public services. In the first week of May all the cab drivers struck work, by way of protest against the local S.P.C.A. Charges of bribery were brought against British police inspectors; and notices were affixed to the doors of private garages forbidding the use of cars. The Mixed Court of Appeal warned the authorities officially that there was trouble ahead; but nothing was done.

Friday, May 20, began with noisy street demonstrations. The mob seized several municipal carts laden with stores, and used their contents as missiles. Many men paraded the streets armed with clubs and syringes for squirting petrol. Two police-stations were wrecked and burnt, with several European houses; an English sergeant and many Greeks, Italians and Maltese were clubbed to death.

On Monday, May 23, the Norwegian Judge on the Mixed Court of Appeal drove up in his car as usual to the courthouse in Mohammed Ali Square. The head porter advised him to take the car to a garage and accompanied him to one. On returning to the Court in a cab they were set upon and severely beaten. Had not both been exceptionally powerful men they would certainly have lost their lives. One of the Court clerks was killed on his way to office and two were severely wounded. The Judges begged for military help, and telegraphed to the Ministry of Justice that they would close the Court as a protest against the lack of protection. Will it be believed that the police did absolutely nothing to prevent or punish these outrages; and that some of them watched murderous onslaughts on Europeans with apparent unconcern?

However, in the course of the day some British troops arrived and restored a semblance of order. The curfew bell rings at 10 p.m., and should bring the situation home to natives, as it is their Ramadan festival. A military Court of Enquiry is sitting, but we all fear that it will let the culprits off with a warning, as happened in 1919. Meantime, Colonel Taylor, commanding the Sherwood Foresters, and Mr. Ketham, of the Police, have been fired at—the former twice—but no arrests were made. Owing to the abolition of the Press Censorship the most exasperating lies regarding Europeans find currency.

BULGARIAN CABINET CHANGES.

A telegram from Sofia, dated June 15, received by the Bulgarian Legation in London, states that the following changes have been made in the Bulgarian Ministry:—

Minister of War, M. Dimitroff; Railways, M. Boteff; Interior, M. Athanasoff.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

The 56th annual meeting of the above Fund, the first public annual meeting, will be held in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London, W., at 4 p.m., on June 29, the Right Hon. Viscount Bryce, O.M., in the chair. Dr. D. G. Hogarth, C.M.G., D.Litt., of Oxford, the chairman of the committee, will give an account of the latest discoveries at Askalon, illustrated by some magic lantern slides. Many of the views are entirely new, as is much of the information he has to give. The Hon. Ormsby-Gore, M.P., has also promised to speak. All interested in Palestine exploration are welcome.

The excavators at Askalon have, says the Jerusalem correspondent of *The Times*, identified and uncovered the famous stoa round the great court built by Herod the Great, and referred to in Josephus as being admirable for its workmanship and grandeur. Statues of Apollo, Venus, and Victory, and also a gigantic image of King Herod himself, were found in the building.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Our Bucharest Correspondent writes (June 1) that pourparlers are being conducted by the Papal Nuncio, Cardinal Marmaggio, and M. Octavian Goga, the Roumanian Minister, with a view to a concordat.

It is officially announced that only the forces in Mesopotamia will continue to enjoy the free postage facilities extended to the forces during the war.

Azerbaijanis in revolt against the Soviet are reported to have refused the amnesty offered to them on condition of serving with the Turkish Nationalists against the Allies on the ground that they are not pro-Islamic and are anti-Bolshevist.

It is announced from Rome that the Italians, in accord with the Rapallo Treaty, have evacuated the second zone of Dalmatia, including Sebenico and Scardona.

On the production at the Schönbrunn Schlosstheater, Vienna, of Mr. Bernard Shaw's play, "Arms and the Man," Bulgarian students made an angry demonstration owing to the author's satirical remarks regarding the habits of their countrymen, the scene of the play being laid in Bulgaria.

By permission of the Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, an Anglican chaplain has baptised an English baby in the Church of the Nativity at Bethlehem, the oldest Christian church in the world. This is the first recorded instance of an English child being baptised there.

The King George V., Capt. B. S. Thesiger, C.B., C.M.G., which had been cruising with the flagship in the Levant, visiting Cyprus, Rhodes, Suda Bay, and other places, has returned to Malta. The latest information from the official lists of movements of ships shows that the force at Constantinople or in the Black Sea or Sea of Marmora includes the battleship Benbow, flagship of Rear-Adm. Sir Richard Webb, the light cruiser Centaur, and the destroyers Sikh, Seraph, Sportive, and Sparrowhawk. The light-cruiser Caradoc was last reported at Alexandria, and the destroyers Serapis and Tuscan at Smyrna, Sepoy at Mudros, and Senator at Port Said. The ships at the base at Malta include the light-cruisers Calypso, Ceres, and Concord, and the destroyers Tumult, Trinidad, Torch, Tribune, Splendid, Spear, and Speedy.

It is announced in Athens that the Adrianople Synod has decided to postpone the election of the new Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople in succession to Mgr. Dorotheos, Archbishop of Brusa, who died suddenly in London last March.

In virtue of the agreement recently concluded in Belgrade, the frontier between Roumania and Yugoslavia in the Banat of Temesvar (formerly Hungary) will be fixed by a mixed Commission.

A newspaper, *Tavisupali Sakartvelo* ("Free Georgia"), has been started in Paris to enable Georgians freely to express their political views, such liberty being denied to them in their own country by the Russian Bolsheviks who have occupied it.

Official reports show that 167,000 persons are on famine relief in the Central Provinces, 94,000 in Bombay, and 30,000 elsewhere.

According to the latest news from Kabul the negotiations between the Indian and Afghan Governments are progressing favourably.

The Council of the Order of Advocates (Egyptian Bar) has telegraphed to *The Times* condemning Mr. Churchill's recent reference to the retention of British troops in Egypt, on the ground that it is unfair to make capital out of the Alexandria riots, "the like of which occurs everywhere in civilised countries, particularly in cosmopolitan ports," as foreigners were unmolested elsewhere in Egypt.

A Report from the Commander-in-Chief of India covering the minor military operations of the Indian Army on the North-West Frontier, in South Persia, and in the Yemen between May 1, 1919, and April 30, 1920, has been published as a *communiqué*.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1921.

This issue of THE NEAR EAST, although dated Thursday, June 23, is published on Monday, June 20. Next week's issue will appear on the usual day.

THE PROBLEM OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

Mr. Winston Churchill's speech on the Middle East had had to be postponed for so long a period after the Cairo Conference that much of what he had to say about British intentions in Mesopotamia and Palestine was already common knowledge. He was able, nevertheless, to deal with his subject in a masterly way, and few of those who heard or have read his speech will fail to be inwardly glad that with the creation of a Middle East Department the reproach of floundering in Eastern affairs without any definite policy is at last to be taken from Great Britain. Perhaps Mr. Churchill's most valuable contribution was the emphasis that he laid upon "a peaceful and lasting settlement with Turkey." He has realised, as was not realised by the British representatives at the Peace Conference, that Turkey, Mesopotamia, and Palestine are three links in the Middle Eastern chain. The future of Mesopotamia hangs on an understanding between Great Britain and Turkey, as the peaceful development of Palestine is in turn bound up with an adequate measure of Arab contentment in Mesopotamia. This elementary principle was crudely violated in the Treaty of Sèvres, and had only been imperfectly grasped by the British Government when Turks and Greeks were invited to attend the London Conference—how imperfectly may be gauged from the fact that the Conference broke up without any veto on the renewal of the campaign against Turkey by Greece. It is satisfactory, therefore, to learn from Mr. Churchill that the paramount object that the British Government is now pursuing is "to secure a real and lasting peace with Turkey." If the pursuit has been in progress, as he suggested, "for many months," only since the Cairo Conference has any real knowledge been brought to bear upon it, and there can be no claim of consistency unless and until the threatened Greek offensive has been called off. Even if the Turkish feeling towards the Greeks be regarded outside the Near East as unreasonable and exaggerated, it must be reckoned with in any attempt at a lasting settlement, and to ignore it as the Allied Governments have done all along, and still seem inclined to do, is to sow fresh seeds of unrest.

However satisfactory in theory the arrangements that have been made for the future administration and development of Mesopotamia, they offer no real prospect of achieving success unless they are preceded by "a policy of appeasement and friendship" towards the Turks. No prejudices or sympathies are involved in the statement; it is merely a recognition of hard facts, whether palatable or otherwise. Consequently, with the chances of a peaceful and lasting settlement with

Turkey still unknown, it was inevitable that Mr. Churchill's optimistic picture should be hedged round with many a condition. "If the arrangements we are now making are successful, and if the policy which renders these arrangements possible is carried out, and if it is not interrupted by untoward events . . ." The uncertainties may primarily concern Mesopotamia and its inhabitants, but they have their root in the measure of success attending the efforts to bring about an understanding with Turkey. Given peace and prosperity in Mesopotamia, there may be ground for hope that the Arabs of Palestine will find good cause to reproduce the same conditions in their section of the Arab world. In this connection only shortsightedness can prompt our French Allies to question the wisdom of Great Britain in seeking to introduce within the whole Arabian Peninsula a single clear policy. The desire that still holds in Paris to dragoon the Arabs and to make them subservient to Imperialistic designs is altogether out of date, and we can only wonder that French publicists should openly advocate hostility to the Arabs as a permanent feature of the policy of the Republic. It can only be supposed that the supporters of this policy are under the impression that they will gain favour in the eyes of the Turks by showing their dislike of the Arabs. The theory is a naïve one. If Turkish relations with Great Britain and France are good, the Turks will have no difficulty in keeping in friendly touch with the Arabs, whom they will always hope to find at their side, should emergency arise. On the other hand, if the Allied Powers cannot come to terms with Anatolian Turkey, they can count on permanent unrest in Syria and Mesopotamia, unless they happen to be on a footing of such cordiality with the Arabs that the latter will remain proof against the intrigues or direct incitement of the Turks. French methods are likely to prove too subtle for post-war days. Honesty is going to be the best foreign policy.

Not the least service that Mr. Churchill has rendered by his brilliant speech is to restore Mesopotamia to its proper niche in the British public's interest. For too long its detractors have held the field, taking advantage of a period of stress and depression at home to raise the "Little England" flag on the most unlikely fortresses and to create misgivings that in the face of official uncertainty were not easy to dissipate. Mr. Churchill has helped to clear away these misgivings by producing a definite policy, with a show of conviction and his own driving force behind it. Both the House of Commons and the British public as a whole have been reassured. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Secretary of State for the Colonies will be given full opportunity to make good in the mandated territories. His clear enunciation of what British policy ought to be would have been an affront to Parliament, if the Cabinet had not intended that immediate effect should be given to it. Its translation into action in connection with the Greco-Turkish imbroglio will, accordingly, be awaited with impatience. But even with the establishment of satisfactory relations with Turkey there will still be obstacles in the way. Arab co-operation must necessarily prove an unstable factor for some time to come, not because the rulers are not to be implicitly trusted, but because the temperament of the people is opposed to any prolonged spell of restraint. British policy must necessarily support the more settled elements of the Arab world. This leaves the fanatic Wahabite followers of Ibn Saoud—the fiercest fighters among the Arabs—to be placated by monetary doles, and in spite of this arrangement reports are current of Ibn Saoud besieging Hail and even of entertaining designs against the Euphrates region. So long, however, as our dealings with the Arabs are in the hands of those who understand them and are sympathetic, there is no reason why with patience we should not win through creditably in the Middle East.

IN SOUTH PERSIA.

MEN AND METHODS.

By "Kalantar."

The so-called Arabs of South Persia are inveterate robbers. Others certainly indulge, and to no mean extent, but the Arab seizes whenever and wherever he can. Frugal and hardy, he knows not the meaning of discomfort or physical exhaustion, and will cover incredible distances in search of plunder.

Of this large and scattered brotherhood the followers of Ahmad Quli have a particularly unsavoury reputation. On the fertile plains under the Hashimabad range they have constructed a circle of massive towers, and here pitched their black tents. A clear, fast-running stream waters their crops of wheat, barley, and gram, and they grow rich; secure in the knowledge that they can, as occasion demands, resist in their towers or, in the face of superior force, pack their tents and loot and scatter to the hills.

The Central Government, pursuing a time-honoured policy of masterly inactivity, turns a deaf ear to complaints against them, while unwelcome attentions from the Ilkhani are averted by discreet presents from their stores of plunder. True, only 100 miles away to the south-east the Idareh-i-janub, as they term the newly formed South Persia Rifles, had built a fort and garrisoned it with 500 infantry and a troop of cavalry, all armed with the deadly Lee-Enfield. It behoved robbers to move in larger bands, and seek their prey further afield. The Arabs did so; but, noticing that the formidable Idareh, no doubt for political reasons, left Hashimabad and its marauders to their own devices, they became bolder.

A column including cavalry, infantry, and guns paid Ahmad Quli a visit, and he behaved himself for six months. But meanwhile trouble was brewing for him, and in quite an unexpected quarter.

A Bakhtiari Governor came to Yezd. Young and comparatively efficient, he heard with patience the complaints of the merchants. How Riza Quli's caravan of 500 camels had been attacked at Anar, two sarwans killed, and 3,000 tomans worth of sugar carried off to swell the ill-gotten pile at Hashimabad. How only 15 days previously, at Shams, 300 donkeys from Bandar Abbas had been seized, their drivers stripped and beaten, and untold yards of valuable cloth taken to the cursed nest of thieves.

Then Mashalla Khan, the head tufangchi, had ridden with a small following to the stronghold. Ahmad Quli had received him hospitably, killed a lamb in his honour, and invited the leading mirs to smoke a kalyan and discuss the monstrous charge. They were prepared to take unlimited oaths that they knew nothing of caravans of sugar or cloth. They would take the tufangchi round the village, he could search their tents, their towers; if he found one piece of stolen goods he could cut off their ears and lay them at the feet of the Governor!

Till far into the night the samovar sent forth its little jets of steam, amber-coloured tea shone in glasses, the smoke of endless cigarettes curled to the ceiling. At dawn the tufangchi started on his 150-mile homeward trek, and, strangely enough, as he crossed the irrigation channel and headed for the yellow plain, already shimmering in the morning sun, three donkeys straggled past, whisking their tails and browsing on the withered scrub; a companion touched Mashalla's arm and pointed: "See the mark on their necks? Haji Hussain's animals!"

A month later a party of five Bakhtiaris, mounted on wiry ponies, literally draped in cartridge belts, and carrying, slung under their armpits, small-bore magazine rifles, rode slowly into the hamlet of Naukand, one farsakh from Hashimabad. In the distance the mule carrying their baggage and servant could be seen nodding his way steadily up the stony track. The dozen or so of primitive hovels were deserted, but behind a patch of cultivation half a mile away a boy shepherd leant on his staff and gazed on the newcomers—their white kullahs and glistening rifle barrels. Mustapha Khan, the Bakhtiari, and his companions dis-

mounted, loosened girths, and led their animals to the weed-choked water channel. The mule ambled in, and the servant produced eggs and the remains of a cold chicken from the depths of a saddle-bag. Meanwhile, the shepherd had bolted out of sight over a neighbouring ridge. In half-an-hour Ahmad Quli heard the news that for the first time in ten years a Bakhtiari had entered his country.

This was a serious matter. Rumours had drifted through from Yezd that a Governor was to be appointed—and a Governor meant taxes. Even a Frenchified Teherani would extort something—but a Bakhtiari!

The mirs were summoned, and a well-armed deputation, led by Ahmad Quli himself, reached Naukand in time to



A Young Wood-Cutter of S. Persia.

see the Bakhtiari mounting for the last stage of their journey. Salutations and handshakes, but no surprise. A carpet was spread, and, as soon as the inevitable samovar and cigarettes had made their appearance, Mustapha explained his mission and handed over an envelope, stamped with the Royal arms and bearing an elaborate seal in blue wax. He had been appointed the Governor's representative. He was to assess taxes, collect them, and generally bring Hashimabad "into line" with the rest of the province. In this letter there was no mention of robbery; but the Bakhtiari's pockets bulged with documents from most of the merchants in Yezd, claiming mountains of merchandise looted over a period of fifteen or twenty years.

After some consultation Ahmad Quli presented his ultimatum. Hashimabad had no need of a Governor. The Arabs recognised one chief only—an Ilkhani of their own blood. If the Bakhtiari insisted on proceeding there would be fighting—anything might happen! From Mustapha Khan—arguments, expostulations, finally angry threats.



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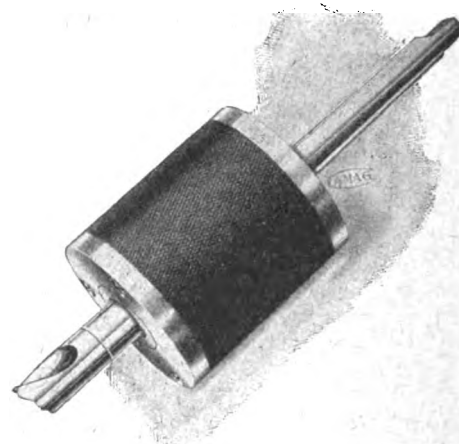
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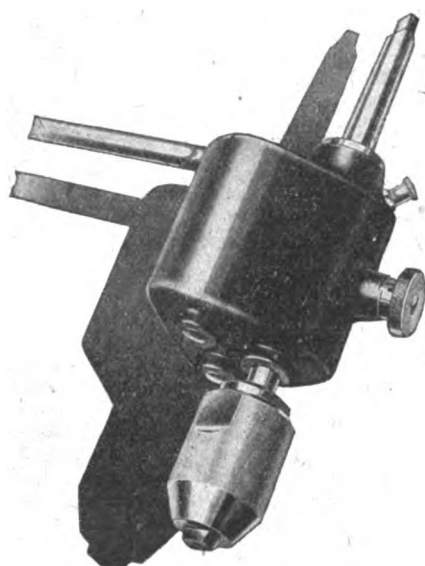
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With night the Arabs withdrew to their village and posted look-out men in the highest towers.

Dawn next day saw the Bakhtiari winding their way, sullen and disappointed, on the road to Yezd.

II.

It was a Friday when Mustapha Khan and his little band rode into Yezd, and the Friday quiet reigned over the drab town. The domes and arches of the empty bazaar echoed and re-echoed to the clatter of their horses' hoofs. A solitary beggar, propped against the shutter of a stall, waved a cluster of flies from his sightless eyes and whined for alms, while farther on a half-witted darvish, squatting cross-legged at the entrance to a shrine, looked up appealingly at the riders and held out a withered hand.

Possibly, the party had timed their entry for a Friday. Their very return signified defeat, and the flouting by a crowd of ragged beggars, as they termed the Arabs, of the authority of the all-powerful Bakhtiari. In a crowded bazaar they would have to run the gauntlet of scornful glances, and swallow the insult of many a whispered remark.

Leaving the bazaar, and following a dusty lane which wound, snake-like, between high garden walls, Mustapha Khan led his party to the rear of the "palace." From the last halting place, on the previous night, he had sent in word of his approach, and they would be expecting him; but humility, never out of place, must be exaggerated if he would escape the wrath of the Governor.

Dismounting, he handed his rein to a companion and entered a small courtyard, where a dozen tufangchis, wearing the distinctive wide cotton trousers, pleated coat, and white kullah ornamented with the large silver badge, squatted round a brazier and a much-cracked Russian teapot. With true Persian dignity he finished the ritual of salutation, and then proceeded to sound his companions on the state of the Governor's temper.

His Excellency was furious! Not with Mustapha: with the Arabs for defying his representative and lowering his dignity in the eyes of the people.

Thus reassured, and cheered by a rapid consumption of tea, the travel-stained warrior became his usual expansive self, and, in answer to an endless volley of questions, he unravelled a tale of fierce encounters with bodies of Arabs (never less than 300 strong), of days of siege when grass was their only diet, and of weeks of constant watching and sleeplessness. As he warmed to his task the circle of listeners grew ever wider; more carpets were spread, more teapots appeared on the glowing charcoal, and a large bowl of whey passed from hand to hand.

The appearance of the farrash bashi cut short a narrative which might well have held the audience until, at least, the tea and cigarettes gave out. The farrash bashi showed a line of ivory teeth under a drooping black moustache and murmured: "The Governor will see you."

In silence the master of the household led the way by a narrow cobbled path through an arch and into the main courtyard. In the centre of this was a large tank, round whose edges grew roses, pink and yellow. Slender, close-planted poplars sighed in the morning breeze, and cast faint and ever-moving shadows on the white walls of the Governor's apartments.

Mustapha Khan slipped off his shoes, and stepped into the cool of a long, narrow room, the floor of which was covered with a variety of beautiful rugs, mostly work of Kashan and Meshhed. The ceiling was decorated with variously shaped mirrors set in wooden frames.

The tufangchi crossed his hands at his waist and bowed; for at the farther end of the room sat, cross-legged, a small, dapper figure in long pleated coat, black trousers of European pattern, and a black felt kullah. Through a long ebony holder the Governor puffed languidly at a cigarette, and spoke in an undertone to Mullah Ali, his secretary, seated, pen in hand, amid a tumble of papers.

On other days petitioners were interviewed, sentences promulgated, and other official business transacted in the Audience Chamber at the other end of the courtyard. Then His Excellency sat on a gilt chair, and often spoke a few words of French to his Ministers; but on Friday only urgent affairs received attention, and one could be natural and comfortable. He signed to Mustapha to approach, and listened, with half-closed eyes, to the tufangchi's account of his treatment by the Arabs—"impudent, half-naked thieves" he called them. Then he asked a hundred questions concerning their forts, the number of their fighting men, and the nature of their arms. And the secretary watched with his keen black eyes and alternately nodded and shook his head.

When the sun was overhead, and the blue-tiled dome of the madrasah glistened like a giant turquoise, Mustapha Khan bowed himself out of the Governor's presence and joined his companions in the outer court. They were sitting as he had left them, discussing his story and passing conjectures as to the probable action of their master.

That action was simple. The Governor was determined that the Arabs should accept his authority and make amends for their impudence in the past. Mustapha, he admitted, was a good servant, but not the man for a dangerous task; he lacked daring, and was unskilled in the invaluable art of bluff. His following, moreover, had been, undoubtedly, too small for an undertaking against so distant and recalcitrant a body as these Arabs had proved themselves to be. His Excellency would send two "gunmen" this time, backed by twenty sowars, all carrying the most modern rifles and plentifully supplied with ammunition.

Ahmad Khan and Hashim, the leaders he selected, were peculiarly suited for the work in hand. A year previously they had been in the Governor's household at Hamadan filling the lowly positions of farrier and groom. Then trouble



On the Nusaki-Seistan Trade Route: Camel Men from Herat.

had arisen with a neighbouring tribe of Kurds, and in the series of fights which had followed the Bakhtiari's efforts at subjugation these brothers had proved their courage and endurance, and they had been rewarded by promotion to the rank of tufangchi. That they rode borrowed horses and carried inferior rifles was, to this astute Governor, an additional reason for employing them, for, he rightly conjectured that men who have little to lose and are placed within reach of comparative wealth will take heavy risks.

(To be continued.)

CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

The annual general meeting of the Central Asian Society was held last Wednesday at Burlington House, London, W., the Right Hon. Lord Carnock, P.C., presiding. The report presented by the hon. secretary, Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate, showed that the membership had been more than doubled in the one year. An alteration was made in the rule fixing the number of vice-presidents, and these were increased from six to eight. The Earl of Ronaldshay, G.C.I.E., and the Right Hon. Sir Mortimer Durand, G.C.M.G., retired, and there were consequently four vice-presidents elected; these were Colonel Sir Charles Yate, Bart, M.P., Sir Hugh Barnes, K.C.S.I., Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate, and Sir Edward Penton, K.B.E. Besides being appointed a vice-president, Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Yate was re-elected hon. secretary, Captain G. C. Stephenson being added as joint-hon. secretary to assist in the ever-growing work of the office. General Sir C. C. Munro, G.C.B., Sir Michael O'Dwyer, G.C.I.E., Major-General Neil Malcolm, C.B., and Miss Ella Sykes were re-elected ordinary members of Council.

Subsequently a lecture was delivered by Sir Michael O'Dwyer, dealing with events in North-West India since the outbreak of war, and the present position of affairs. Speaking of the Khalifate propaganda, he said that one result had been to induce 30,000 poor and ignorant Indian Mohammedans to sell up their worldly goods, abandon their old homes in the land of "the infidel," and seek shelter among their Moslem brethren in Afghanistan. These unfortunate people had suffered untold hardships; it was believed that about 5,000 of them had found only a grave; the rest, after being harried by Afghans and frontier tribes, had gradually drifted back to India, penniless and starving, and had been obliged to appeal to the Government whose protection they had so lightly abandoned to reinstate them in their old homes.

Of the present position in India, he said that next after checking sedition, the settlement of the Turkish question came first in order of urgency. The delay in that settlement had provided the opportunity for certain Indian Mohammedans to pose as more Turkish than the Turks themselves, demanding the restoration of Thrace and Syria to Turkey and dictating the forms of administration to be established in Palestine and Mesopotamia—things which the Turks themselves had never claimed. It was wise and just to take into account the sentiments of loyal Indian Moslems, but we should make it clear that we saw through the designs of those who sought not so much the good of Turkey, or of Islam, as the ruin of Great Britain.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

June 15.—Lord Lamington moved: "That it should be the duty of the Government to inform the League of Nations that the wishes of the people of Palestine had not been consulted as regards the mandate for Palestine, and that therefore Article 22 of the Convention has not been complied with." The question, he said, had gained in force by the remarkable speech made the day before by the Colonial Secretary, who had said: "The difficulty about this promise of a national home for Jews in Palestine is that it conflicts with our regular policy of consulting the wishes of the people in the mandated territories." The right hon. gentleman's phraseology was not exactly correct, because by Article 22 of the Convention it was not a question of whether they wished to consult the wishes of the people, but it was an obligation imposed on the mandatory Power to consult the population interested. The Leader of the House admitted some time ago that the people of Palestine had never been consulted as to who should hold the mandate for their country. In defiance of Article 22 of the Convention, the wishes of the people of Palestine had never been ascertained. If the League of Nations was not so informed, it was possible that trouble might arise in future over the question of the Mandate.

The Duke of Sutherland did not think it would be relevant for the Government to bring the matter to the notice of the League; but they had no desire to evade the question whether Article 22 had been complied with or not. It had already been pointed out that if the question of the Jews were left on one side the Arabs would sooner have to do with the British than with any other foreign nation. Therefore, as far as the selection of the British was concerned, the noble Lord need not have any doubt.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

June 13.—In response to Viscount Curzon, Mr. Baldwin gave the net profits of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., after providing for administration expenses, debenture interest, royalties and depreciation, as follows:—

Year ended.	Net profit. (Dr.)	£
1914, March 31		26,711
1915, " "		90,431
1916, " "		85,768
1917, " "		344,110
1918, " "		1,308,558
1919, " "		2,010,805
1920, " "		2,611,165

Mr. Chamberlain informed Col. Archer-Shee that His Majesty's Government had no definite information that the Turkish Nationalists in Asia Minor had been receiving arms and ammunition from the Russian Soviet Government. They had not yet abandoned the hope of bringing about peace between the Greeks and Turks and would lose no opportunity of doing so. In reply to Major Glynn he stated that while the British authorities in Constantinople are under the sole direction of His Majesty's Government, the policy pursued there by His Majesty's Government is determined in concert with the French and Italian Governments. In reply to Commander Kenworthy, he stated that no commitments existed to support Greece against the Kemalists by military or financial means.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Royce that there were now in camps in Cyprus 590 Russian refugees who left South Russia after General Denikin's defeat. The cost of maintaining these camps is £2,800 per month. There are an additional 72 refugees now maintaining themselves in Cyprus outside the camps. It is impossible to give any definite date on which the camps will be closed, but every effort is being made to bring the obligations of His Majesty's Government to an end.

June 14.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Lunn that during the recent riots at Alexandria one case of burning alive by the mob has been officially certified. The facts are as follows:—An Italian was set on fire after receiving blows and being stabbed on the chest. The Police Medical Officer of Health has made a statement that the man was still alive when he was set on fire. The Assistant Commandant of Police saw the man burning, and states that when he had extinguished the flames the man was dead. There is also some evidence, which is now being checked, which shows that the mob attempted to burn the corpse of a murdered Greek.

In the afternoon of Tuesday, June 14, Mr. Churchill made his statement on the Middle Eastern situation. (See report.) The motion before the House was that a supplementary sum not exceeding £27,197,000 be granted to His Majesty for salaries and expenses in connection with the Middle Eastern services under His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, including a grant in aid. Motions for the reduction of this amount by one million pounds were made by Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy and Mr. E. Harmsworth; but these motions were withdrawn and the vote was agreed to without a division. Among those who took part in the debate were Earl Winterton, General Sir Charles Townshend, Colonel Wedgwood, Mr. Ormsby Gore, Lord Robert Cecil, Lord Eustace Percy, Mr. E. Harmsworth, and Lieut.-Commander Kenworthy. Owing to extraordinary pressure on our space this week, we are unable to report their speeches.

June 15.—Mr. Harmsworth informed Sir John Rees that representations had been made by His Majesty's Government to the Greek Government on the subject of Greek outrages which have been found to have been committed in the Iamida area.

Mr. Chamberlain informed Colonel Wedgwood that the

Italians have withdrawn their forces from Adalia. There is no present intention of withdrawing British troops across the Bosphorus, and still less is there any intention of embarking upon military adventures in Turkey.

Colonel Stanley informed Mr. Kenyon that there are now no British troops in Persia beyond a few individual officers lent as instructors to the Persian Army and paid for by the Persian Government.

Colonel Stanley informed Sir Charles Yate that Indian Army officers in Mesopotamia drawing their Indian Army rates of pay are assessed at the Indian, not British, rates of income-tax.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Mr. Ormsby Gore that Sir Murdoch Macdonald had resigned the post of adviser to the Public Works and Irrigation Department of the Government of Egypt when the Egyptian Government found themselves unable to proceed with the White Nile scheme. This decision was due not to any technical unsoundness of the scheme, but solely to the fact that the Egyptian Government learnt recently, and without timely warning, that the cost of the dam and subsidiary works would so greatly exceed the earlier estimates as to place the execution of the project beyond their present financial resources.

June 16.—Mr. Chamberlain informed Viscount Curzon that, apart from the British Naval Mission to Greece, there are no British naval officers attached to the Greek forces either in the Black Sea or elsewhere. Three or four British military officers are sent as *liaison* officers from Constantinople to the Greek Army in Anatolia, whenever the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief at Constantinople considers such attachment desirable. At the present time the British Military Attaché from Athens is visiting the front at the invitation of the Greek Government. No British officers are serving with the Greek Army. No information has been received as to any sinking of munition ships by the Greeks at Batoum.

Mr. Churchill informed Major Glynn that the political control of the Aden Protectorate had been transferred from the Foreign Office to the Middle Eastern Department of the Colonial Office. The transfer of the administrative control of Aden has not yet taken place as certain details connected with the transfer are still under discussion between the Colonial Office and the Government of India.

Mr. Churchill informed Mr. Mosley that the estimated local revenue and expenditure of the civil administration of Palestine and Mesopotamia respectively during the current financial year is: Revenue, ££2,214,017; expenditure, ££2,286,133. To meet the estimated deficit of ££72,066, a surplus balance on revenue account, amounting to about ££75,000, was estimated to be available on March 31 last, in addition to other and larger balances which were ear-marked for capital expenditure.

Colonel Stanley informed Mr. Mosley that the cost in the current financial year of the military occupation of Mesopotamia and Palestine is: Mesopotamia £19,950,000, Palestine £4,271,000, making up the total of £24,221,000 shown in the Army Revised Estimate dated May 30, 1921.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Egyptian Market.

It would be well if what the Commercial Agent in Cairo says in his annual report regarding the effect of high prices on the sale of British goods could be brought forcibly to the notice of labour in this country. He states that complaints of the prices demanded for cutlery and machinery have been made on every possible occasion, and that most frequently the cheapest price has obtained the preference over superior quality, "sometimes even in the case of Egyptian Government contracts." Thus, he points out, because the quotations were too high and the date of delivery was uncertain, we have lost large orders for railway material and rolling stock, steel work, dynamos, etc. Clearly it is for labour to say how long this loss of trade is to continue, for until wages are again at an economic level, and the policy of "ca-canny" is a thing of the past, it will be impossible for British manufacturers to compete on equal terms with their rivals in the overseas markets. It is not a question of bringing our prices down to those of our competitors. As Mr. Mulock says in the case of Egypt British goods are admitted to be the best, and what is necessary is for the quotations to be such that will enable buyers to give consideration to quality.

Burmah Oil Company's New Issue.

Subscriptions are now invited by the Burmah Oil Company for an issue of 3,000,000 £1 Cumulative Preference shares. Full details of the offer will be found in the prospectus which appears on pages 764 and 765, together with particulars of the company's extensive interests and recent profits. The company and the Government between them own practically the whole of the ordinary share capital of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, while it controls the Assam Oil Company, and *inter alia* has a shareholding in the United British Oilfields of Trinidad and an equal interest with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in a syndicate formed to exploit the petroleum potentialities of Hungary. The new capital is required to meet the cost of the purchase of the shares of the Assam Oil Company and the development of that company's resources, the electrification of the Yenangyoung field, the installation of up-to-date plant at the refineries, a new tank steamer and other purposes. In view of the company's position, it is obvious that the Preference shares constitute a most admirable security, and their attractive yield should ensure an overwhelming response from investors, as the offer is not one that is available every day.

Failure of Beyrout Fair.

From the account given by our correspondent, which will be found on another page, it will be seen that poor fortune has attended France's enterprise in instituting a fair at Beyrout. The business done appears to have been extremely meagre; indeed, in a previous message our correspondent stated that some French firms were so disheartened that shortly after the opening of the exhibition they packed up their goods and returned home. In an effort to make the exhibition more successful the entrance fee was abandoned, but only the amusements sections benefited by the increased number of visitors. The population generally seem to have viewed the undertaking with something akin to hostility, and to this its almost complete failure as a business proposition is to be mainly attributed. Doubtless, in view of present conditions, small hopes were based on the immediate results of the fair, and the French have presumably regarded it in the light of commercial propaganda pure and simple.

Prospects in Anatolia.

No better news is forthcoming regarding the Constantinople market. I received a letter this week the tenor of which is to the effect that no business is possible at the present time. So long as the markets of the interior and South Russia remain practically closed, there can, unfortunately, be no change for the better. The present position is summed up in the writer's statement that firms are find-

ing it all they can do to raise money for the salary list, and that some of the strongest firms would be in difficulties but for their large resources. Still, bad as the situation undoubtedly is, there is the redeeming feature that a recovery when it comes is bound to be rapid. In this connection the writer quotes a recent report to the effect that there are unparalleled opportunities in Anatolia. "The report states," he adds, "that if Anatolia were re-opened again to commerce the warehouses in the capital would be emptied in a week. We must, therefore, pray for that blessed consummation."

Egyptian Cotton Position.

The decision to restrict the area under cotton in Egypt for two more years is from many points of view to be regretted, and it is difficult to see why it should have been deemed necessary. The view that is apparently held is that the large stocks of material on hand, and the possibility that for a considerable period demand will be limited, make it certain that higher prices cannot be looked for, and it is presumably hoped by curtailing the output to give an impetus to prices which they would not otherwise receive. It would have been much better to have allowed free play to the law of supply and demand, for if the crop does not pay it is to be presumed that cultivation will automatically decrease in favour of more profitable crops. Artificial restriction is a double-edged weapon, as Egypt may learn to her cost, for it will simply supply an additional stimulus to the cultivation of the crop elsewhere, while tending to make manufacturers distrustful of Egypt as a source of supply.

Suez Canal Profits.

Despite the trade "slump" which prevailed during the latter half of 1920, the traffic through the Canal during the year showed on the whole a progressive return towards the normal, and even up to the present time it was stated at the recent general meeting that the shipping depression had not had any very serious influence, and that, indeed, there has been an appreciable increase in the tonnage going through. For 1920 the receipts amounted to 267,460,679 francs and the expenditure to 56,612,542 francs, there being thus a surplus of 168,472,665 francs, which with the balance brought forward gave an available surplus of 168,980,578 francs. Of this total allocations to the reserves amount to 143,661,971 francs, and a special reserve of 25,000,000 francs has been constituted in view of the fact that conditions are still far from normal. Thus the increased traffic receipts as compared with the 1913 figures are far from equalling the greater expenditure, and of the year's surplus the profit on exchange accounts for 101,772,711 francs. As regards the nationality of ships using the canal it is satisfactory to note that, as always, the British flag was easily first, representing over 60 per cent. of the whole shipping, a proportion which will no doubt be much greater once conditions here and throughout the world enable the free play of British industrial endeavour.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 1.

The Bucharest Fair.

An invitation has been sent by the Roumanian Government to the associations of manufacturers and merchants and also the Press, of the various European countries, to be represented at the opening of the Exhibition and Sample Fair of Roumanian Products, which is arranged to take place on August 14. The French delegation arrived this week. It is composed of twelve persons, headed by M. Fouchet, technical councillor of the French Ministry of Industry. They will visit all the industrial centres of Greater Roumania.

It is rumoured, incidentally, that the opening of this exhibition will be postponed until September 15.

Miscellaneous.

The following official prices have been temporarily fixed for metals (the figures representing lei per kilo): Gold, 24,000; silver, 900; copper, 800; lead, 600; antimony, 800.

Roubles and Austrian and Hungarian crowns are permitted to be freely exported, without any formality whatever.

According to the latest statistics, the number of cattle at present in Transylvania is 1,927,182 against 2,039,390 in 1910.

In compliance with the Treaty of Peace, Bulgaria has begun to return to Roumania the cattle which she took away during the occupation.

The amount of 123 kilos of gold and 2,400 kilos of silver, which has been extracted from the mines of Baia Mare, Transylvania, has been transported to Bucharest and deposited in the vaults of the Ministry of Finance.

The contract for the coining of visionary money to the amount of 20 million lei, has finally been awarded to a Swiss firm. The coins must be delivered by September at the latest.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 11.

Unfavourable Commercial Position.

Whilst not wishing to strike a too pessimistic note, it must be confessed that to-day's commercial situation is not of the brightest. The fluctuations of the leva during the last fortnight have made all merchants, both foreign and Bulgarian, nervous again, and buyers are not willing to give orders. To explain the reasons for this we may quote a specific case. A Sofia merchant needed a large quantity of leather, which he proposed to sell during the coming winter; he considered the prices and samples of an English firm during May, and almost decided to buy. He based his calculations on the leva being 325 or thereabouts to sterling, as it has been since December. Suddenly the exchange falls, and he is faced with the prospect of having to pay 345-350 levas for each £1 worth of the goods he intends to purchase. Naturally enough, he hesitates, and thus the deal is at any rate postponed, and very likely cancelled. He is further inclined to hesitate because in March he bought goods from France when the leva was equal to approximately 20 centimes, but was given two months' credit, and now has to pay his bill when a leva equals 14 centimes. This particular transaction caused him to incur a loss of 60,000 levas. One can, of course, argue that he should not have accepted two months' credit, or should have paid up when he saw that the leva was falling, but the fact remains that while there is the tendency of the leva to drop in relation to the Allied currencies, it is almost impossible to conduct business. With Germany and the other Central Powers, conditions are different, as for close on a year 100 German marks have been equal to between 127 and 135 levas, and buyers, owing to the maintenance of a steady rate, have been covered against loss. Matters undergo such quick changes in the Balkans that all the above must only be taken as representing the

present situation, and it is to be hoped that once the Government decides on giving all possible facilities for the export of cereals and other staple products a welcome improvement in the rate of exchange will take place.

Miscellaneous.

The cost of living in Bulgaria to-day is very high, and it is only in one or two European States, such as Soviet Russia and, to a lesser extent, Poland and Austria, that conditions are worse.

The delivery of animals to Roumania as laid down by the Peace Treaty will take place on June 16. A Bulgarian Commission charged with the work of supervising the handing over of the various beasts has returned from Bucharest, and it has been decided that sheep will be handed over at Rustchuk, horses and mules at Razgrad, and oxen and cows at Varna. The decision of the Roumanian Government allowing the delivery to take place at these three towns is very gratifying to the Bulgarians.

ALBANIA.

TRIANA, June 2.

A New Company.

A company has been established at Boston, Massachusetts, with the title "The American-Albanian Trading Company," with a capital of 50,000 dollars in 10-dollar shares. The capital has been entirely subscribed by Albanians, and it is to be anticipated that it will shortly be increased. The objects of the company include the business of exporters and importers, shipping, and the development of the natural riches of the country. M. Anastas Pandeles, director of the Pan-Albanian Company Vatra of America, and Mr. George Fred Williams, former American Minister at Athens, are the directors of the new company.

CYPRUS.

NICOSIA, May 25.

Cereal Tithes.

An Order in Council directs that the tithes on all cereals (wheat, barley, oats, and vetches) are to be delivered at the Government stores not later than September 30. The British Administration, on taking over Cyprus, promptly abolished the system of taking tithe in kind, and substituted payment in money (on a valuation fixed by local Administrative Councils). But, after an experience of several years, it seemed very questionable whether the patriarchal system of levying in kind was not preferable, both for the people and the Government, and this on trial has certainly proved to be the case. Of course, this is because the old system (under which the tithes were farmed out to the highest bidders) opened the door to numberless abuses and malpractices, which British administration has rendered practically impossible. Only in a few villages perched on remote heights is tithe taken in money, in order to relieve them of transport to distant stores.

YUGOSLAVIA

ZAGREB, June 14.

Financial Discussions in Paris.

Dr. Velizar Jankovich, former Minister of Communications, Dr. Kumanudi, Minister of Finance, and Dr. Drag-Protich, have gone to Paris to discuss the question of Serbia's war indemnity. The deputation has been received by M. Briand, and Serbs are optimistic that they will obtain a better rate of interest than the very much reduced rate announced, and at the same time that they will open negotiations with cosmopolitan financiers for the discussion of a large foreign loan.

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THE COTTON CRISIS.

II.—THE INDUSTRIAL VALUE OF RESIDUAL COTTONSEED FIBRES

By E. C. de Segundo, A.M.I.C.E.

In the preceding issue of THE NEAR EAST, I adverted to the comment made in the issue of the 9th inst., regarding the industrial value of the residual fibres retained by cottonseed as a factor in cotton economics generally, and as bearing, in particular, upon the very vital question of the stimulation of the cultivation of cotton within the British Empire.

I have been intimately connected for the past twelve years or more with the problems involved in the recovery of these short fibres in a merchantable condition, and with their application on a commercial scale to the manufacture of paper, explosives, artificial silk, and other cellulose derivatives, and I am glad to accept the invitation of the Editor of THE NEAR EAST to contribute some remarks upon what has been accomplished in this direction to date.

The term "residual cottonseed fibre" is applied, properly speaking, to the short fibres retained by the woolly varieties of cottonseed after ginning and after the removal of the high-grade linters: in other words, to the short fibres adhering to the shell of the cottonseed which constitute the distinguishing feature between the "woolly" and the "bald" varieties.

About 95 per cent. of the world's production of some 12 million tons of cottonseed per annum is of the woolly variety, and retains an appreciable quantity of this short residual cotton fibre. Until comparatively recently, these residual fibres have been entirely wasted, because no means existed for obtaining them in a suitable condition and without injuring the seed in the process.

The residual fibres are rooted in the shell of the seed, to which they adhere very tightly, and the difficulties in the way of recovering them are complex and recondite, because it is essential, for commercial success, that these fibres be recovered free from pieces of the seed-shell or other foreign matter, and at a low cost for power, labour, and superintendence. The first commercially successful residual fibre plant was set to work in the United States of America in 1913, entirely by British enterprise, the machinery being designed for the separation of the decorticated hulls of cottonseed into their component parts of cotton fibre and shell-bran, the latter forming a useful and readily marketable ingredient in the composition of various forms of mixed feed for cattle. Since then, several thousand tons of the hull-fibre produced by these machines have been employed by the Du Pont de Nemours Powder Company, of America, for the manufacture of explosives, and by the Vulcanised Fibre Company, of Wilmington (U.S.A.) for the manufacture of vulcanised fibre, and up to the outbreak of war in 1914, about 2,000 tons had been sold to paper-makers in England, France, and Germany.

During the war a machine was successfully worked out for the recovery of the residual fibres direct from the cottonseed itself. In the discussion upon a lecture at the Royal Society of Arts in 1919, at which a machine was shown in action defibrating cottonseed, Dr. Lawrence Balls referred to this machine as having "achieved what appeared to be the almost impossible operation of removing hairs from a cottonseed." The lint-product obtained by this machine is called "Seed-Lint," to distinguish it from that separated from the decorticated hulls, which is termed "Hull-Fibre." Messrs. Cross and Bevan, the well-known authorities on cellulose and the manufacture of artificial silk, have reported extensively upon both these lint-products. In one of their reports they state:—"We have been able to submit 28 lb. samples of 'seed-lint' to be tested for the manufacture of artificial silk, and the results are entirely satisfactory. We have ourselves tested seed-lint for the production of cellulose acetate and find it fulfils the most exacting requirements."

The conditions obtaining during the war and the economic upheaval which has followed the cessation of hostilities have militated against the development of the use of these fibres on a scale commensurate with their proved and established capabilities. So far, it is only possible to give reliable figures relating to the realisable value of hull-fibre in paper-making. Last year about two tons of hull-fibre produced by these machines in America was worked up into paper by a British papermaker, whose charge for so doing (exclusive of the cost of the hull-fibre) was 1s. per pound. This, of course, included his profit, which cannot reasonably be placed at lower than from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent., or, let us say, 2½d., leaving 9½d. per pound of finished paper as the total cost of conversion of the raw material. Even this figure must be considered high compared to what it should be when manufacturing continuously, because of the special arrangements which had to be made in the paper mill for treating so small a quantity. This paper was valued in the trade at 2s. per pound, and a few reams were in

fact sold to the trade at 2s. 1d. and at 1s. 10d. per pound. The bulk was sold to a firm of wholesale stationers at 1s. 6d. per pound. From independent sources, it has been ascertained that the yield in finished paper of this hull-fibre is at least 70 per cent. The value realised for this hull-fibre in paper thus works out at from £56 to £94 per ton.

The hull-fibre is obtained from the fibrous seed-shells separated out under the American system of manufacturing cottonseed oil and cake, whereunder the seed is split open and the kernel removed and pressed for oil, as distinguished from the British system under which the cottonseed is crushed in its entirety. The American process of decorticating the seed tends to shorten the residual fibres, and the subsequent process of separating the hulls into fibre and shell inevitably results in the admixture with the hull-fibre of a certain amount of fine dust coming from the soft inner lining of the seed-shell. When the residual fibres are removed direct from the seed the mechanical processes involved in decortication, etc., are avoided, and seed-lint is therefore normally a higher-grade product than hull-fibre.

Messrs. Cross and Bevan's analysis of successive samples of "seed-lint" show a cellulose yield of as high as 87 per cent., or within a few per cent. of that yielded by raw long cotton. "Hull-fibre" has given as high as 75 per cent. cellulose.

It is clear that all that has been established regarding the industrial value of hull-fibre applies, *a fortiori*, to seed-lint, because "seed-lint" is the same material as "hull-fibre," but is obtained under conditions which admit of greater average length of fibre and greater freedom from foreign matter being secured.

In the spring of last year a company was formed called British Cotton-Seed Products, Ltd., to acquire the world's patent rights for this cottonseed defibrating machine (excluding the rights for the United States, which were disposed of before the company was formed). The Board of this company include Mr. J. W. Pearson and Mr. N. B. Foster, chairman and managing director respectively of the British Oil and Cake Mills, Ltd., and the shares offered to the public were largely over-subscribed. At the first annual meeting of the company, held recently, the chairman stated that a factory was in course of erection which, when completed, would be capable of defibrating about 20,000 tons of woolly cottonseed per annum. He also stated that negotiations for the sale of the Indian rights to an Indian company were well advanced, and that it was expected that the Indian company would be launched before the end of this year.

It is impossible to quote a fixed figure for the cost of production of this material, because the cost of labour and power varies considerably in the different cotton-growing countries, and no doubt the realisable value of the shell-bran would vary according to whether it were marketed as such or first worked up into a mixed feed for cattle.

The realisable value of the residual fibres is by no means the only benefit accruing to the planter from defibrating the woolly varieties of cottonseed. The cottonseed, as is well known, is imported into Great Britain in very large quantities for the manufacture of cottonseed oil and cattle feeding cake. The presence of the residual fibre upon the seed lowers its market value to the seed crusher, not only because very woolly seed is troublesome to handle in the mill, but because any appreciable quantity of residual fibres reduces the percentage of oil extractable, and, moreover, lowers the food value of the oil-cake, because cotton fibre, being practically pure cellulose, is indigestible and possesses no nutritive properties. The only cottonseed crop produced within the Empire which is readily marketable at a good price for the manufacture of cottonseed oil and cake is that coming from Egypt. This variety of seed is what is termed "bald" or "black." The crop is a comparatively small one, and is much sought after not only by British but by other European cottonseed crushers. The extent to which foreign competition for Egyptian seed affected the British trade may be gathered from the fact that in 1905 94.4 per cent. of the exported Egyptian crop came to British mills, while in 1913 the proportion had sunk to 51.6 per cent., practically the whole of the remainder going to Germany.

Now, there are many woolly varieties of cottonseed, the oil content of which is just as high when defibrated and the quality of the oil just as good as that of the bald Egyptian cottonseed. Many of these varieties, however, are unsaleable in British or European markets on account of their woolliness. I am credibly informed that many thousand tons of such woolly cottonseed are burnt every year in Uganda because, on hygienic grounds, accumulations of cottonseed cannot be tolerated. No doubt the same thing happens in other cotton-growing countries.

Mr. W. H. Himbury, the general manager of the British Cotton Growing Association, has contributed an illuminating paper to the World Cotton Conference, which has just been held in Liverpool and Manchester, on "The Explora-

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tion and Development of New Cotton Fields Within the British Empire." In the course of his remarks he refers to the possibilities of cotton growing in India as "enormous," and gives some very interesting details of the practical work done by his Association in the direction of encouraging the cultivation in India of the types of cotton required by Lancashire spinners.

India has a population of over 300,000,000, mostly agricultural. There are from 22,000,000 to 27,000,000 acres under cotton cultivation. Unfortunately, as Mr. Himbury points out, the quality at present grown is, for the most part, only suitable for the coarsest yarns, and is of very little use to Lancashire. He goes on to say that "the present position is that the Agricultural Departments are doing their best, but are sadly understaffed. A little time ago a Special Commission was appointed to report fully on the whole question of cotton growing in India, and we confidently look forward to the necessary reforms being carried out which should ultimately result in a considerable improvement taking place in regard to Indian cotton."

Mr. Himbury also states that "There are some provinces in which longer-stapled cotton (i.e., of 1 in. and over) thrive, viz., in canal colonies of the Punjab and Scind, the Broach district of Bombay, and the Tinnivelly district of Madras, etc., etc., which tracts represent about one-tenth of the cotton area of India."

While the record of progress in British Possessions in Africa given by Mr. Himbury is very satisfactory, and indicates great promise of considerable supplies of suitable cotton being ultimately obtainable from these sources, it would appear that it is to India we must look for any really practical relief in the relatively near future.

India produces between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 tons of cottonseed per annum, practically all of which is of the woolly variety. The manufacture of cottonseed oil and cake is quite in its infancy in India; in fact, it has been said that so far as this industry is concerned, India is to-day where the United States was forty or fifty years ago. The cottonseed not required for planting is, to a large extent, fed direct to cattle, which—economically speaking—is an exceedingly wasteful method of turning cottonseed to account. In pre-war days considerable quantities of the more lightly fibred varieties of Indian cottonseed were exported annually to British markets, as much as 400,000 tons having been shipped to Great Britain in twelve months. The defibration of Indian cottonseed would result not only in the production of a raw material for the manufacture of high-grade white paper (the greater part of which is now imported by India), but also in increasing the market value of the cottonseed exported for the purposes of the manufacture of oil and cake.

It is not possible to make any accurate estimates of the increased revenue to be derived from the defibration of woolly cottonseed in the country of origin. Such figures can only be arrived at by a careful study of the conditions obtaining in each case. Enough has, however, been said clearly to indicate that the position of the planter can scarcely fail to be improved—and, in some cases, greatly improved—by defibrating the cottonseed before shipment and thereby rendering the seed marketable at a price, in some cases, comparing favourably with that commanded by Egyptian bald cottonseed.

NEW ROUMANIAN EXPORT TAXES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, June 1.

The following export commission taxes have officially been fixed, and came into force on May 17 (the figures representing lei per wagon of 10,000 kgs.): Rye, 1,000; maize, 300; cornmeal, 300; haricot beans, 360; barley, 420; malt, 420; decorticated rice, 500; oats, 300; millet seed, 300; decorticated millet, 200; bran, 160; old peas, 600; yellow mustard seed, 600; rapeseed, 1,000; ravison, 500; clover seed, 3,000; lucerne seed, 3,000; pumpkin seed, 1,500; linseed, 3,000; oilcakes, 30; sunflower seed, 1,500; wheat-flour (first quality), 2,000; wholemeal, 3,000; rye flour, 1,000; light benzine, 1,000; heavy benzine, 800; light oils, 500; heavy oils, 1,000.

Egypt has recently placed an order for manufactured lumber in British Columbia.

A number of hydro-electric surveys have been undertaken by the Assam Government.

Owing to slackness in the demand for hides and skins large stocks are accumulating at Baghdad.

Mr. W. O. Grazebrook, a partner in the firm of Ogilvy Gillanders and Co., East India merchants, has been elected to a seat on the board of the P. and O. Banking Corporation.

The Postmaster-General announces that the air mail for Morocco now leaves Toulouse at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. The latest time of posting at the G.P.O., London, is 6.30 a.m. and 6 a.m. for printed papers, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

THE BEYROUT FAIR.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BEYROUT, May 31.

The Beyrout Fair, which closed yesterday, has been a disappointment from the point of view of immediate results; the amount of orders booked is said to be insignificant. Business at the end slackened so much that the exhibitors clamoured for the suppression of the entrance fee, and this was done, but the visitors, who then came in increased numbers, were mostly attracted to the lottery and games stands. I visited Allenby Street on the day before the fair ended, and was struck with the number of additional stands. I visited one stand where there was a large display of ornamental objects, from small enamelled powder boxes and luminous night watches with exquisite tortoiseshell frames to artificial beads and finished metalware, all the work of one French factory. The representative of the firm, a Frenchman, asked if he had done good business, made an expressive gesture and said: "Fairs and exhibitions have never been a success in themselves."

That the immediate results have been disappointing is clearly shown by the declarations of the manager of the fair in the course of an interview granted to a Press representative. Asked his opinion of the fair and the economic advantages that are expected to result for the trade of the country, he replied: "I do not think I can give you sufficient information on the amount of business done. I know neither the importance of the orders booked, nor the number of bargains concluded. As regards the economic consequences, there is no doubt that the diffusion of goods and of new samples exhibited, the perfected commercial processes that the fair has placed in evidence, will contribute in a large measure to impart a powerful stimulus to the trade of the country, and will facilitate and increase transactions." He stated that the proceeds of the fair had been comparatively satisfactory, but added that he could not make out the extraordinary apathy of the population towards this interesting event, since if the inhabitants of Beyrout, and of Syria in general, really understood what was in their interests they would have flocked in great numbers to the fair. "We have inaugurated this fair to promote the interests and to work for the good of the country, and I repeat, I fail to understand the motives which led some to assume such an attitude of indifference."

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Can obtain all information as to the journey from
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THE "UNIVERSAL" CIGARETTE MACHINE.

Designed to make round, oval or Egyptian cigarettes with creased edges of any desired diameter or length with wide or narrow pasted laps, and, by an interchange of parts, also crimped cigarettes.

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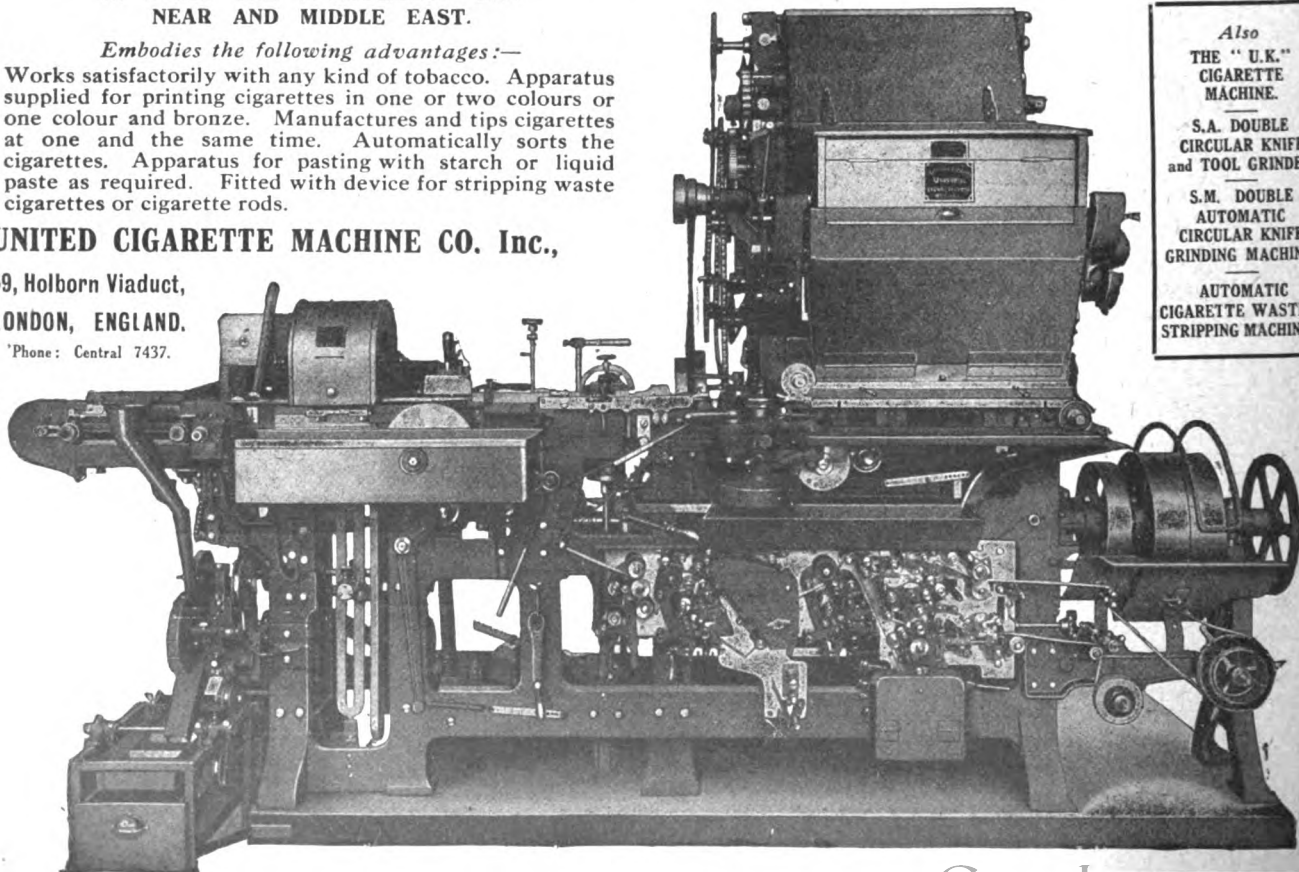
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ENGINEERING.

(BY OUR ENGINEERING REPRESENTATIVE.)

Refuse Disposal.

Since the days when the question whether refuse destructors could be run economically in conjunction with electric power supply stations excited such discussion, and brought about such differences of opinion in engineering circles, the problem of refuse disposal has always been one of more than usual interest. Recently a number of tests have been made by Mr. J. A. Priestley, the Cleansing Superintendent of Sheffield, as to the best way to deal with such material, and as a result of this work the Corporation put down, a few years ago, a plant large enough to deal with waste matter on a commercial scale. This was strikingly successful in operation, and the work is now being extended considerably.

Under the new system expensive refuse destructors and unsightly dumps are done away with, and the refuse is converted into fertilisers, with valuable by-products for heating, lighting, etc. So far the plant only deals with 40 tons of refuse per day—about one-tenth of the total—but when the extensions referred to are completed over 500 tons of house refuse daily will be handled.

Under the new process the refuse is carefully screened, the whole of the dry material being passed through a series of sieves which separate it into dust, fine cinder, and coarse cinder, leaving an unscreenable residue of rags, vegetable waste, old tins, paper, and other refuse. This residue is sorted, and a fairly large proportion can be put to immediate use, the waste paper, for example, being sent direct to the pulping mills, and the old tins to the briquetting presses in which they are made ready for feeding into the steel furnaces. Rags are sent through a washing machine where they are treated with a strong and antiseptic soap extract, from which they pass to a rinsing machine and a centrifugal drier. It may be mentioned here that the sorting is done in a most methodical way. The "tailings" from the screens fall on to a wide endless belt travelling at a slow speed. The pickers and sorters sit on either side of this and collect the waste as it passes into bins and bags. The vegetable matter only amounts to just over 3 per cent. of the whole refuse, and this is dried and fed into furnaces or used for manure, as the case may be.

It is said that the dust possesses valuable fertilising properties, and that chemical analysis shows it to be equal, if not superior, in nitrogen content to most other chemical manures. Farmers and market gardeners buy it in large quantities, and as it becomes more known the sale is certain to increase. At the moment, the screens turn out more dust than the agricultural industry in the district can absorb, and as a consequence a good deal of it is having to be tipped.

The coarser screenings, a large percentage of which are said to be partially burned coal cinders, is passed through a washing machine by which the lighter portions are washed out of the clinker, pot refuse, stones, shale, and hard core. The larger pieces are sold as fuel to the Corporation electrical undertaking, and it is said that in the aggregate this material has a heating value of about 0.75 per cent. of that of steam coal. The finer particles of cinder, etc., after being washed out of the hard surface, are used for making briquettes, and the rubble, stone, shale, pot, etc., remaining is of considerable value in road making and concrete making. The briquettes referred to are made by adding 8.5 per cent. of pitch and 0.5 per cent. of tar to 91 per cent. of the cinder, and a report shows that the calorific value is no less than 12,730 British thermal units, or equal to that of briquettes made with the ordinary quality of coal dust. At present the Corporation is using practically the whole of the briquettes made in steam-raising at the public baths, and it is of interest to note that at the moment the price of the briquettes, at the Corporation works, is about 30s. per ton.

Large Harbour Contract.

I understand that the large contract for the improvement of the harbour facilities at Lagos has gone to Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co., on the recommendation of the Crown Agents for the Colonies. The work will be carried out for the Nigerian Government, and will chiefly consist of deepening existing channels so as to give deep-water berthage for ocean-going steamers, and generally improving the dock facilities. Amongst other work a concrete quay wall over 600 yards in length will have to be built, and at least five transit sheds of large size will have to be erected. In addition, a large area of the foreshore will have to be reclaimed, and an immense amount of dredging work carried out. This dredging will be carried out at first to a depth of 26 ft. below low-water level, so as to allow of immediate use of the new wharves, etc., but at the earliest possible moment after completion further dredging to a total depth of 30 ft. below low-water mark will be carried out.

New Cables.

During the past twenty years a number of patented systems of electric light and power wiring and of new forms of insulated conductors have been introduced by our leading firms of electrical manufacturers. The introduction of steel conduit as a protection for electric wires had an adverse effect on the multitude of lead and other sheathed wires that were being introduced, but even to-day a number of them are being used with every success. The new "Go-Clad" system of electric wiring introduced by Messrs. W. T. Glover and Co., Limited, of Trafford Park, needs no additional protection, as a continuous and jointless sheathing of lead alloy is drawn over the insulated conductor, this sheath being screwed at all joints and terminals, in which respect it differs from the majority of special lead-covered systems. It is said that this alloy constitutes a sheath which, although harder, and as such a superior protection to the cables than the lead usually used, is sufficiently ductile to allow the cables and wires to be bent in any required manner, whilst fewer sustaining cleats, etc., are required by reason of its greater rigidity. Ordinary standard switches and other fittings can be used with the system.

INDIAN AND GENERAL INVESTMENT.

The report of the Indian and General Investment Trust for the year to April 30, 1921, states that the directors think it prudent to revert to their former practice and take securities into the balance-sheet at cost price (less what has been from time to time written off them) and rate of exchange at 1s. 4d., which is approximately both the present rate of the rupee and the average cost of funds in the East. This will involve, on a valuation based on prices ruling April 30, the disappearance of reserve account and a deficiency on capital account, though, as the directors anticipate, only temporarily, since the shrinkage of values is not due to any change in the character of securities, but mainly to the Money market considerations. Tea, jute and rubber are perhaps exceptions, but the Trust's holdings in these industries are almost altogether in debentures and good cumulative preference shares, on which any ultimate loss is very unlikely. Gross interest and dividends on investments amount to £37,349 and income-tax deducted or payable direct to £10,685. Provision is also made for corporation tax payable, estimated at £502. Balance on revenue account, after transferring £3,345 to reserve, is £12,485, plus £1,715 brought forward, making £14,200. The directors recommend a dividend on £100,600 deferred stock at 12 per cent. per annum (making 10 per cent.), less tax at 5s. 10d., carrying forward £1,733. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., June 28, 2 p.m.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

Egypt.

Single Cotton Bed Sheets.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of 500 sheets (bed, cotton, single). Particulars can be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1. June 30.

Clothing, etc.—The Ministry of the Interior, Egypt (Lunacy Division) invites tenders for the supply of clothing and household requisites to the Abbasiya and Khanka Asylums. Tenders, on the proper form and accompanied by a provisional deposit of 2 per cent., are to be submitted to the Lunacy Division, Abbasiya. July 11 (D.O.T.).

Calcium Carbide.—The Egyptian Postal Administration at Alexandria invites tenders for the supply of 15,000 kilogrammes of calcium carbide for acetylene gas light plants. Quotations should comprise free storage at the sole risk of the contractor and free delivery (by periodical partial supplies during the year) at 62 railways or river stations specified.—(D.O.T.), July 15.

Beans, etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 150 kilos beans, 150 kilos barley, and 4,000 kilos tinn, required for four months commencing August, 1921. July 16.

Silk.—The Central Stationery Stores, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of silk for the Hejaz. July 23.

Yugoslavia.

Electric Meters.—The Municipal Authorities, Belgrade, invite tenders for the supply of 2,500 parts of different electric meters. Tenders must bear the inscription, "Offres des Compteurs," and be addressed to Direction Municipale des Tramways et de l'Eclairage Electrique. June 22.

India.

Picks, Shovels, etc.—Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Co. invites tenders for the supply of (1) 9,560 picks, shovels, etc.; (2) 17,530 files; and (3) 16 boilers for locomotives. July 5.

Pipe-lines.—The Bombay Corporation invites tenders for the construction of about 105 miles of steel and reinforced concrete pipe-lines, 72 in. to 57 in. in diameter. July 26.

A Copy of this Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will OPEN on MONDAY, 20th JUNE, 1921, and will CLOSE on or before FRIDAY, 24th JUNE, 1921.

THE BURMAH OIL COMPANY, LTD

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)

Authorised Share Capital - - - - £10,000,000.

Authorised.	CAPITAL.	Issued or included in the present issue.
£250,000 in 6 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	...	£250,000
750,000 in 6 per Cent. Cumulative Second Preference Shares of £10 each	...	750,000
3,000,000 in 8 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each	...	3,000,000
6,000,000 in Ordinary Shares of £1 each	...	5,150,804
£10,000,000		£9,150,804

The Company has no Debentures or Debenture Stock outstanding.

ISSUE OF 3,000,000 Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each AT PAR

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:

2s. 6d. per Share	- - -	on application.
2s. 6d. per Share	- - -	on allotment.
7s. 6d. per Share	- - -	on 29th July, 1921.
7s. 6d. per Share	- - -	on 29th August, 1921.

Applicants who pay up in full on allotment will receive interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum on such prepayments calculated from the date of allotment to the dates when the respective instalments are payable.

The Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares entitle the Holders to a Fixed Cumulative Preference Dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, and such Dividend will be paid half-yearly on 30th April and 31st October in each year in respect of the Company's financial year terminating on the preceding 31st December. A full half-year's dividend will be paid on 30th April, 1922, in respect of the period up to 31st December, 1921. These shares rank, both as regards Dividend and Capital, immediately after the Preference Shares and Second Preference Shares and in priority to the Ordinary Shares.

On a winding up the Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares entitle the holders to have all the assets of the Company remaining after paying the sums due to the holders of the Preference Shares and Second Preference Shares, including a premium of 10 per cent. on the amounts paid up on the Second Preference Shares, together with all arrears of dividend on both classes of shares, applied in repaying the Capital paid up on the Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares, together with a premium of 15 per cent. on the amounts paid up thereon, or a premium equal to the average premium above par (as certified by the Secretary of the Stock Exchange, Glasgow), at which the Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares have been dealt in on the market during the six calendar months preceding liquidation, whichever may be the higher, and, in addition, to all arrears or deficiency of Dividend down to the date of the commencement of the winding up.

The total amount of the Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares to be issued can not exceed £5,000,000, unless with the consent of the holders of the present issue of 3,000,000 shares and of the holders of any additional shares which may be created and issued of the further 2,000,000 Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares which the Company has reserved right to create and issue.

On a show of hands every member present in person has one vote, and at a poll every member present in person or by proxy has one vote for every share, whether Ordinary or Preference, held by him, except in the case of the Second Preference Shares in respect of which the holders thereof are entitled to ten votes for every such share held by them. The holders of the Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares have no right to attend or vote, either in person or by proxy, at any General Meeting of the Company or to receive Notice of such Meeting unless where the Meeting is convened for the passing of Resolutions affecting the rights of such Preference Shareholders or when their Preference Dividends for any year ending 31st December are not wholly paid within six months of the expiry of such year.

Subject to the rights of the Preference Shares and the Second Preference Shares and of the Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares the Ordinary Shareholders are entitled to all the profits and assets of the Company.

Applications from existing Shareholders of the Company made on the special coloured forms provided for such applications will be given special consideration.

Applications will be made in due course to the Committees of the Stock Exchanges, London and Glasgow, for permission to deal in the 8 per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares now offered.

PROSPECTUS.

The Company was registered on 15th May, 1902, for the purpose of, *inter alia*, acquiring and taking over as a going concern the undertaking and all or any of the assets and liabilities of its predecessor registered under the same name in 1886, which had been working concessions of Petroleum bearing lands in Burma, and carrying on business as producers and refiners of Crude Petroleum and exporters of and dealers in Petroleum products.

The Company holds some 55 square miles on Mining Lease and some 150 square miles on Prospecting Licence from the Government of India, and in addition has perpetual drilling rights over some 500 acres of Fee Simple Land in Assam belonging to The Budderpore Oil Co., Ltd. The Company also controls the Assam Oil Co., Ltd., which holds considerable areas in Assam on Mining Lease and Prospecting Licence from the Government of India.

A 10-inch Pipe Line of some 300 miles, with four pumping stations, connects the Company's main producing Fields in Burma with its extensive Refineries at Rangoon, where the whole range of Petroleum products is manufactured.

The Company owns Tank Steamers of an aggregate of 23,710 tons deadweight, and has contracted with R. and W. Hawthorn, Leslie & Company, Limited, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for a further Tanker of 10,000 tons deadweight for delivery early next year. The estimated price of this Tank Steamer is £450,000 or thereby. The Company has already paid instalments on account of the price. The ultimate amount of the price under the Contract for this steamer depends upon the cost of labour and material.

At the Ports of Rangoon, Chittagong, Calcutta, Coconada, Madras, Cochin, Marmagao, Bombay, and Karachi the Company possesses large modern installations for the receipt in bulk of its Liquid Products, which are there packed and despatched for distribution through the Company's extensive selling organisation throughout Burma and India.

In Burma and India the Company finds a ready market for its entire production of Kerosene and Jute Batching Oils, and for the great bulk of its make of Lubricants and Greases. These local markets are rapidly overtaking

the Company's production of Petroleum Spirits, but meantime the surplus is being exported to Europe.

Bulk storage of Petroleum Spirits at the four main Indian ports is provided for by the Tank Storage Co. (India), Ltd. The capital of that Company is held equally by the Company and the Asiatic Petroleum Co. (India), Ltd.

Since the incorporation of the Company in 1902 its Crude Petroleum producing and refining operations have been quadrupled, and there has been continuous improvement in the refining processes, in the direction of improving the quality of the finished products, in reducing the cost of production by economies in fuel consumption, and in other directions.

From the Twingone and Beme Reserves of the Yenangyoung Oilfield, embracing an area of only about half a square mile, the Company has hitherto drawn a great part of the Crude Oil required to serve its Refineries; and although there is keen competitive drilling in these Reserves, the Company holds such a commanding position that it confidently anticipates securing considerable quantities of Oil therefrom for many years to come. So assured is the Company of this, and of the possibilities of economies in production in such a concentrated area, that it is at present engaged in the Electrification of the Field at a cost in the neighbourhood of £1,000,000. The Company will be in a position to supply other Companies with electric power and light, and Contracts for such supply have been already entered into with two Companies operating in the Yenangyoung Field. The remainder of the Company's holdings is well protected against competitive drilling, and of these the already proved and producing areas in Burma alone are so extensive as, in the Directors' opinion, to inspire confidence that ample and steady supplies of Crude Petroleum will be available to maintain its refining and marketing operations at their past maximum level for many years to come.

In addition, the Company has during the past few years developed a new, if meantime small, Field on the Budderpore Oil Co., Ltd.'s lands in Assam referred to above. Further, the possibilities of increasing the production of the Assam Oil Co., Ltd., in the same province are considered by the Company's geologists to be favourable.

The Company formed the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., and held practically all that Company's Ordinary Share Capital until His Majesty's Government acquired a controlling interest in 1914. His Majesty's Government and the Company now own practically the whole Ordinary Share Capital of that Company.

Most of the Shares in the Assam Oil Co., Ltd., by which the Company recently acquired the controlling Shareholding in that Company, were purchased for cash, but in respect of part of the Shares acquired the consideration was the allotment to the sellers of one Ordinary Share of the Company credited as fully paid for every four and one-half Shares of the Assam Oil Co., Ltd., entailing a total allotment of 7,692 Ordinary Shares of the Company. Of these 7,304 Shares have been now actually allotted.

The Company is also interested in Petroleum in Trinidad through its Shareholding in the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Ltd., and it has recently acquired an equal interest with the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., in a syndicate formed to exploit the Petroleum potentialities of Hungary.

In conjunction with the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., the Company promoted the Tinplate Co., of India, Ltd., for the manufacture of tinplates in India, of which the Company is a large consumer. Works and Plant are in course of erection at Jamshedpur, Bengal.

The Refineries, Oil Fields, Pipe Line, Tankers, and Tank Installations have been drastically written down in previous years, so that the book figures do not represent anything like real values. The Refining, Transport, Distribution, and Marketing Assets stood in the books at 31st December, 1919, at only £1,044,395, whereas it is estimated these would to-day cost three to four times that amount.

The Company holds 2,374,660 Ordinary Shares of £1 each of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., of which 1,899,728 Shares are fully paid and 474,932 Shares are 1s. paid. The fully paid Shares stand in the Company's books at 11s. 3d. per Share. The present value of these Shares is very considerable, and the already proved great resources of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Ltd., and the rapid and enormous development of that Company's operations are sufficient to suggest a greatly increased potential value in these Shares.

On 30th July, 1920, 2,286,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each of the Company were issued, credited as fully paid, to the holders of the Ordinary Shares of the Company upon the capitalisation of £2,286,000 standing at the credit of General Reserve.

The Book Values of the Company's Assets at 31st December, 1919, less depreciation and after deducting liabilities, amounted to £9,468,827, which by the addition of the estimated net proceeds of the present issue will be increased to over £12,300,000. For the reasons above stated the actual value of the Assets is estimated to be several times in excess of this amount. The Preference Shares now being issued are therefore very fully secured.

The net profits of the Company after providing for Income-tax and making liberal provision for depreciation, but not allowing for Excess Profits Duty (to which the Company is not liable after 31st December, 1920), as shown by the audited accounts, were for the last four years as follows:—

Year to 31st December, 1916	£1,276,584
Year to 31st December, 1917	£2,305,129
Year to 31st December, 1918	£2,814,057
Year to 31st December, 1919	£4,155,937

and, from the cabled figures, the profits for the year ended 31st December, 1920, will, it is estimated, approximately amount to £3,750,000 after writing off £1,150,000 for depreciation and Oil Fields expenditure as compared with £498,856 written off in 1919.

Taking, however, only the profits for the four years ended 31st December, 1919, the average thereof amounts to £2,637,926, which sum would be sufficient, after paying the Dividends on the issued 6 per Cent. Preference and Second Preference Share Capital of £1,000,000 and meeting the Corporation Profits Tax, to cover the Dividend on the £3,000,000 Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares now being issued more than ten times over.

The Capital to be raised by the present issue is required to refund the cost of the Shares of the Assam Oil Co., Ltd., purchased for cash; to provide the Company's proportion of the capital likely to be required to adequately develop the resources of that Company; to provide the balance of the Company's share of the Capital of The Tinplate Company of India, Ltd.; to pay the balance of the price of the new Tank Steamer above referred to; to meet the balance of the cost of the Electrification of the Yenangyoung Field; to provide for the installation on a large scale of up-to-date plant at the Refineries; to meet the cost of additions and improvements the provision of which had to be held over to a large extent owing to the War, and from which the Directors anticipate substantial economies, increased output, and other advantages; and generally for the purposes of the Company.

The whole of the present issue of Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares has been underwritten under an Agreement dated 2nd June, 1921, made between the Company of the one part and S. M. Penney and Macgeorge, of Glasgow, and Robert Fleming and Co., of London, of the other part, for commissions aggregating 2½ per cent. on the nominal amount of the Shares now offered. The Directors have agreed to sub-underwrite 115,000 Shares for a commission of 2 per cent.

The only Contracts which may come within the purview of Section 81 of The Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908, entered into by the Company during the period of two years immediately preceding the date of this Prospectus, apart from Contracts made in the ordinary course of the business of the Company, are:—

1. Agreement between the Company and Robert Millar Edington, dated 30th July, 1920;
2. Agreement between the Company and The Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., dated 12th February, 1920;
3. Two Agreements between the Company and The British Burmah Petroleum Co., Ltd., both dated 2nd and 8th December, 1920.
4. Agreement between the Company and The Indo-Burmah Petroleum Co., Ltd., dated 20th January, 1921;

5. Agreement between the Company and Robert Millar Edington, dated 1st June, 1921; and

6. The said Agreement between the Company and the said S. M. Penney and Macgeorge and Robert Fleming and Co.

Copies of the Contracts above mentioned, of the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, and of the Special Resolutions creating or affecting the Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares now offered and defining the rights attached thereto may be seen at the Offices of the Company in Glasgow and London at any time during business hours while the list remains open.

Applications for the Eight per Cent. Cumulative Preference Shares now offered should be made upon the Form accompanying the Prospectus, and should be sent to either of the Company's Bankers at any of their Head or Branch Offices, together with a remittance for the amount of the Deposit.

Where no allotment is made the Deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than that applied for the balance of the Deposit will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment, and any surplus will be repaid to applicants.

A Brokerage of 1½d. per Share will be paid on allotments made in respect of applications (including applications from existing Shareholders) bearing the Stamp of Bankers, Brokers, or other recognised agents.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the offices of the Company in Glasgow and London, from the Bankers and their respective Branches, and from Messrs. S. M. Penney and Macgeorge, 24, George Square, Glasgow, and Messrs. Robert Fleming and Co., 8, Crosby Square, London, E.C.3.

Dated 16th June, 1921.

DIRECTORS.

Sir JOHN T. CARGILL, Bart., 175, West George Street, Glasgow, Chairman.
ROBERT I. WATSON, Britannic House, 23, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.2, Managing Director.

H. S. ASHTON, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2.

D. W. T. CARGILL, 163, Hope Street, Glasgow.

Sir CAMPBELL KIRKMAN FINLAY, Warfield Grove, Bracknell, Berks.

LEONARD GOW, 8, Gordon Street, Glasgow.

R. A. MURRAY, 175, West George Street, Glasgow.

G. C. WHIGHAM, Britannic House, 23, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.2.

BANKERS.

THE BANK OF SCOTLAND, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, and Branches.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL AND UNION BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED, London and Branches.

SOLICITORS.

BOYDS, MILLER and THOMPSON, 190, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.

AUDITOR.

J. HERBERT WILSON, C.A., 175, West George Street, Glasgow.

SECRETARY.

F. G. HOLDSWORTH, F.C.I.S., 175, West George Street, Glasgow.

OFFICES.

Registered and Head Office:—175, WEST GEORGE STREET, GLASGOW.
London Office:—BRITANNIC HOUSE, 23, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

No.....

THE BURMAH OIL COMPANY, LTD.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)

Issue of 3,000,000 Eight per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

To the Directors of the BURMAH OIL COMPANY, LIMITED,
175, West George Street, Glasgow.

Gentlemen,—Having paid to your Bankers the sum of £....., being a deposit of 2s. 6d. per share on Eight per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares of £1 each in The Burmah Oil Company, Limited, I/we request you to allot to me/us that number of shares at par, and I/we hereby agree to accept the same, or any less number that you may allot to me/us, upon the terms of the Prospectus dated 16th June, 1921, and subject to the provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, and I/we authorise you to place my/our name(s) on the Register of Members of the Company in respect of the shares that may be so allotted to me/us.

USUAL SIGNATURE

(Companies can but firms cannot be accepted.)

NAME IN FULL

ADDRESS IN FULL

DESCRIPTION

PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITALS.

Date, June, 1921.

An acknowledgment will be forwarded in due course either by Allotment Letter or return of the Deposit.

This form must be filled up and sent entire to The Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and London, or The National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Limited, London, or any of their respective Branches, with a cheque payable to Bearer for the amount of the Deposit. Cheques must be crossed, and any alteration from "Order" to "Bearer" must be initialled by the Drawer.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Dried Fruit.—Business has shown a distinct improvement during the past week. Currants have been in good request at steady rates. Sultanias continue in strong demand at advancing rates. Persian dates have also been a firm spot and prices are higher.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in good demand at the official prices. West Indian crystallised is 3s. lower at 45s. 6d. to 52s. 6d., and American granulated at 58s. 6d. is 1s. 3d. lower. Czecho-Slovakian at 30s. 6d. has shed 1s. and white Java at 20s. 9d. is 1s. 3d. lower.

Oilseeds.—A steady tone has characterised the market this week. Indian linseed is eighteenpence up at 21s. 6d., and La Plata at 19s. 6d. has gained 5d. Rapeseed is higher, with Toria 1s. 5d. up at 21s. 5d.; bold Ferozepore at 19s. and brown Cawnpore at 18s. 6d. are unchanged. Cottonseed is higher, with Egyptian black at 11s. 9d., an increase of 6d.

Oils.—A slight increase in prices has taken place this week. Linseed oil is 11d. up at 35s. 5d. Rape oil is unaltered, with crude at 54s. and refined at 62s. Refined cotton oil at 44s. and deodorised at 50s. have both risen 2s., and Egyptian crude at 36s. has gained 6d. Turpentine is 7s. up, to 81s.

BULGARIA'S CROPS DAMAGED BY STORMS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SOFIA, June 11.

The very heavy hailstorms which fell in different parts of the country a week ago caused great damage to the crops, particularly at Sliven and Gorna Orehovitzh.

OPIUM MARKET REPORT.

Messrs. Barker Brothers, Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended May 27:—Since our last circular of April 29 the sales of opium in our market amount to 48 cases of 169 lb., in all, 3,112 lb., and the piastre price paid is about 15 per cent. over and above what was paid during April—viz., Ps. 700 to 790 per lb. as to quality. Besides this, the sterling exchange having dropped further—namely, to Ps. 500-510 per £ sterling—the shilling value of the drug is now 10s. to 11s. 6d. per lb., as compared to 8s. and 9s. 6d. thirty to forty days ago. There is also another factor to be taken into consideration, and this is, no arrivals of any importance come down now from the growing districts, for during the past six weeks only 13 baskets of 169 lb. have come down. The reason is that bankers, owing to the monetary crisis, will not advance any money on the article. The present prices, too, although they have advanced a little lately, are still about Ps. 400 below what the article actually cost the native holder a year or two ago. The exchange to-day is Ps. 510 per £ sterling for cheque and 0.78 dol. for one Turkish pound of Ps. 100. The arrivals are 1,330 cases, against 1,665 at same date last year, and our stock is now about 1,129 cases.

Good crops are anticipated from Roumania this year.

The Tunisian Government have appointed the Credit Foncier d'Algerie et de Tunisie as their commercial representatives in Great Britain.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachma to £	25·22½	60·00-61·00
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25·22½	125-130
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·3½-1·3¾
Bucharest	Lei to £	25·22½	240-250
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1·3½-1·3¾
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	514-534
New York	Dollars to £	4·86½	3·77½-3·82
Paris	Francs to £	25·22½	46·00-46·50
Prague	Kronen to £	24·02	270-280
Rome	Lire to £	25·22½	74½-75½
Sofia	Levas to £	25·22½	320-340
Teheran	Krans to £	50	50½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24·02	1,800-1,900
Warsaw	Marks to £	20·43	4,700-5,000

In some cases quotations are nominal.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 131s. cwt.; butter, 182s. cwt.; cheese, 127s. cwt.; chillies, 120s. cwt.; eggs, 17s. 9d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 77s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 120s. cwt.; coffee (East Indian, bold), 118s. cwt.; coffee (Mocha, longberry), 94s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos, superior), 56s. 3d. cwt.; coffee (Nairobi), 97s. 6d. cwt.; lard, 75s. 9d. cwt.; hams, 139s. cwt.; ginger (washed Cochinchina), 37s. 6d. cwt.; nutmegs (110s. to 80s.), 10½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok white), 9d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 105s. cwt.; raisins (Sultana, Smyrna), 140s. cwt.; currants, 71s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 60s. 7½d. cwt.; sugar (No 1 cubes), 63s. 9d. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 55s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (West Indian crystallized), 50s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 25s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 16s. 3d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 16s. 9d. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), £6 7s. 6d. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 4½d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 2½d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 6d. lb.; tea (Ceylon, common to good common), 6½d. lb.; tea (Java, common to good common), 3½d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 83s. 3d. qr.; wheat (English, white), 95s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 47s. 3d. qr.; barley (malting), 67s. 6d. qr.; oats (English), 44s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata), 29s. 9d. qr.; maize (La Plata), 47s. 3d. qr.; flour, 68s. 9d. sack.

Chemicals.—Acids; Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 10½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 5½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 7½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £17 5s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £45 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £19 ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 138s. cwt.; Potassium, Bi-chromate, 9½d. lb.; chlorate, 5½d. lb.; caustic, £45 ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 9d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £21 ton; Sodium. Crystals. 145s. ton; bi-carbonate, £10 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 15s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 10s. ton; hyposulphite, £23 ton; prussiate, 7½d. lb.; nitrate, £18 11s. 3d. ton; sulphate of copper, £32 ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; glycerine (crude 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial 1260 per cent.), £155 ton; lemon oil, 3s. 1½d. lb.; quinine, 3s. 8½d. oz.; red lead, £38 10s. ton; white dry lead, £42 12s. 6d. ton; white ground lead, £51 15s. ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulis), £39 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £73 2s. 6d. ton; copper (electro), £78 ton; gold bars, 109s. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 130s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 160s. ton; galvanized sheets (24 G), £22 ton; lead (soft foreign), £22 16s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 3½d. unit; molybdenite, 48s. 9d. unit; nickel, £185 ton; platinum, 365s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 17s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 35d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £26 10s. ton; tin (standard), £167 5s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 25s. 3d. box; wolfram, 12s. 3d. unit.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and Heifer (first), 90 lbs. and up, 8½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 8½d. lb.; 79 lbs., 8½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 7½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 6d. lb.; (second), 90 lbs. and up, 7d. lb.; 80 to 89 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lbs., 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lbs. and up, 6½d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 7½d. lb.; (second), 60 lbs. and up, 5d. lb.; 59 lbs. and under, 4½d. lb.; Bulls (first), 4d. lb.; (second), 3d. lb.; casualty hides, 3½d. lb.; Kips (first), 5d. lb.; (second), 4d. lb.; (third), 3d. lb.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 8.40d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian), £11 5s. ton; linseed (La Plata), £18 7s. 6d. ton; rape (Toria), £19 17s. 6d. ton; soya beans, £12 7s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £19 7s. 6d. ton. Oils: linseed, £34 10s. ton; soya, £35 10s. ton; cotton (crude), £35 15s. ton; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton; ground nut, £40 5s. ton; palm, £33 5s. ton; rape (crude), £54 10s. ton; cocoanut (Ceylon), £46 15s. ton; petroleum, 2s. 1½d. gallon; turpentine (American), 78s. cwt.; Shellac (TN second orange), 390s. cwt.; shellac (AC garnet), 300s. cwt.; rosin (American), 20s. cwt.; copra (Ceylon), £30 15s. ton; copra (Straits F.M.S.), £29 7s. 6d. ton; tallow (Australian mutton), 33s. 9d. cwt.; tallow (Australian beef), 33s. cwt.; Rubber: Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 7½d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. lb.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Twentieth Ordinary General Meeting of the Members of THE NEW EGYPTIAN CO., LTD., will be held on Tuesday, the 5th day of July, 1921, at 11 a.m., at the Head Office of the Company, 4, Rue Adib, Alexandria, Egypt, 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 28th day of June to the 5th day of July, 1921, both days inclusive.

Dated this 10th day of June, 1921.

By Order of the Board,

ALFRED W. ALLSWORTH,

Local Secretary and Assistant Manager.

4, Rue Adib, Alexandria, Egypt.

Shareholders who hold Warrants to Bearer are reminded that if they wish to attend and vote at the meeting, either personally or by proxy, they must, three clear days before the day appointed for the meeting, deposit their Warrants at the Head Office of the Company, 4, Rue Adib, Alexandria, or at any of the principal Banks in Alexandria or Cairo, a list of which can be obtained at the Head Office of the Company in Alexandria.

Shareholders in England who desire to vote by Proxy must lodge their Warrants and also their Proxies at the registered Office of the Company in London on or before the 24th of June, 1921.

Will the French Franc Further Improve?

Every Investor interested in Foreign Exchange transactions or French Investments should read our Articles and Letters entitled "The Actual and Future Position of the French Franc," "Will the French Franc Recover?" "France's Wealth," etc. These Articles will be sent free of charge by—

Foreign Exchange Department,
THE PALL MALL INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, Ltd.,
Trafalgar House, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, LONDON, S.W. 1.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

GHARBIEH LAND.

The report of the Gharbieh Land Company, read at the ordinary general meeting held at Cairo on May 30, states:—

The operations of the past year had left in our hands a disposable balance of £E58,522. It was the first time since 1907 that the company began a year with a surplus of this importance. Until then, it may be recalled, it had been struggling with increasing financial difficulties, which compelled us to reduce considerably the works of improvement, and even at one time to stop them completely.

To meet the most urgent needs it had been necessary for several years to have recourse to short term loans, necessarily very onerous, and which only removed one difficulty to create another almost immediately. It was not till towards the end of 1910 that the means of unifying the debts was found by the issue of 5 per cent. long-term debentures, guaranteed by a mortgage on the Ras-el-Khalig property. The funds which that issue furnished, though very limited, enabled a marked advance to be made in the works, but the war broke out before they were finished, and it then became necessary to restrict them to those that were considered absolutely necessary to avoid losing ground and to turn to the best advantage the results already obtained.

That method of proceeding was assuredly not the most efficacious from the point of view of the development of the property, and it is certain that the entire and uninterrupted application of the initial programme would have given more rapid and more complete results. But in the circumstances already referred to it was impossible to do otherwise without endangering the very existence of the company. It has been by using the greatest prudence in the employment of the company's resources that, despite the almost complete cessation of sales, despite the series of bad crops which have been recorded in our reports for the period, we have been able to avoid the grave dangers which have brought so many other companies to grief, and to prepare the results that 1920 ought at last to permit us to realise in part. These results having testified to the efficacy of the work accomplished, it only remains for us to persevere in the path followed and, so far as our surplus funds permit, we have not hesitated to resume with a new vigour the work necessary for the complete realisation of the value of the property.

Our programme includes a series of new works, such as the levelling and canalisation of lands not yet cultivated; the repair, deepening, and widening of drains and canals; cleansing the land, the construction and enlargement of *esbehs* and of houses for the personnel. It includes, also, the purchase of railway material, tractors, etc. The cost amounts to nearly £E22,000, comprised as follows:—New canals, etc., £E1,123.024; levelling and ploughing, £E6,123.140; *esbehs*, dwelling-houses, etc., £E2,973; general cost of preparing land (proportion of the whole of the expenses of the year), £E5,108.329; Decauville material, £E1,866.780; *sakkiehs*, etc., £E638.076; tractors, £E2,384.447; various, £E1,397.669; total, £E21,615.174.

The property of the company at February 28, 1921, amounted to an area of 6,012 feddans, 1 *kirat*, and 1 *sahmes*, figuring in our books at that date for a total amount of £E366,618.354. The works of irrigation and drainage carried out in 1920-21 consisted principally of the construction of new canals and secondary and tertiary drains on a total length of about 44,600 metres, the deepening and enlargement of old canals and drains on a total length of about 6,480 metres, and the construction of various bridges and culverts. The machines have suffered to a certain extent from the employment of *mazout* of inferior quality, which we have had to substitute for coal as fuel for reasons of economy. Repairs are in progress, which will restore them gradually to a good condition.

The new construction undertaken in 1920-21 included fifty-six houses for cultivators, and six houses for the staff, etc., or, in all, 172 rooms. We have also repaired the pump rooms and twenty-nine old houses. Other works being necessary, we shall carry them out as soon as our funds permit.

The results of the cultivation are far from having attained the forecasts at the commencement of the year. At the time when rents were fixed the price of cotton was well above 100 talaris per *kantar*, and all seemed to indicate that, barring extraordinary events, that price would be maintained at least up to the following crop. Nevertheless, it is not upon this price that we have based the rents of the year. We have prudently preferred to adopt as the basis of calculation the price of 50 talaris, while stipulating that all increases above that price should be subject to division between the tenants and the company, according to a scale determined in advance and accepted by all interested. The slump which was so soon to begin was then not less impossible to foresee than to avert. The price commenced to fall sharply in September, and in less than six months a total fall was to be recorded of nearly 85 talaris per *kantar*.

Tenants and proprietors alike saw themselves threatened with inevitable ruin, and what made the situation still worse for all was that never before had the expenses of cultivation reached such a high level—a level which in the majority of cases surpassed the value of the crop at the prices ruling since December last. The minimum rent of 3.160 feddans leased in 1920 was fixed at £E30,820. According to custom the tenants have delivered to us their cotton; but at the present prices we shall only realise in disposing of it a part of the sums which are due to us. In view of the serious character of the fall we have decided to revise the leases, and to provide for a total reduction

of 30 per cent. of their total. Even with that reduction, we cannot regard as certain the entire recovery of rents and advances which remain to be received, and on that account still a reserve of £E5,000 appears to us to be necessary. With respect to arrears of previous years which, in the present situation, ought to be regarded as irrecoverable, we have deducted the amount under the "provisions for doubtful credits" which already existed in our previous balance-sheets.

The fall in the price of cotton brought about as its immediate consequence the complete cessation of transactions of all kinds. We have, therefore, made no important sales of land in 1920-21. Some small sales were concluded at the commencement of the year for a total area of about 10½ feddans, and left a profit of £E602.

Despite the disappointments resulting from the fall of the price of cotton and of all products of the land, despite the increase of expenses and the large reserves we have had to create for the rents and advances in arrears, the profit and loss account shows for the first time since 1912 a satisfactory surplus. It is true that the amount is not large, and in expressing the hope in our last report of distributing a dividend this year we counted on a much greater surplus, and the most prudent forecasts suggested that that result was certain.

The severe crisis which prevails throughout the entire world at the present time has upset our expectations, and compels us to postpone the date of that distribution. But we have no reason for modifying our opinion as regards the value of the company's assets, which, in our opinion, remain much higher than what one might be inclined to rate them at by basing them on the present price, exaggeratedly low, of the company's shares.

Negotiations were carried on last year with a view to the partial amalgamation of our company with another important company. These negotiations were prolonged for several months, and everything seemed to indicate that it would be possible to arrive at an agreement. The sharp change in the position, and the continuance of the crisis resulting from the fall of cotton constituted an obstacle to the conclusion of the business and put an end to the negotiations.

The profit and loss account, we have said, shows a satisfactory surplus. That surplus is £E3,968.117. The net profits of the year, deduction being made for reductions of rents, reserves for doubtful credits, etc., amount to £E6,128.277, comprised as follows:—Receipts: profits of land development, £E39,013.970; profits on sales of land, £E.602.543; increased value of securities, £E4,142.500; exchange and interests collected or acquired, £E13,254.534; profit on redemption of debentures, £E419.156; recovery of old credits, £E6,000—£E63,432.703, from which has to be deducted reduction on rents (30 per cent.), £E9,250, leaving £E54,182.703. Expenses: Cost of development, £E21,341.832; debenture service, £E13,243.219; interest paid or due, £E479.556; directors' fees for 1919-20, £E1,000; general expenses and sundries, £E5,778.469; decreased value of securities, £E1,150.815; amortisation, £E60.535—£E43,054.426, surplus £E11,128.277, less provision for rents, etc., in arrears, £E5,000, there remains £E6,128.277. Deducting the debit balance of the previous year, £E2,160,0160, there remains a surplus of £E3,968.117, which we propose to carry forward. From this balance there has first to be deducted the directors' fees for 1920-21, £E1,000, which will bring the surplus to £E2,968.117.

The general meeting unanimously approved the balance-sheet and accounts for the company's fifteenth year ended February 28, 1921, decided to carry forward the credits balance of the profit and loss account of £E3,968.117, re-elected as director Abdel Hamid Bey Siufi, and elected Yacoub Bey Sabri to replace the second retiring director, appointed as auditors for the year Mr. F. H. Russell and Mr. J. C. Sidley (of Messrs Russell, Harris and Co., chartered accountants), and fixed the remuneration of the auditors for 1921-22 at £E200.

Banque Franco-Serbe

Capital - Frs. 20,000,000.

London Office:—

30, COLEMAN STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telephones: LONDON WALL 8934, 8935.

Telegrams: "FRANCOSERB AVE LONDON."

HEAD OFFICE: PARIS, 16, Rue le Peletier.

BELGRADE.

ZAGREB (Agram), BITOLJ (Monastir), SKOPLYE (Uskub), and SALONIQUE.

Agents throughout JUGO-SLAVIA, the BALKANS, AUSTRIA, HUNGARY, CZECHO-SLOVAKIA, Etc., Etc.

The London Office collects Drafts and Documents; issues Cheques and effects Mail and Telegraphic Transfers; accepts Bills; opens Documentary Credits; issues Letters of Credit and conducts all operations of Foreign Banking. Current Accounts opened in Sterling, Francs, Dinars, etc.

Insurances effected through the Bank's Brokers.

Applications for Terms invited.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

MAMOURET-UL-AZIZ.

The report for April states:—There is nothing to record as regards exports. In imports there has been a certain amount of activity, trade being principally in the following articles: coffee, sugar, matches, cigarette papers, shovels, olives, macaroni, leather novelties and footwear, amounting to an approximate total of £175,000.

The climatic conditions of the month have been more favourable than those of the preceding period, but the price of the wheat has not fallen; on the contrary there has been a rapid rise.

DALMATIA WINE INDUSTRY CRISIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ZAGREB, June 14.

There is a serious crisis in the wine industry in Dalmatia. According to statistics, there are still in that province 300,000 hectolitres of wine earmarked for export which cannot leave the country for the old market has gone. Czechoslovakia and Austria buy wine now at Trieste, and Hungary, formerly an important customer, is now excluded. It is difficult to place it in the interior, partly on account of the large local production, partly because of difficulties of transport. The position is serious, as Dalmatia, always a poor country, has been impoverished by the war, and wine is its chief product. The peasants are in distress, as for want of realisation they are short of money, and now the new harvest is coming. One suggestion is to allow the distillation into brandy free of duty, or else to give special rates to facilitate traffic. The Government is making endeavours to place large quantities in Czechoslovakia. It is an excellent opportunity for foreign buyers.

CZECHOSLOVAK IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

At the general meeting of Czechoslovak import and export company, Dr. Mraz, the director of the Czechoslovak Statistical Office, supplied the following details regarding the foreign trade of Czechoslovakia:

During 1919 the goods imported into Czechoslovakia amounted to 18,378 million metric quintals, while the exports amounted to 56,645 million metric quintals. For 1920 the corresponding figures were 39,040 and 69,022 respectively. The value of the imports for 1919 may be approximately estimated at 6,428 milliards of Czechoslovak crowns, the value of the exports being 5,686 milliards. For 1920 the corresponding figures are 11,394 milliards and 9,584 milliards respectively. The value of cotton imported was 1,083 milliards of crowns, of cereals 1,080 milliards, wool and woollen fibre 782 millions, iron and iron goods 632 millions, food-stuffs, especially flour, 2,751 milliards.

Germany supplied goods to the value of 3,120 milliards of crowns, Austria 1,769 milliards, United States 1,413 milliards, Holland 577 millions, Hungary 498 millions, Italy 476 millions, Belgium 469 millions. The goods exported from Czechoslovakia were distributed as follows: Austria 3,134 milliards, Germany 1,821 milliards, Hungary 630 millions, France 611 millions, Poland 558 millions, Italy 517 millions, and Switzerland 369 millions.

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THE WORLD COTTON CONFERENCE.

Among the most notable papers read at the World Cotton Conference, which closes this week, were those by Mr. David R. Croker, South Carolina, on "How can production best be increased?"; by Mr. W. B. Himbury, of the British Cotton Growing Association, on "Cotton-growing within the British Empire"; and by Dr. Lawrence W. Balls, of the Fine Cotton Spinners' Association, on "The possibilities of exact reporting and forecasting of the cotton crop." Below will be found brief summaries of each of these papers.

The American Crop.

On June 13 Mr. David R. Croker dealt with the position of the American crop. He said that it might seem somewhat academic to discuss the means to improve the quality of American cotton and to keep the supply adequate at a time when the world was over-supplied with almost all growths and characters of cotton, and when the cotton producer saw no chance of realising the cost of production out of the present and past year's crops. It must be assumed, however, that world conditions would gradually return to normal, and it seemed inevitable that they would see a great increase in the demand, for cotton fabrics as soon as the millions, now on the verge of famine, again had a surplus beyond food requirements with which to purchase clothing to cover their nakedness. It must be assumed also that the business of cotton production would furnish at least a living for those engaged in it, for otherwise they would be forced into other pursuits.

The subject assigned to him was a dual one, but a study of the factors affecting the quality and the supply of the cotton crop showed that these factors were largely the same. In the great central markets of the world cotton of good grade and staple always brought more than cotton of poor grade and staple, though the "differential" was variable. In the long run the supply would depend on the profitability of the industry. Therefore, as supply depended upon profit, which in turn depended upon quality and yield, the problems of adequate supply and of improved quality were essentially the same.

Even with double the average production per acre, however, at present prices the landowner would not receive a fair return for his investment and supervision, and the cotton labourer would still be paid far less than were the labourers in every other American industry. The cotton world must be made to understand that the South had only been able to raise cotton in the past at prices under 15 cents per pound by paying wages only sufficient to maintain the average labourer and his family in a condition of dire poverty, worse in many cases than the lot of the *ante bellum* slave. At these prices also the returns to the landowner were insufficient to pay him a fair return on his investment, or to provide a decent standard of living for his family. A solution would have to be worked out which would permit reasonable comfort and a decent civilisation for those who raise cotton. This would be necessary if the industry was to advance and if future requirements as to quality and quantity were to be met.

So it seemed quite evident that the price of cotton would have somehow to be brought back to a profitable level, at least for a well-bred product of superior spinning qualities, before any effective steps could be taken to improve further the average quality of the crop, and that the supply would rapidly decrease until this was done. When this was accomplished no difficulty would be experienced in maintaining a steady improvement in the quality and an adequate supply, provided the cotton spinners of the world would continually take an intelligent interest in the efforts of, and co-operate closely with, those who were working along correct lines for the production of superior varieties of greater value alike to grower and spinner, and for the proper handling and marketing of the staple.

Position of the Empire.

Mr. W. B. Himbury read a paper describing the cotton-growing experiments that were being made within the British Empire. He said that before the war there was unquestionably a shortage of cotton. The spinning and manufacturing industries of this

country had at times to close down or work short time, and this had serious consequences to the workers. When the world settled down once more to work and the spindles of the world were again going, that shortage would sooner or later recur, and when it did Lancashire wanted to realise that there were other sources of supply, for it was improbable that insect pests or climatic conditions which might adversely affect the crop in one part of the world would be equally bad in another. Therefore, the growing of cotton in new fields—or not having all the eggs in one basket—was of undoubted importance to the trade. Moreover, it was their duty to do all they could to develop the great tropical regions of their Empire. If the natives of Africa produced cotton they would require manufactured goods in exchange for the cotton. Again, if there was a country teaming with a population of millions who produced nothing, and those millions could be induced to grow cotton or some other crop, surely by getting them to do this they were benefiting not only their own country, but the whole world.

When they started the work they received much valuable help and advice, together with seed, etc., from the State Department of Agriculture in America, to whom they were most grateful. They had much to learn, and they profited by American experience. On the other hand, there were some cases in which their example might usefully be followed. He referred to the baling of American cotton. In America cotton-growing was a great and mature industry, whereas the British cotton-growing industry was in its infancy. Their crop was 100,000 bales last year, but the output was progressive, and the estimate for 1921 was 150,000. This was more than conjectural; the cotton was actually in sight. He thought they would agree that an annual increase of 50 per cent., even from small beginnings, would eventually mean a supply of cotton. He was satisfied that large quantities of suitable cotton could be produced within the Empire, and those new fields which at the moment gave the greatest promise were Nigeria, the Sudan, and Uganda. He predicted that the future Empire cotton zone would be between lines drawn about 15 deg. north of the Equator and 5 deg. south, embracing Northern Nigeria, the Sudan, and Uganda.

Forecasting Crops.

Dr. Lawrence W. Balls, in the course of his paper on the reporting and forecasting of crops, said that crop inspection at present suffered from this impossible condition—it was dependent on the personal opinion of the man who observed the crop. Anybody familiar with the work of a laboratory knew that nobody's personal opinion was worth much. When it came to forecasting, personal opinion was depended on even more. For that system he suggested the substitution of direct observation of what the crop was actually doing. Samples should be taken day by day throughout the season. The number of flowers should be counted and the number of ripe bolls. These samples should be taken from fields throughout the area under cultivation—one field here and one there—and transmitted for comparison and tabulation to a central place. In that way the condition of the crop at any given moment could be determined with extraordinary accuracy. The present system was like trying to use a dictionary from which someone had torn three-quarters of the leaves. Under the system he suggested cotton growing would become a duller business than it was now, and certainly speculation would become "more of a dead cert."

Czechoslovakia's artificial oil industry is flourishing, and the total capital for four factories amounts to over 130,000,000 crowns.

Matches, cigarette papers, and playing cards have recently been taken over by the Bulgarian Government as monopolies.

At an extraordinary meeting of the Alliance Bank of Simla, Ltd., it was resolved to increase the authorised capital to three crores of rupees.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended May 20 amounted to £E7,862; total for year, £E47,514. For the corresponding period of last year receipts amounted to £E12,072 and £E58,884 respectively.

The Trieste Lloyd Line have recently recommenced their services from Trieste to Constantinople, Galatz, Braila, and will also, in the near future, establish a line between Trieste and Alexandria.

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YUGOSLAV TRADE THROUGH SALONIKA

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ATHENS, June 5.

La Grèce Nouvelle is informed on good authority that an agreement has been concluded between the Consul of Yugoslavia at Salonika and the Governor-General of Macedonia with regard to the utilisation of the port of Salonika for Yugoslavian trade. The particulars of this agreement are as follows:—

1. Custom facilities, by which immediate re-expedition is made possible, are granted for all goods destined for Yugoslavia or arriving from that country.

2. The goods can be stored without previously undergoing the usual formalities, thus avoiding unnecessary expenses and loss of time.

3. The number of wagons available on the Guevgueli-Salonika railway line will be equally apportioned for the needs of the two countries.

La Grèce Nouvelle says that this agreement has created a favourable impression among commercial circles in Belgrade.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia, for Bombay (Glasgow, June 29, and Liverpool, July 12).

Anchor-Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masirah, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 2).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, June 22); s.s. Lancashire, for Rangoon (London, June 25); s.s. Oxfordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 6).

Byron Steamship Line.—A steamer will sail from Liverpool on June 24 for Patras, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Galatz, and Braila.

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Maciver, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 30).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople (Swansea, July 2; Glasgow, July 6; Liverpool, July 11); s.s. Brescia, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, etc. (Swansea, July 12).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Trentino, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas and Varna, (Liverpool, July 30).

Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Manchester, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, June 24); s.s. City of Exeter, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, June 27); s.s. City of Karachi, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 2).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of Rangoon, for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, July 15).

Ellerman's "Westcott and Laurance" Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glenariffe, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, June 30); s.s. Glentara, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, July 14); s.s. Glenapp, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, July 28).

Glynn Line.—S.s. Riposto, for Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Catania, Messina, and Palermo (Liverpool, middle of June).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Gladiator, for Calcutta (Liverpool, June 22); s.s. Inventor, for Calcutta (Liverpool, July 9).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Amarapoor, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 13); s.s. Mandalay, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 27).

Holt Line.—S.s. Atreus, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, June 24); s.s. Calchas, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Birkenhead, June 24); s.s. Ningchow, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (Swansea, June 24).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 20).

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Transport, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, June 25); s.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, end of July).

Mass Line.—S.s. Amasis, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria [taking cargo for transshipment to Moroccan, Algerian, Cyprus, and Syrian coast ports] (Liverpool, June 29).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Bosnian, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Morea, for Bombay (London, June 24); s.s. *Caledonia, for Bombay (London, July 1). *Taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden (with transshipment at Bombay) for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports. S.s. Sicilia, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London, July 15).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. †Mashobra, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, June 24); s.s. *Merkara, for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 1); *Taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar coast ports; †taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden.

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince, for Tunis, Malta, and Alexandria [taking cargo for Beyrout, Jaffa, Haifa, Tripoli (Syria), Lattakia, Alexandretta, Mersina, and Cyprus ports] (Manchester, June 28).

ON 'CHANGE.

Greek Shares Strong.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday.

Generally speaking, a dull tone has prevailed during the past week and the latest coal development will scarcely conduce to any greater activity.

Gilt-edged securities have been practically alone in showing anything approaching a cheerful aspect. War Loan Fives are 87½, while Consols are ½ up at 45½. The Indian Loan is now 2½ premium, while the Ceylon Loan is at a premium of ½.

Industrials generally have been depressed, while Oils have been weak, declines taking place in a number of cases. Rubbers have been weaker on developments during the week.

There have been few movements in Near East securities. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per cent. at 69, Greek Guaranteed 2½ per cent. 1889 at 66, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per cent. 1855 at 70 are all unaltered.

Greek shares have been stronger. The 5 per cent. 1881 Loan is 3 up at 43, while the 5 per cent. 1884 has gained 4 at 43. The 5 per cent. 1890 at 40½xd. is ½ up, while Fundings are 2½ up at 38. The 4 per cent. 1910 Loan is 1 up at 30, while the 4 per cent. 1902 Loan is a similar amount up at 35. The 5 per cent. 1914 Loan has gained ½ at 37.

In Land shares Beheras are ½ down at 7½, but the preference shares are unchanged at 3. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments at 3½ and Egyptian Consolidated Lands at 1s. are unchanged, while Egyptian Delta Lands are the same at 6s. 6d. Gharbieh Lands remain at 1½, but New Egyptians are 1s. 3d. up at 22s. 9d. Union Foncières have shed 1-16 at 1½xd., while Sudan Plantations are a similar amount lower at 3-16.

In Oils Anglo-Egyptian have lost 5-32 at 1½, while Phoenix are 3d. down at 11s. 6d. Roumanian Consolidated are 3d. lower at 13s. 3d., while Steaua Romanas have shed 6d. at 15s. 6d. Burmahs are 3-32 lower at 6-16.

In Banks Agricultural 3½ per cent. Bonds are unchanged at 51, but the 3½ per cent. Guaranteed Bonds are ½ up at 53½. Imperial Ottoman Banks are unchanged at 8½, but National Bank of Egypt are 1-16 up at 17½. Land Bank of Egypt at 4-11-16xd. are 3-16 down.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions Abyssinian Corporations are 2s. Alexandria Waters have gained 1-16 at 6-9-16. Morums are unchanged at 10s., while Egyptian Markets, at 18s. xd., have shed 6d. Egyptian Salt and Soda have gained 9d. at 27s. 9d.

The Czechoslovak Sugar Commission have recently made some large contracts with British and Scandinavian importers. At the last sample fair held at Prague orders amounting to 596,000,000 crowns were booked; 5,000,000 crowns of that total only were from the United Kingdom.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 529.—Vol. XIX.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1921.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Imperial Conference.

The Imperial Conference has started without any formal agenda, but the opening speeches indicate that India is not likely to take a very prominent place in the set discussions. The most pressing question before the Conference is clearly that of the Pacific, and in regard to it India, unlike Canada and Australia, has no special interests to put forward, her desire being solely for an assurance of continued peace. So far we have been told of only one resolution to be brought forward by the Indian representatives, and, as was inevitable, it relates to the status of Indians in the Dominions. There is, as Mr. Sastri said, no intention of reopening the question of immigration, which was disposed of by the compromise made in 1918: the point now raised is the position of those Indians who, in whatever manner they may have gained admission, are now legally domiciled, and the claim advanced in the resolution is that they should be admitted into the general body of citizens of the Dominion in which they have made their homes. The question is obviously one for friendly discussion, and it is to be hoped that the difficulties in the way of an agreement will not prove to be insuperable.

Indians in the Dependencies.

Another aspect of the complex system of status was touched on by Mr. Churchill in his speech regarding the Colonies and Possessions under his administration, and India will doubtless welcome his enunciation of the principle that "there should be no barrier of race or colour or creed which should prevent any man by merit from reaching any station if he is fitted for it." At the same time Mr. Churchill was careful to point out that such a principle must be very carefully and gradually applied, because of existing local feelings, and of the social stresses which arise when different populations are intermingled. He mentioned that the most difficult question pending just now is in Kenya, to the case of which we recently referred, but he gave no idea of the direction in which a solution is being sought, beyond the somewhat oracular statement that he hoped to find means of overcoming difficulties in the application of the broad principles, and as matters now stand, the public must be content to share his hopes.

The Report of King Peter's Death.

We are glad to give publicity to the following statement received from the Serbian Press Bureau:—

The news published in your issue of June 23 reporting the death of King Peter should be contradicted, as we have just received a telegram from official sources

in Belgrade saying that King Peter is on the way to recovery, and bulletins are published daily.

In publishing the report as it reached us, from a usually reliable source, we gave expression to the hope that the news might prove incorrect. Confirmation from other quarters was lacking, and our own Correspondent in Yugoslavia, in a letter appearing in the same issue, bore witness to contradictory information emanating from official sources. This week he throws further light on the subject by emphasising the serious embarrassment in which the Government would have found itself if King Peter had unhappily died before the ratification of the Constitution. At a time, therefore, of national anxiety, when in addition to the ordinary cares of State the Government had its own political position to consider, the report of the aged monarch's death might well find wide credence before the absence of an official announcement was noticed.

The Allies, Greece and Turkey.

The refusal of the Greek Government to entertain the Allies' offer of mediation has let loose a flood of harsh words against the present rulers of Greece from quarters where no allowance is made for the peculiar position in which those rulers find themselves. It is not to be supposed that any invitation to surrender voluntarily the awards to Greece entailed by the Treaty of Sèvres would ever be accepted by the Greeks; it is certainly too much to expect this action of them when King Constantine has gone to Smyrna and the whole nation has been buoyed up with promises of a victory over the Turks. M. Gounaris's Cabinet has to reckon not only with its political opponents, but also with the military party, whose *amour propre* is at stake after its supersession of Venizelist officers. We do not believe that responsible Greeks imagine it to be possible that Greece should conquer and hold Anatolia, but it will prove easier to bow to the Allies' decisions after one unmistakable victory over the Turks has been registered or after Greece's limitations, when deprived of Allied support, have been more fully appreciated. Much of the present trouble in the Near East is due to the tactless handling of the Greeks, and it is a matter for regret that the Allies' representatives in Athens, however able individually, are debarred by circumstances over which they have no control from the personal touch in their relations with the Greek Court and the Greek Government that often counts for so much in lubricating the wheels of diplomacy.

The Greek Dilemma.

Greece is badly in need at the present time of a disinterested adviser, who will help the country and its rulers to see Greek affairs in their true perspective. We have

no patience with the attempt to penalise a whole people because their view of their own domestic affairs does not happen to coincide with the preconceived ideas of foreigners. Movements are on foot in South-Eastern Europe which have for their ultimate object the introduction of more stable conditions than those established by the settlement which the Allies have sought to impose. It would be better for all concerned if these movements could be taken in concert with Greece rather than in her despite. But, after having been led to regard herself as the determining factor in the Near East, she now finds herself ostracised, and is wasting both her opportunities and her substance in an effort to rehabilitate herself by the only means that she considers available. The result is that, while the world as a whole is advancing politically, Greece is lagging behind. Her whole horizon is still bounded by traditional animosities, whereas every other country is concerned to find occasion to bury hatchets and to help on with a new order of things. The greatest disservice rendered to Greece since the victorious termination of the war was the fastening on her of the obsession of territorial aggrandisement. Her instinct was against it at the time, but having been granted it she now feels compelled to exhaust herself in an effort to retain it.

Bulgarian Cabinet Changes.

Further Cabinet changes in Bulgaria suggest that M. Stambolisky is experiencing the inevitable difficulties that fall to the lot of a Balkan Minister, however powerful the party behind him may have been on his accession to power. As head of the Agrarian or Peasants' Party Bulgaria's Prime Minister has had special obstacles to overcome, particularly since he was forced to abandon a coalition policy and to select his Ministry entirely from his own followers, who lacked experience of office. Hitherto his obvious sincerity and personality have carried all before them, and the rapidity with which he has helped to restore Europe's confidence in the new Bulgaria has impressed even his political opponents. Politics, however, as played in the Balkans, is a restless game, and the temptation to enlist foreign intrigue for personal, or at best political, ends is always strong. Where M. Stambolisky's Government has made mistakes they have generally been based on perfectly good motives, but they have found the Bulgarian people suffering from the many aspects of war's aftermath, and have helped to rally elements formerly at variance with one another to a common opposition against a masterful Premier. It remains to be seen whether M. Stambolisky has not still more up his sleeve than his opponents give him credit for. Certainly no one has thought of challenging his patriotism, and it would be difficult to show that anyone else could have been more successful in inaugurating the right foreign policy for Bulgaria or that the country would gain by changes to-day in its representation abroad.

Italy's Montenegrin Guests.

The disbanding of the Montenegrin Legion at Gaeta marks in all probability the disappearance of the last hope of the Montenegrin Royalists. It has drawn a strong protest from M. Yovan Plamenatz, the late King Nicholas's Prime Minister; and lovers of the picturesque and the romantic will no doubt feel a pang of regret at the disappearance of the Black Mountain as a distinct country. It will also be regretted, for quite different reasons, by certain circles in Italy. But upon the whole the change should certainly make for more stability in South-Eastern Europe, especially if Yugoslavia shows tact in dealing with the Montenegrins and endeavours to obliterate painful memories by generous treatment. By such means will the Montenegrins most readily be persuaded from letting their thoughts turn to a prince across the water.

The Future of Egypt.

The situation in Egypt has undergone no real change in the past week; though Rushdy Pasha, who will take part in the negotiations in London, sailed from Alexandria for Europe on June 22. All the best elements in the nation appear to be rallying strongly to the

support of Adly Pasha and the Government; while Zaghloul Pasha has had the mortification of losing another of his influential supporters, a Coptic member of his Delegation. The decline of his influence has so far exasperated him that he has launched forth into denunciations of the British as the "real adversaries" of Egypt. In view of the hold that he still has upon the imagination of the lower classes this change of tone may lead to serious trouble, and it is to be hoped that the authorities are quite prepared to deal with anything of the kind that may arise. For the rest, it remains to be seen whether Egypt will come to its senses, and, recognising that what Great Britain offers is offered in friendship and voluntarily—not under compulsion—behave accordingly, with gratitude, or whether it will prove that it has made no progress since the days of Arabi: whether it will support the Government and the moderates, or whether it will throw away all in blind obedience to a leader who can, in the last resort, lead it only to defeat, as Arabi, its former idol, did.

The Emir Faisal in Baghdad.

By the time these notes appear the Emir Faisal will probably be either in Baghdad or very near to it. He is to be the guest of the National Government while he is in Mesopotamia, and he is sure of a very warm welcome from the city of Haroun er Rashid and the land in which legends of its prosperity in the days of the Abbasside Khalifs still linger. As far as it is possible to judge from present indications there can be very little doubt that the people of Irak will elect this popular son of King Hussein as their own ruler, or that he will accept the offer if it is made to him; but until the General Assembly has formally made its choice it would be unwise to assume that no other name may be put forward. The Emir Faisal, however, starts with a very strong point in his favour—in the knowledge that his election would be quite agreeable to the Mandatory Power. There is, of course, a strong current of unfriendly feeling towards him in France, feeling which has been frankly expressed quite recently by M. Poincaré, the ex-President; but, on the other hand, M. Briand is reported to have informed the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber that the Emir's position in Irak is a question for Great Britain alone to settle, though France would desire to have a neutral zone between the Syrian frontier and any territory under the Emir Faisal's sovereignty.

A Caucasian Federation?

Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia have let it be known that "no treaty, agreement or concession made by any but their national Governments will be considered binding." At the present time, with Bolshevism running riot all over the Caucasus, it may seem that the announcement can have little value; but Bolshevism will not endure, and the three republics may rest assured that their action is understood and approved by Europe and America. More important than this announcement, however, is a second, to the effect that the three young republics just named have, with a fourth, the Republic of Northern Caucasia, entered into an agreement establishing the basis of an economic and political union between them. According to a statement issued from the Georgian Legation, the principal feature of this agreement—which was signed in Paris on June 15, is the creation of a Customs Union for all the Caucasian States; but it aims also at the co-ordination of their foreign policy, and at recourse to arbitration for settling their territorial differences. In view of other agreements entered into by "exiled" governments which have since borne good fruit, it would be foolish to refuse to take this latest *entente* seriously. It may, in fact, prove to be the beginning of that Caucasian Federation which is so much to be desired.

The Persian Mejliss.

After an interval of nearly six years, the Persian Mejliss reassembled on June 22. The opening ceremony was performed by the Shah in person. The Mejliss is likely to be concerned chiefly with the financial problem, which is admittedly acute, for the country has been

living for some months chiefly on royalties paid by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. The Shah is understood to wish that British financial advisers should tackle the programme; but the Soviet representative opposes the proposal. If it be true, as reported from Athens, that Teheran is endeavouring to conclude an agreement with Angora, it would look as if the influence of Moscow were in the ascendant.

The Prince and India.

The official announcement that the Prince of Wales will visit India in the course of the next cold weather sets at rest—and that in the most satisfactory way—the discussion which has been going on for some months past. Everyone hoped that the visit would take place, but many competent observers feared that the occasion might not be opportune, simply for the reason that the recent propaganda of lawlessness was expected to produce its natural result. The announcement now made must be taken to show that, in the opinion of the Government of India, such fears are groundless, and that is as good a piece of news as we could wish to chronicle. The possibility still remains that another bad season might produce an economic situation in which festivities would be out of place. That shadow, however, threatens everything which is arranged beforehand in India, and we may hope that it will disappear before a steady and persistent monsoon, of the kind which Indians associate with “the good old days,” and which, when it comes, puts everyone, even the politician, in a good temper.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

LONDON, Monday Evening.

A Brighter Outlook.

The industrial prospect is distinctly brighter. The cotton dispute is over, an amicable agreement as to the amount of wages reduction having been arrived at. The engineering difficulty has been averted for the present. As to coal, which some wag has dubbed “that forbidden fruit, the source of all our woe”—after a week of apparent stagnation, negotiations have reopened, and it is again hoped that a settlement is at hand.

Mr. Hodges, in a speech before the Labour Conference at Brighton last week, referred to the coal stoppage as an “epic fight.” But even epics come to an end in time, and although the ballot showed a large majority against resumption of work, the minority was numerous, and those who abstained from voting were presumably anxious to get back if terms could be arranged. It was noticeable that Mr. Hodges, in his very long but well-arranged speech to the other Labour delegates at Brighton, hinted that the miners might have to give way in the end. He asked for sympathy and assistance; the sympathy he got from the trade unions in full measure, but they are not in a position to render much effective financial help. The miners are practically at the end of their resources.

A good many calculations have appeared in the papers as to the losses caused by the strike. The figures, of course, are impressive, but I am not quite so impressed by the competence of the calculators. The fact is, it is impossible to say what the cost has been, and we shall not know for some time. The moment the miners are back at work trade will revive, owing to the accumulation of orders, and there are indications that business will be pretty brisk for some months. Next year will be the difficult time, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer tries to balance his Budget, and finds that three months' revenue out of twelve has dropped out.

It will be difficult to make good the deficiency by more taxation, for already the income-tax is heavily in arrears, and in many cases is being paid out of capital or by overdrafts on the banks. The alternative is to print more paper-money, but that merely means re-inflation and increase of prices, a remedy as bad as the disease. The revolt against high prices is universal: at one of the recent by-elections the Anti-waste candidate is said to have polled the entire women's vote, and

a large part of the men's vote, by the simple slogan of “1914 prices.” But I am afraid disappointment is in store for this constituency.

The King in Ireland.

The King and Queen went to Belfast last week and opened the Ulster Parliament. The whole country appreciated their courage and the admirable speech in which His Majesty pleaded for peace and co-operation in Ireland; the retort of Sinn Fein was to wreck a troop train. It is said that the King has promised to open the Southern Parliament if a single member attends, but there seems unfortunately no likelihood that Sinn Fein will condescend to work its own institutions.

The Government, having recognised the fact, is sending more troops to the South, and it seems probable that what is called Crown Colony Government (although it will be more nearly akin to martial law) will be introduced. However, the latest news as I write is that the Premier has invited Sir James Craig, as representing Ulster, and Mr. de Valera, as representing the rest of Ireland, to a conference in an earnest attempt to compose their unhappy differences. Sir James Craig has already accepted the invitation, and though Mr. de Valera has not yet replied, it is confidently anticipated that he will also take advantage of the Premier's offer.

Political Cross-Currents.

The political seas have been rather choppy of late—no serious storms, but with awkward swells and currents which have disturbed some of the little fishes. Lord Salisbury and Sir W. Joynson-Hicks have been attacking the Coalition because they want it to be a purely Conservative institution, and they resent the presence of Coalition Liberals. The Liberals, on the other hand, have been fraternising with the Independents at a lunch—from which the leaders were significantly absent—and other lunches are to follow, apparently without speeches, but with thoughts, no doubt, too deep for words.

The upshot is uncertain. Somebody has unkindly compared the Liberal Coalitionists to the tail of the Government, and suggested that, like the human tail, its size is diminishing because it is sat on so often. But Liberalism is in unhappy case in these days; it would ally itself with Labour if Labour would have it; but the younger party will no more ally itself with Liberalism than a man will marry his grandmother, and for much the same reason. The one strength of the Liberal Coalitionists is Mr. Lloyd George; for, unluckily for Conservatism, the Unionist party have lost the art of producing leaders. Mr. Bonar Law, now in the South of France, is a splendid second-in-command, but no leader. Mr. Austen Chamberlain is too stiff and formal. The oratory of Sir W. Joynson-Hicks does not cause the great heart of the people to beat faster. The Duke of Northumberland has a few supporters, but while he sees Bolshevism in every bush, he is not taken very seriously.

In these circumstances the renewed talk of a General Election in the immediate future may again be discounted. Labour does not want it for another year, when it thinks it may get a majority; faith being the substance of things hoped for. And a few more Labour wins at by-elections would quickly reconcile the Coalition malcontents to a continuance of the Government; it would make no serious difference to the size of the majority—particularly as the last place in which one looks for a Labour member is in the division lobby—but it would pull the unwieldy masses of the Government's supporters together.

Drought and Sunshine.

The present summer seems at present likely to rival the wonderful season of 1911. Cloudless skies and bright sunshine make the country perfect; every day is warmer and more beautiful than its predecessor. The gardens and fields are magnificent—it is the best year for roses and wheat that one can remember, and the weather historians tell us that nothing like it has been known since 1835, or some such prehistoric date.

But the farmers are unhappy—they generally are. Last year the summer was abnormally wet and cold until September. But the autumn was dry. The winter

was drier. The spring was steadily dry. The six months' deficiency of water, followed by a flaming June, is having serious effects. In Essex, always the driest part of England, the ponds are empty, and even the mud at the bottom is caked and cracked. The hay crop is thin and poor, grass is brown, and roots are small; barley, which wants more rain than wheat, is poor. But the autumn-sown wheat in some favoured places looks almost ready for harvesting. Peas and strawberries are apparently the worst sufferers, and it is too late to save them, for there is no sign of the drought breaking. From previous experience, we may expect things to go on like this for some time, and then in August, when everybody is holiday-making, there will be the sound of abundance of rain, and we can all revel in pessimism to our hearts' content.

Conference, Not Cabinet.

The meetings of the Imperial Conference, which are not being fully reported, are by all accounts discovering no serious differences of opinion among the statesmen of the Empire; and the Press is so busy reporting golf, cricket, polo, tennis, and other sporting contests that small matters like the Imperial Conference and the industrial troubles are sinking to their proper insignificance. But one thing has at least been definitely settled. The attempt of the *Round Table* group of centralists to dub the Conference a Cabinet, which was steadfastly opposed on good constitutional grounds in the Dominions, no longer receives official countenance. Mr. Lloyd George, in his opening address, referred three times to the body as a Conference, and not once did he use the word "Cabinet."

The Polo Tests.

A friend who is a polo expert sends me the following: Although England has lost the International Polo Cup to America in two straight wins, there need be no ground for pessimism as to our prospects of retrieving the Cup at our next meeting. That English polo had suffered great losses through the war in players and ponies our sporting opponents would be the first to admit, and their offer to postpone the tests until this year is proof of their appreciation of this. However, the victors are to be congratulated on a decisive and well-deserved victory. They played the game in a most sportsmanlike manner, went all-out from bell to bell, hit hard, and, what is all-important for winning, shot straight. On the subject of our shooting one can only say it was too deplorably bad to be true.

In the first Test, America scored with eleven shots out of seventeen and England notched only four goals in sixteen fair chances. In the second Test, America took ten out of the twelve openings they were allowed, whereas England, although brilliant combination and fine hitting gave them sixteen fair chances at their enemy's goal (and at least four were "sitters"), failed to exploit their success more than six times. The story of the first Test Match can be told in a few words. England started slowly, missed an early chance of scoring by inches, and did not get into their stride until well on in the second chukker. In the third and fourth periods England were attacking practically throughout, and but for inexplicably bad shooting, should have started the fifth period with a lead of two goals instead of being one down—this, as Mr. Milburn admitted, was the turning point of the match, and for the remaining two periods England were a beaten side.

As an exhibition of high-class polo the first Test Match was disappointing, especially in the case of the English team, who, with the exception of Lord Wodehouse, played much below their true form. This was borne out in the second Test, when the English team pulled out something like their true form in a glorious attempt to keep the Cup in England. Again, however, faulty shooting lost them the match, and the fruit of the brilliant team work, hitting and dash, was thrown away time and again in front of goal. England commenced slowly, and allowed America to get a lead of three goals in the first chukker. Thereafter both sides put up as fine an exhibition of polo as one could wish to see. England dominated the game until the last chukker, but on the few occasions when the Americans

were able to establish the loose game essential to scoring, their attacks ended in success, whereas the high hopes of the English supporters, raised to fever pitch by brilliant mid-field play, were again and again dashed to the ground in front of goal.

The American team are to be congratulated on their fine performance, and undoubtedly the best team won. Major Lockett and his team, though defeated, far from disgraced English polo; indeed, their Homeric struggle to avert defeat in the final Test will long be remembered by all who were lucky enough to see the game.

The Week's Books.

A curiously fascinating work has been produced under the apparently mystic letters "T. B. R." The initials stand for "Travel by Road," and the book is the first issue of a new Bradshaw—a Motor Omnibus Guide to England and Wales. It is a slim volume, but so was the early Bradshaw of Victorian times, which is now a prized rarity of the book-collector; perhaps this first edition of "T. B. R." will some day secure me a fortune in the auction room. It is bound to grow, but a study of its pages makes one realise how great a revolution in transport the motor omnibus has wrought. I suppose there are villages which have never yet seen one, but they must be few and far between. It will soon be possible to ride from one end of England to the other by motor-bus. But I should be sorry to do it.

I am afraid that the rather obscure style, to say nothing of the by no means elementary chemistry and mathematics, of "Biochemistry," by Dr. Benjamin Moore (Edwin Arnold), will repel many readers. But the book is, nevertheless, a work of first-class scientific importance in the difficult and largely unexplored domain between chemistry and biology. Dr. Moore's record of experiments is of profound interest as a study of the development of the organic from the inorganic, and of the factors that tended to evolve life on this (and other) planets. I hope he will forgive me if I say that I found his logarithms sometimes easier to follow than his English. As he is a professor at Oxford, could he not get some fellow-professor with a knowledge of composition to run through the proof-sheets of his next work?

A work that calls itself "Back to Methusaleh" (Constable) is at least comprehensive. When one discovers that it is by Mr. Bernard Shaw, that it is a play, and that it is regarded by the author as "this my beginning of a Bible for Creative Evolution," one knows what one is in for. As a matter of fact, the author is better than his word, for he goes back a good deal further than Methusaleh, who, if not quite young enough to have been one of the earlier subscribers to *THE NEAR EAST*—he died in the year of the Flood—was, at any rate, the last of the long-lived patriarchs. But Mr. Shaw starts with Adam and Eve and the Serpent—unless one reckons his lengthy preface as a substitute for the Creation; as he nowhere remarks that it was produced in fourteen days, one cannot be sure. But I gather that in his opinion humanity has not changed very much. At any rate, Eve in the Garden of Eden hails Adam with a "Coo-ee"—a fact which Milton overlooked. And two of the earlier politicians—politics were evolved quite early, apparently—bear a most suspicious resemblance to Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George. Presumably an earlier incarnation.

A biography of the Prince of Wales (Nisbet), by Miss Ivy Sanders, seems a little premature after Mr. Shaw on Methusaleh; for the Prince is just 27. But there are already some good stories about him. "One of the idle rich," a Cockney labourer is said to have remarked once when the Prince was hung up on the road. "Rich, perhaps," the Prince is stated to have retorted, "but, hang it all, not idle."

OCELLUS.

JAFFA RIOTS.

We have received from Jaffa a letter referring to the above subject from a correspondent who describes herself as an English girl and signs her letter "A Reader." Unfortunately, she omits to forward her real name and address, and, in accordance with our rule, we are therefore unable to publish her letter.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

EGYPT.

CAIRO, June 12.

Support of the Adly Cabinet.

Notwithstanding all the alarmist rumours, the Bairam Feast passed off quite peacefully, and throughout the week there has not been a single untoward incident to report. At the same time the Feast has been made the occasion for a remarkable demonstration of support for the Cabinet. The reception, which is usually held by the Sultan on the first day, was exceedingly well attended, particularly by people from the provinces; and after they had finished at the Palace almost everyone without exception repaired to the house of Adly Pasha, where he held a reception the like of which has not been remembered for many years. The Prime Minister's visitors included all the most prominent notables from all over the country, who made no secret of the fact that they had come in order to assure the Cabinet of the support of their people and demonstrate their disapproval of Zaghoul Pasha's policy and methods.

It is amusing to note that arrangements had been made to hold a grand Bairam reception at the "Beit El Ommah" (House of the Nation), as his supporters have arrogantly called Zaghoul Pasha's house. Zaghoul Pasha announced, however, at the eleventh hour that owing to his being in mourning for the lives lost in Alexandria he would not hold the reception, and he issued a message to the nation instead. There is little doubt that he took this decision because his agents had ascertained that, owing to the change in feeling amongst the provincial notables, the projected reception might possibly prove a fiasco.

This welcome demonstration in favour of the Cabinet has been brought about in the first place by the evidence, which is repeatedly forthcoming in one form or another, that the Cabinet is not going to be turned from its purpose; and, secondly, by the persistent manner in which Zaghoul Pasha incites to revolt in everything he publishes. Even in his message of peace to the nation on the occasion of the Feast of Bairam he could not resist using incitative language. The more instructed are obviously beginning to tire of this style of patriotism, and are finding the courage to come out into the open. It will, therefore, be interesting to watch, now that Zaghoul shares are at a discount, whether the steady flow of deputations to the Cabinet will continue as they have done during the past ten days.

A factor which will undoubtedly be for good is the bestowal by the Sultan of the Grand Cordon of the Order of Mohammed Ali or Adly Pasha and of the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile on four of the other Ministers. This will set a term to the rumours that have been current of strained relations between the Prime Minister and the Sultan, and together with other factors should conduce to a further consolidation of the Cabinet's position.

Warrior's Day Fund.

The lists for Warrior's Day have now been finally closed, and the total for Egypt comes to £E10,109. This applies only to Egypt and the Sudan; and if Palestine is included the total collected will not fall far short of £E11,000. As the High Commissioner has said in his letter to the Press covering the lists of subscribers, this is a result of which the British community may well be proud. As a matter of fact, this result has come as a stupendous surprise to the organisers, and it is no secret that when the idea of calling for subscriptions for Warrior's Day was first mooted the amount tentatively fixed as a probable total was about £E1,500. This handsome result speaks volumes for the generosity of the British community, and for that of the foreign communities, to whose assistance Lord Allenby pays a warm tribute. It is a curious fact that Cairo heads the lists for Egypt. Considering that most of the community

are people on fixed incomes who suffered fairly considerably as a result of high cost of living brought about by the war, and that the merchant princes of Egypt are concentrated in Alexandria one would have naturally expected that the latter city would have been *facile princeps* on the subscription list. This success also redounds to the credit of the organising committees and of the organising secretary, Colonel Hussey Walsh, and no qualms should be felt in regard to the organising of another Warrior's Day appeal next year.

Egypt as a Winter Resort.

There is no doubt that since the war Egypt has been playing second fiddle to the Riviera and other places of winter resort, which formerly had to bow the knee to this ancient land with its remarkably equable climate and its wealth of sites of interest. Changed circumstances have, of course, a lot to do with it, and the political unrest of the past two years has contributed not a little to scaring away would-be visitors. Nevertheless, even granted that these unfavourable factors were made to disappear, the fact remains that such energetic efforts are being made by other resorts, not only to attract tourists but to discredit Egypt, that unless very active steps are taken the land of the Pharaohs will definitely lose the place which it used to have, and should rightly have to-day. This fact has at last been realised by those interested in the Egyptian tourist traffic, and the Egypt Promotion Association, which did such good work before the war, has now been revived, with a strong local committee. Steps are being taken to organise an extensive advertisement scheme for next winter, as also what one might call a "vigilance service," to counteract the campaign of misrepresentation of the condition of things in Egypt and the Sudan which every year forms part of the advertisement machinery of those interested in pushing other winter resorts.

In this connection I should like to make two suggestions. The first is that the advertisement campaign should be carried out on exceedingly generous lines. If the thing is worth doing at all it must be done on a large scale, and all the known methods of propaganda, such as cinema films, lectures, pamphlets, etc., should be made use of. The expenditure of a few hundred pounds will be of no avail against the success which the other resorts have already achieved, and those responsible for pushing the claims of Egypt should have an almost world-wide organisation and be prepared to spend several thousand pounds per annum on the work, and should receive substantial assistance from the Government, which is equally interested in the question. As a matter of fact, Egypt is in an ideal position in this respect, for both her neighbours, the Sudan and Palestine, are, so to speak, in the same boat. The campaign to promote the tourist traffic of Egypt could be made to do the same for those two countries, and not only could the expense be shared, but the organisation by having this triple backing could be made all the more comprehensive.

The other suggestion is that, having got the tourist here, every effort should be made to use him as a propagandist agent. That is to say, every facility should be afforded him, and prices (travelling, hotel and otherwise) should be of such a nature as to strike him by their moderation. I mention this because I know for a fact

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that during the past season the tourists who came here were so staggered by what they had to pay that they said they would never come again, and we can be sure that the account of their experience would not be such as to attract others in subsequent years. The Egypt Promotion Association will therefore have to go very carefully into the question of hotel and other charges; otherwise they will find that their efforts to attract visitors are being stultified by the treatment the latter receive when they come here.

Fatal Flying Accident.

Another regrettable accident took place this week at Heliopolis when a D.H.10 crashed and killed the pilot. This is the eighth fatal accident which has occurred in the Command within the last month or so, and the very regrettable feature about these fatalities is that the officers killed have all been men of great promise and distinguished service.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, June 16.

King Peter's Illness.

The King's illness is causing a great deal of uneasiness, in spite of the more favourable bulletins which are being issued. His Majesty's age, his indifferent health for the past seven years or more, the sufferings and strain of the war, retreat and exile, all tell against the final recovery of the Royal patient, and the most that can be hoped for is but a temporary recovery, although, it is true, seventy-seven is no great age in the Balkans, where tough veterans of well over eighty are by no means rare—witness the irrepressible M. Pashitch himself. But the whole Royal family have been summoned to the bedside, including the King's brother, Prince Arsen, with his son, Prince Paul, as well as the Crown Prince, Prince George, and Princess Helena.

Apart from the question of personal devotion to the aged warrior, his death before the passing of the Constitution would materially increase the difficulties of the Government, for it would involve a modification of the clause establishing the constitutional monarchy with King Peter as the founder of the Karageorgevitch dynasty of the united kingdom, and specific mention of Prince Alexander as sovereign in his place. It must be borne in mind that there is a Republican Party at Belgrade, which, though small, is not unimportant. The Socialists, of course the Communists, and, above all, Raditch's Peasant Party, too, are all against a monarchical form of government. King Peter has struggled so long and fought so hard for the national cause, that it is devoutly to be hoped that he may be spared to see the Constitution passed, and the final legalisation of the great work of union to which he has contributed so much.

But it is too much to hope that he can be spared for long, and then the question of the succession will at once arise; for Prince Alexander, of course, is unmarried and has no direct heirs. The papers last year mentioned as a possible successor the nine-year-old son of Princess Helena, the Regent's sister, whose father, the Grand Duke Constantine, was murdered by Bolsheviks. Another candidate would be Prince Paul, son of Prince Arsen, younger brother of the King.

The Political Situation.

The political situation, outwardly at least, seems calm; but, unfortunately, it is probably the calm that precedes the storm. The position of the Coalition Government is far from strong. The Radicals and Democrats combined are not strong enough without the support of some third party; hence their flirtation with the Mohammedans, who are vigorously exploiting the position to their own advantage. They keep on withdrawing, or threatening to withdraw, unless M. Pashitch gives them more concessions, each of which alienates another section of opinion, such as the Agriculturalists, the Radicals of Bosnia, and the Democrats of the Voivodina, several of whom have already withdrawn from their political clubs. All the opposing parties have either left or are about to leave the Constituent Assembly, which will embarrass the Govern-

ment, who may have difficulty in finding a quorum to carry the resolutions, even if they have no opposition to vote against them.

The Yugoslav Club has issued a manifesto justifying its withdrawal, in which it claims a constitution by agreement, and not by mere majority. If M. Pashitch succeeds in getting his Constitution passed, it is difficult to foresee what will take place if nearly half the country refuse to accept the ruling of the majority and repudiate the Constitution. There is, of course, always the possibility of employing force; but it is unlikely that so artful and experienced a politician as M. Pashitch would resort to such an extreme measure; for it would create a definite breach and divide the Yugoslavs for ever into two hostile camps; whereas to-day there is but a difference of political opinion.

Relations with Italy.

From time immemorial the southern Slavs have been addicted to fighting among themselves like Kilkenny cats, but they close up their ranks against a foreign enemy. Tradition, it is true, persists that Vuk Brankovitch deserted with 10,000 Bosniaks at the fatal Battle of Kossovo, though modern research tends to discredit the popular belief. But if there were a foreign enemy on the scene to-day, it is certain that the Yugoslavs would forget their squabbles, unite against the foe, and then resume their domestic squabbles. One cannot help thinking that the inertness of the Powers in the face of d'Annunzio, and their helplessness in the face of a Zeligowski and a Korfanty, is a dangerous lesson to a high-spirited people who have maintained so dignified and correct an attitude in the face of extreme and prolonged provocation at Fiume. The Croats are indignant at the injustice of the present position of that problem, just as the Slovenes bitterly resent the handing over of nearly half a million of their Nationals to Italy. Here we have tempting opportunities for a military adventure; one that would be popular with all branches of the community, and have a strong justification, with every hope of success. If it were to come to a serious internal division, it is very probable that the authorities would risk a military adventure to distract the attention of the people from home troubles.

The Name of the State.

The domestic problem may be summed up in a very few words. Is it to be S.H.S. or Yugoslavia? This question of the name of the State is the very embodiment of the two opposing currents of opinion. M. Pashitch made a vital question of the name of S.H.S., the Kingdom of the Serbs, Hervats and Slovenes. The Yugoslavs look upon this as a continuation of his policy of a "Greater Serbia" thinly veiled, and object to it. They maintain that in a people so addicted to exaggerated individualism and particularism the mere recognition of the existence of three names is bound to encourage the spirit of provincialism, which is a great danger, while the name of Yugoslavia implies a complete and absolute union with no question of distinction nor of hegemony of any one branch.

There can, of course, be no question of the union being affected. This is an accomplished fact, recognised by the Powers and embodied in the peace treaties. Probably even Raditch recognises this fact, and in his press he always speaks most affectionately of the "brother Serb." But the Slovenes and the Croats will decline to be dictated to by Belgrade, and insist on some form of federalism, with really practical autonomy. Resentment is felt at the idea, attributed to France, of forcing the country into a Danubian Confederation, which would be a kind of revived, half-baked Austria-Hungary again, and the Yugoslavs would resist this. On the other hand, they will listen to an expression of opinion from the United States, where the Yugoslav colony is very numerous, and almost entirely from the Croatian side; for Serbs from the old kingdom were so contented at home that they very rarely emigrated. The colony in America is chiefly from Herzegovina and Dalmatia, where the rocky country could scarcely support its vigorous and manly population. Even in prosperous Croatia, in most villages there are two or three peasants who have learnt to speak some English in America. This colony is by no

means indifferent to home politics, and its influence is in favour of federation. It is interesting in this connection to note that the Government has prohibited the import of Yugoslav papers in Croat and Slovene appearing in Chicago and other American cities. Washington cannot turn a deaf ear to the voice of this colony.

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 8.

In Parliament.

In the Lower Chamber the discussion on the agrarian reform proposals has continued, and has produced some not uninteresting comments. The extremists argued that in the interests of national economy all the arable land of the big landowners should be expropriated, alleging that the peasants are not willing to work on landlords' farms. The Moderates demonstrated that after the application of the law only half-a-million hectares out of a total arable area of eight million hectares in the Old Kingdom will be left to the present landlords; and they argued that it would be a great mistake to abolish the landlords' class, who still have very important functions to perform. Again, even if the half-million hectares were distributed, that would not suffice to provide each peasant with land; there would still be a peasant proletariat, unable to find work except on landlords' farms. Moreover, the landlords, restricted to only 250 hectares, will be driven to intensive cultivation, to the great benefit of the country. The question of price and method of payment for the expropriated land is keenly debated.

In regard to the Financial Reform measure the Liberal Party has announced that it will not discuss the reforms until the Government has reduced expenditure to the lowest possible level. M. Stere, Bessarabia, suggested that the burden must not fall entirely on the taxpayer; the State should nationalise oil, take over the National Bank, and create some more monopolies.

The Senate has been occupied with the Control of Education Bill, which it has passed. It has also ratified the commercial treaty with Czecho-Slovakia.

Party Manœuvres.

The Federationist group shows signs of dissolution. The Transylvanian Party were invited by the other components of this group to amalgamate into one strong party, but this they declined to do. The National Transylvanian Committee, composed of 122 members, held a congress at Cluj, decided not to amalgamate with any of the parties of the Old Kingdom, and reserved to themselves freedom to collaborate with any future democratic Cabinet. At the same time they condemned the activity of the present administration, appealing to the King to dismiss the Government and to transfer the power to a national democratic Cabinet. Until that is done the Transylvanians will continue their Parliamentary opposition with the Federationist group.

Various.

The King and Queen paid a short visit to Alba Julia, Transylvania, to see the progress of the preparations for the coming coronation celebration. At her Majesty's suggestion several important alterations will be made.

The Crown Prince of Japan is expected to arrive in Bucharest in the course of this month, to return the visit paid by Prince Carol in Tokio.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs (M. Take Jonescu), accompanied by M. Derussy (Secretary-General of the Ministry), left for Belgrade to sign the treaty recently concluded between the two countries. They will also endeavour to bring about a satisfactory arrangement as to the delimitation of the Banat frontier.

A fresh Communist outrage has been perpetrated in Bessarabia. A railway bridge was undermined with dynamite, and an explosion took place as the train crossed the bridge. The locomotive, two passenger coaches, and five freight cars were completely destroyed, causing many casualties. There were five dead and eight severely wounded. The criminals placed a red flag on the bridge.

GREECE.

ATHENS, June 5.

The Political and Military Situation.

Mustapha Kemal's reported decision to defy the Allies and throw in his lot with Moscow is considered here a splendid omen for this country. The Greeks say that not even the most ardent Philhellene could have helped their cause so effectively as has the Dictator of Anatolia by his reckless action. A political and military alliance between Great Britain and Greece is now considered an absolute certainty, and the Athens Press is giving us news daily of combined action of the British and Greeks in Asia Minor, of an imminent Greek occupation of Constantinople, and the continuous dispatch from British ports to Smyrna of boatloads of ammunition and other war material. One paper—the *Nea Himerá*—went so far as to publish a photograph of the King under which appeared the following wording:—“Constantine XII., King of the Hellenes and Commander-in-Chief of the Anglo-Hellenic forces in the struggle against the Turk!” Optimism is once again running high, the English are everywhere termed “our glorious and powerful allies,” and the drachma has improved considerably. Rumours of the King's recognition by the Great Powers are again rife, and much importance is attached by the public to the visit by His Majesty's Grand Marshal, M. Merkatis, to the British capital. His Majesty's departure for the Asia Minor front has now been definitely decided, and the new big offensive will, to all indications, commence immediately after he has inspected the troops.

Meanwhile the National Assembly is wasting its valuable time in purposeless deliberations, such as Constitutional reforms and the compensation of the so-called victims of the Venizelist régime. The deputies of the Liberal Party, maintaining that this was not the proper time to discuss the latter question, when the nation was facing so many dangers and the financial position of the country was so serious, informed the President of the

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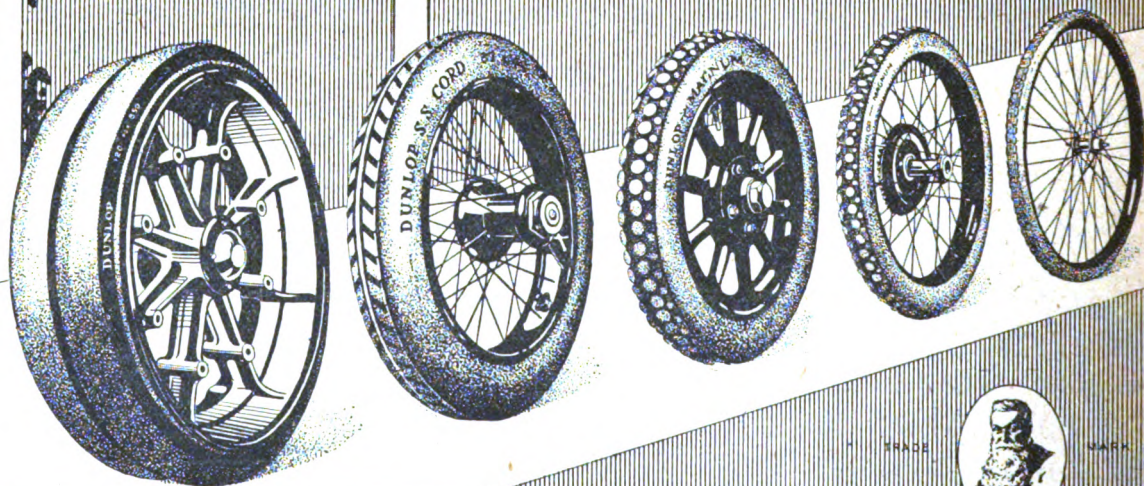
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Chamber that they had decided to abstain from participating at the sittings of the Assembly at which the project was discussed. The *Athenae*, an independent paper, edited by the well-known deputy, M. Pope, says that the number of applications for compensation which the Government has received up to the present amounts to 22,000, the total amount claimed representing over one thousand million drachmæ!

The King's Name-day.

On the occasion of the King's Name-day (St. Constantine's) a Te Deum was held at the Cathedral on Friday in the presence of the Royal Family, the Council of Ministers, the State officials, and the Foreign Missions to Greece. The foreign diplomatic corps was represented by the Spanish and Roumanian Ambassadors. King Constantine was enthusiastically applauded by the crowds both on his way to and from the cathedral. At night a torchlight procession was organised by the Municipality of Athens, and gala performances were given in most of the theatres.

General News.

The union of the Political Syllogues, as well as the Syllogue of the victims of the Venizelist "tyranny," had decided to organise a demonstration in Athens last Sunday in favour of the release of Tserepis and Kyriakis, who had attempted to assassinate M. Venizelos in Paris last August. This demonstration, however, was not allowed to take place by the Prefect of Police.

According to a telegram received from Adrianople, the trial by court-martial of the nineteen Mussulman conspirators arrested in that town has come to an end. Nine of these were condemned to death, three to two years' imprisonment, and the remaining nine were acquitted.

ATHENS, June 18.

The King's Departure.

Last Saturday afternoon King Constantine, accompanied by the Crown Prince and Princes Andrew and Nikolas, left Phaleron for Smyrna on the cruiser *Lemnos*. On Saturday morning a prayer was offered at the Cathedral for the victory of the Hellenic Armies. The religious ceremony, which was attended by King Constantine, the Queen, and all the Princes and Princesses, was of an exceptionally solemn character. When the Bishop of Athens bestowed his blessing on the King and wished him "God speed," there were tears in the eyes of the latter. On leaving the Cathedral, his Majesty was hailed by the waiting crowds with shouts of "To Constantinople" and "Long live the successor of Paleologos."

Prior to his departure, the King issued the following proclamation:—

I am departing in order to place myself at the head of my Army at that place where for centuries Hellenism has continued to struggle. With the aid of the Almighty victory will crown the struggles of the race which is advancing impetuously to accomplish its mission. Our predominance over there to-day will assure, as in the past, the predominance of our ancestors assured, the realisation of the very highest ideals, of Liberty, Equality, and Justice. Our Armies are guided by the whole history of our race. A history of admirable civilisation which imposes obligations the seriousness of which we are very deeply conscious. We have the right to proclaim our entire ability to accomplish these duties. It is the Greek people who, by its sacred union and incomparable sacrifices, gives us this right.

Confident in divine help, in the dash of my heroic Army, and in the unshakable moral power of the Hellenic "Idea," I am going where the supreme will of the nation is calling me.

Commenting in a leading article on King Constantine's departure, the *Athenae* says that this is an official declaration of Greece to the effect that the territories which have been occupied by the Hellenic armies will never again be abandoned, and that the restoration to the enemy of the territories to be occupied will serve as a compensation for the ratification of the Hellenic rights on Constantinople and the Pontos.

In Memory of the Last Greek Emperor.

On Sunday last (May 30, O.S.) a service was held at the church of St. Constantine in memory of the last Emperor of Byzantium, Constantine Paleologos. Certain of the Ministers and Deputies, the Mayor of Athens, the Principal of Athens University, and many other state officials attended the ceremony. A service

in memory of Constantine Paleologos was also held at Adrianople in the presence of the Governor-General and the civil and military authorities. After the service a telegram was despatched to King Constantine at Smyrna wishing him a triumphant entry into Constantinople.

General News.

Queen Sophie has proceeded to Salonika in order to inspect the military hospitals and the encampments of the Caucasus refugees. Her Majesty is accompanied by Prince Paul.

A telegram was received the day before yesterday from Munich announcing the death there of Demetrius O. Calapothakis, the editor of the *Embros*, one of the oldest Athenian papers.

The Minister of War has called up all the Greeks of Asia Minor belonging to the 1910-1921 classes.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 18.

The Government and its Critics.

Although no new Ministerial appointments have yet appeared in the *Official Gazette*, it is generally understood that a rearrangement of the Cabinet has been made. This rearrangement centres round M. Dimitroff, formerly Minister of the Interior, and latterly nominated as Minister to Washington. As I have already stated, in my letter of April 27, M. Dimitroff did not wish to go to America, and when he returned from his visits to Prague and Belgrade the Cabinet had to face the situation and come to some decision on the matter. After a somewhat heated discussion, it was decided that he should become Minister for War—a post hitherto held by M. Stambolisky, the Prime Minister—while M. Athanassoff, Minister of Railways, should succeed him at the Ministry of the Interior, and M. Boteff, President of the Sobranje, would become Minister of Railways.

As M. Dimitroff is not at all popular with a number of the Agrarian deputies, there was a good deal of opposition to this re-shuffling of the Cabinet, and some of the deputies went so far as to threaten withdrawal of their support from the Government if M. Dimitroff remained a Minister. It seems, however, that M. Stambolisky—to whom M. Dimitroff, an essentially strong character, is very necessary—managed to conciliate the deputies in question. But it is possible that we have not yet heard the last of the subject.

The rearrangement will place MM. Dimitroff and Athanassoff in a very strong position, and there is in the Cabinet itself a group which views with mistrust the power that this combination is attaining. This group is in its infancy, so to say, but it has at its head M. Radoulloff, Minister for Justice, and a very capable and upright politician. He will very probably be supported by M. Tourlakoff and M. Draghieff, who, although not in the Cabinet, commands a certain following. Among the deputies who are opposed to M. Dimitroff are two well-known Agrarians, MM. Thomoff and Manouloff; so it will be seen that the opposition is not lightly to be ignored.

All this cannot fail to have its influence upon the Opposition parties, and to lend them encouragement; but M. Stambolisky, with his well-known powers of persuasion—peaceful and forceful, as occasion may require—should be able to clear the air once again, and to bring his recalcitrant followers back to the fold. Whatever his critics may say, it would be a bad thing for the country if M. Stambolisky were to fall from power just now, for there are too many cross-currents in the political world to permit of the formation of another Cabinet, without him at its head.

General News.

An Italian-Bulgarian Fête is being celebrated here to-day.

The marriage of the daughter of M. Stambolisky to M. Boyadjieff, Secretary to the Bulgarian Legation at Paris, will take place next week.

The Reparations Commission has now practically completed the revision of the Budget, and at the end

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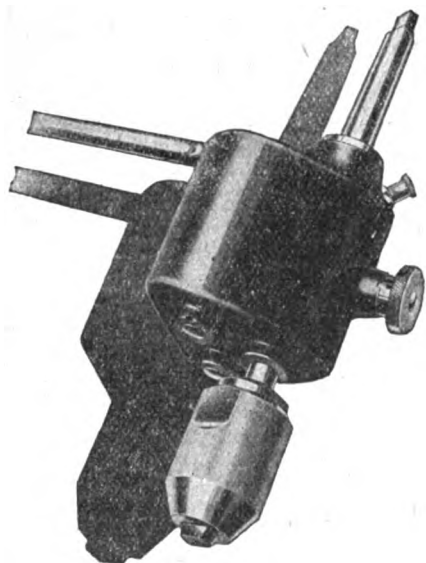
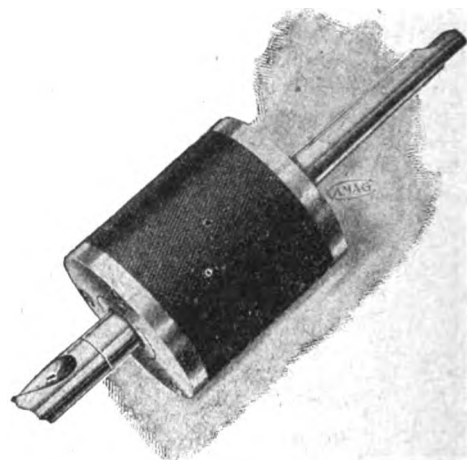
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of the month the Government will consider the criticisms and alterations suggested, which are believed to be very numerous.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, June 15.

A Brilliant Occasion.

The review of the British Forces of Occupation held last Saturday in honour of the King's Birthday, although somewhat belated owing to the absence of General Harington, was one of the most successful affairs of its kind that has been seen in Constantinople since the Armistice. Of course, all the "High Life" was present, and considerable enthusiasm was evinced when Admiral de Bon was presented with the insignia of his British Orders in place of the originals, which were unfortunately destroyed. The general smartness of the British military and naval forces awakened universal admiration, the artillery and the mounted band of the 20th Hussars attracting especial attention. The only regret was that there were not more of them.

The Recoil.

The most eloquent testimony of the insincerity of Kemalist propaganda has been afforded by the Kemalists themselves; for no sooner had it become possible that the British Government might reconsider the proclamation of neutrality than the Kemalists quite forgot that they had been loudly asserting the unreality of that neutrality and promptly changed their tune. It would, nevertheless, be extremely unwise to believe that the Angora camarilla is prepared to come to a peaceful arrangement with the Allies. It is true that ten British subjects have been released, but for the release of the rest the liberation of the war criminals is demanded, in addition to that of the Malta internees, as specified in the agreement concluded with Bekir Sami Bey. A similar game is being played with the French and the Italians; for the agreements concluded with both those Governments have been rejected by the Great National Assembly, and new proposals are to be put forward for discussion. It is the ancient stock-in-trade of Turkish diplomacy to play for time when hard pressed, and the Kemalists are proving themselves adepts in that particular line. The general lines of Kemalist policy are now perfectly clear; for despite the rabidness of the campaign against the British in the Anatolian Press, it has become clear that the Angora Administration was seriously perturbed by the possibility of a reversal of British policy in regard to the conflict with the Greeks. The principal preoccupation of Kemalist diplomacy at the present moment is to prevent the Allies—and Great Britain in particular—from assisting the Greeks, who, it is confidently believed, will sooner or later be driven from Anatolia if left to themselves. Once the Greek army is out of Anatolia, the Kemalists consider that the Allies may be defied with impunity, as neither singly nor collectively would they undertake another war which would involve the employment of a considerable army. So long as there is a Greek army in Anatolia, the Allies—or the British, at least—possess a hammer which, if wielded by a powerful and skilful arm, could be utilised with deadly effect, and against which the only ultimate defence would be an appeal to the Red armies of Soviet Russia. This would by no means suit the book of Mustapha Cromwell, who is determined to keep his "friends" at arm's length, treaty or no treaty. His "friends" would prefer to see him burn his boats as soon as possible, and very nearly succeeded recently, but the deluge of warnings sent to Angora from Constantinople and Europe brought about a sudden realisation of the danger, and resulted in the quick recoil of the past week.

The Central Government.

Following the example of their friends in Angora, the Central Government has remodelled itself. The Stamboul Cabinet is now about as pro-Nationalist as any Stamboul Cabinet could be, with the gratifying result that at last the Allies have some slight lever enabling

them to exert pressure upon Angora. For although the Kemalists have recorded their indifference to Stamboul, except as a "city containing a few monuments of a glorious past, and a few souvenirs, some bitter and some sweet," there is not the slightest doubt that many a sigh is breathed in secret for the perfumed gardens of the sapphire Bosphorus and the aesthetic delights of Tokatlian's and the Pera Palace Hotels. Besides, under the Tewfik Pasha administration, Stamboul has become quite a useful and important ganglion of the Nationalist organisation. Not only is it a most valuable centre for information and correspondence, but advantages of a more material nature are procurable now that a friendly administration is in power and the Allies are neutral. There is, therefore, good reason to believe that the Angora administration would prefer to avoid a change in the present state of affairs, if possible, which, as already remarked, gives the Allies rather more "pull" than they had before, when Damad Ferid Pasha was Grand Vizier of the Bosphorus.

Offensive Prospects.

King Constantine has gone to Smyrna, and it is widely believed, mostly by the Greeks, that an offensive is going to be started very soon. The Turkish Press is almost on the verge of hysteria with anticipation, and asserts every day that the Nationalist army is absolutely confident of victory. The Greeks (*genus* Constantinist) declare that the King has been received with the utmost enthusiasm in Anatolia, and are trying hard to persuade themselves and the rest of the world that this time the British will be behind them and with them. The Turks stoutly refuse to believe that the British could possibly take such a grave step because of such a trifling incident as the piratical and murderous attack upon the s.s. Palatina. The controversy is not only amusing, but somewhat flattering so far as the British are concerned. Whether the advertised offensive is imminent or not, King Constantine himself is probably the only human being who could say—if, indeed, he has any idea. The truth of the matter is that neither side is able to contemplate an offensive with moderately certain chances of success.

Allied Policy.

Despite the wide divergences in regard to the Turkish question that have grown up among the Allies since the Armistice, there can be little doubt that neither the French nor the Italians would care to relinquish the very valuable economic and commercial advantages conferred upon them by the Treaty of Sèvres. The Nationalists will certainly not agree to the clauses in question at the present moment, and if they agree to negotiate it is only with the object of gaining time, as explained above. On the whole, it may not be disadvantageous to the Allies to give them what they want; for in spite of appearances, the Allies are now in a stronger position than they were last December. The Kemalist belief that they are capable of driving the Hellenic army out of Anatolia may be regarded as a complete illusion, although the Hellenic army, in its turn, is incapable of driving the Kemalists back to the Persian frontier—if, indeed, beyond Eskişehir. At the same time, however, there can be little doubt that the strain of the financial and economic position is beginning to tell upon the Nationalists, and it is apparent that they are only able to maintain their armies in the field by the most extraordinary efforts. Thus, as time goes on, the position of the Allies is likely to become stronger without their being obliged to take any very exceptional measures against the Nationalists, in concert with the Greeks or otherwise. The Greeks are unlikely to throw up the sponge for a multitude of reasons, but their position is also becoming increasingly difficult. Hence it is possible that the time is approaching when both sides will reconsider their first verdict concerning the proposals made by the Allies at the London Conference, and, for once in a way, the policy of masterly inactivity which has distinguished Allied policy towards Turkey since the Armistice will have scored a success. Certainly, to attack the Kemalists at the present moment would be to play the Bolshevik game, and would be a grave mistake, despite the provocation received.

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.

INDIA IN THE EMPIRE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Surely the first step in the consolidation of the Empire is to recognise the solidarity of the British race wherever found. The British made the Empire and only the British can maintain it. Without the British the Empire falls to pieces. You cannot build upon a lie, and until we recognise and give due weight to this self-evident truth, all thinking and talking about Empire is vain.

The position of India is entirely different. Whatever unity India has she owes to the British. Before the British took charge of her, India was simply a writhing, struggling mass, torn by internecine warfare and bruised by cruel invasions. The British healed the wounds, improved her communications by roads and railways, and gave her a common language, that English language which was the only language understood by all the Members of Parliament at Delhi.

Moreover, India cannot defend herself. She lies open to invasion from the Afghans and Pathans on the north-west and from the Ghurkas on the north-east, and many of the finest regiments in her army are recruited from potential enemies. The magic of the British name, the personality of British officers subdues these fierce barbarians, but what would be the fate of an Indian Colonel who took command of a battalion of Pathans? These things should make India modest. "Educated India," as it is called, is but a drop in the ocean (less than 2 per cent.) of the vast multitudes who populate the sub-continent; and, if we are to hand over the government of these multitudes to "educated India," that government will rest not on the consent of the masses, but on the bayonets of British soldiers. The thing is a sham.

How great a sham it is is shown by the fact that the planters in Behar are at this moment in terror of their lives. A rising is imminent. The Behar Light Horse have been warned for duty. The planters have been advised to send their wives and children out of the province. The Government are making preparations (though, apparently, they do not realise that the British in the outlying plantations are in a trap) to suppress the insurrection, and are hoping, perhaps against hope, to prevent it from occurring. But during the last two years this sort of thing has been constantly happening. I met the other day a young Englishman who, with his partners, had narrowly escaped being murdered by their coolies in Orissa—two other planters, neighbours of theirs, had actually been done to death. Indian women can go anywhere in England in perfect safety, free from violence and free from insult.

That is because England is a civilised country. Englishwomen in India have to fly for their lives for fear of insult and violence and death and worse than death. That is because India is still in many respects a savage and barbarous land. How can there possibly be real, genuine equality between India and the Dominions? It may suit the politicians to believe a lie, but it will not suit the people of Britain, nor of the Dominions, nor of India herself.—I am, etc.,

C. POTNTZ SANDERSON.

3, Clarence Parade, Southsea.

GREEKS AND ALBANIANS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The Greek newspapers are bitterly attacking the Albanians for a supposed aggression of the Albanian population of Kortha (Koritsa) against the so-called Greeks of that city! Their fertile imagination is fabricating fights and murders, pillage and violence, fire and oppression!

They are far from truth, and they know it. It was natural enough that the Christian Albanians of Kortha should want the service in the Church to be conducted in Albanian during the Passion Week and Easter, Sunday. But Bishop Yakovos, who has been working hard as a Greek political agent in Kortha, objected to it. The Albanians insisted, and the Bishop had to give in. Then two Albanian priests, recently come from America, conducted the religious service in Albanian. No fighting took place, neither had the Albanian officers or the Mohammedan population of the city anything to do with this affair.

The Greek newspapers now ask for "the restoration of the Greek Church to the Greeks of Koritsa." They also write: "The Albanian Government is recruiting soldiers from the Greeks of Durazzo and Tirana." Up to now the Greeks have been content in claiming that Southern Albania (or Northern Epirus, as they call it) is inhabited by Greeks, but now they go further; they tell us that Tirana and Durazzo are peopled by Greeks, too!! As a matter of fact, there is not a single Greek in Kortha and Tirana, and only one Greek (a cigar maker by profession) in

Durazzo; but there are Orthodox Albanians (i.e., having the same religion as the Greeks, but of Albanian nationality) in all three towns.

The Greeks know it very well, but they do not want to put any difference between nationality and religion as regards the Orthodox Albanians. If all Orthodox Albanians must be Greeks, why should the Roumanians and the Russians not be Greeks? They, too, are Orthodox by religion. It is, of course, absurd to maintain that religion determines the nationality of a people.

It is true that the Orthodox Church of Albania is still under the Greek Patriarchate of Constantinople, as it was during the Turkish régime in Albania, but this does not at all show that the Orthodox Albanians are Greeks. We (Orthodox Albanians) are trying to—and shall—have an independent Church of our own, as the Roumanians, the Serbians, and the Greeks of Greece proper have. Why should we not?

Let not the Greeks try to deprive us of our nationality just because we are weaker. We have done much for them in the past; let them be grateful for it.

Hoping you will have the kindness to give this letter of mine a place in your honourable paper.—I am, etc.,

VASIL ANDONI.

Robert College, Constantinople, May 30, 1921.

THE SITUATION IN ANATOLIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Amidst the unhealthy excitement brought into being by propaganda, military operations, and the insidious direction of public opinion into channels of passion and prejudice, peoples' minds are apt to warp, the imagination is distorted and wrong perspectives are gained. Such, evidently, is the case with Western Anatolia. The European Press has been furnished with minute details of the barbarities committed by the Turks, their misgovernment and their callous treatment of subject races. On the other hand, we have occasionally read harrowing accounts of the misery and destitution into which numberless Moslems have been plunged as a direct result of the Greek occupation. The vicious circle is thus maintained while, apparently, the situation viewed from a common standpoint of the inhabitants—Christians and Moslems alike—is entirely lost sight of or else deliberately ignored.

Now, what is this situation, and how does it promise to develop should the lines presently followed be persisted in?

One and all, I believe, will agree in defining the present state of affairs as deplorable. Smyrna, hitherto an important and prosperous trade centre, is presently comparable to a once healthy but now broken down athlete who has seen better days, and who still continues to live in the past. That part of the city's natural hinterland which has been redeemed (sic) is wallowing in a slough of uncertainty and unrest, while beyond the Greek zone we have the Nationalist administration which, naturally, is blind to everything but its immediate military requirements. Such, briefly, is the actual state of affairs. The future rises gloomy and threatening from amidst this chaos.

Assuming even the total realisation of one party's aspirations, it is difficult to admit that this will provide a solution calculated to serve the best interests of the country. For to impose by force of arms as a ruling caste those who for centuries have been a subject race is an experiment gratifying to political and military leaders, but assuredly doomed to failure. Yet it is clear that the present tendency is forcibly to establish a state of affairs wherein the Moslem will be obliged to choose between emigration or domination by his quondam *Rayah* subjects. History indicates that he will choose the former alternative, and this, it is feared, is the consummation mostly desired by the rulers elect.

On the other hand, the pressure of Moslem thought leans towards the rehabilitation of the Turk and his firm establishment and consolidation in Asia Minor. This pressure is a hard fact, and may not be ignored, but the prospect of the complete attainment of its objective will awaken apprehensions in all thinking men whose experience of purely Turkish administration is ripe and free from prejudice.

The clash of these two currents, ambitions or ideals—call them what you will—has assumed concrete form on the battle fronts of Western Anatolia. Turk and Greek—Moslem and Christian—are in the throes of a death struggle, while, outside the ring, their respective supporters are actively engaged in stimulating the energies and moral of the combatants. Unhappily, however, in all this excitement—in the heat of this supreme effort—not a moment's consideration has been devoted to the state and condition of the arena.

The contemplation of the struggle in this light awakens feelings of the deepest concern. Impartial observers of current events out here are unanimous in concluding that a continuation of the struggle will inevitably bring about what both parties commenced by averring it to be their sole object to avoid.

The entire country is being ravaged; whole villages are being sacked, and the clock of progress and reconstruction has already been set back many years.

Such is the irony of human inconsistency, fostered by military ambition and political greed, that each combatant is now openly declaring that the victor shall come into a heritage only of lands laid waste and populations massacred or dispersed and utterly destitute.

May not the force of these arguments be brought home to the adversaries? Or have the lessons taught by the great war failed to prove a deterrent from this sinful system of resorting to arms with all its accompanying misery and distress?—I am, etc.,
DISILLUSIONED.

Smyrna, June 16, 1921.

EGYPTIANS SUPPORT ZAGHLOUL PASHA.

We have received from H.H. Prince Aziz Hassan a telegram dated June 24, stating that a meeting, over which he presided, was held in Cairo on June 21, and was attended by many thousands of people, including Ulema, representatives of the Christian communities, notables, merchants, lawyers, doctors, officials, and others. The meeting was held in honour of various officials who had "shown courage and firmness in defending liberty." It also expressed confidence in Zaghoul Pasha, and passed several resolutions. One of these resolutions expressed lack of confidence in the Ministry, and protested energetically against "its arbitrary acts in connection with officials, which threatened their liberty." Another expressed mistrust of the Official Delegation, "formed against the will of the nation and unable to represent it." The third expressed confidence in Zaghoul Pasha's Delegation, and others protested against officials of the Administration signing expressions of confidence in the Government and against attacks made upon peaceful citizens during the demonstrations of last May.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST. GEORGE.

On Wednesday, June 22, an inaugural luncheon was held of the City of London branch of the Royal Society of St. George. The Society, of which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales is president, was founded in 1894, with, amongst others, the object of encouraging and strengthening the spirit of patriotism amongst all people of English birth and origin throughout the world, of furthering English interests by every possible means, of promoting and encouraging the physical culture of the English people.

Mr. Stanley Machin, J.P., chairman of the Executive Council, was in the chair, and the guest of honour was the Rt. Hon. Viscount Birkenhead. After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the Vice-Chancellor proposed the toast of "England." In the course of a witty and forceful speech, the Lord Chancellor remarked that he was not one of those who held and expressed pessimistic views of the future of the Empire in general and England in particular. He likened our country to a human body recovering, after a very severe operation, from the mercifully deadening effect of the anæsthetic. As it struggled back to a consciousness of its normal life, it was racked and stabbed by the agonising pains of industrial unrest, bad trade, and the dying attacks of the disease which had lately threatened its existence. A study of our country's history, however, showed that we had successfully weathered worse crises before, and he felt sure that the final historian of our times would record that our generation had handed down to its successors the fair name of our Empire certainly unsullied and possibly a little embellished.

EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES.

An exhibition of antiquities discovered at Tell-el-Amarna during the excavations organised by the Egypt Exploration Society during the winter of 1920-21 will be held in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries at Burlington House from July 5 to 13 inclusive. It will be open free to the public daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tell-el-Amarna, the capital of Akhenaten, the monotheistic king of Egypt, who reigned about 1370 B.C., was being excavated by the Germans before the war, and many valuable and interesting specimens of the peculiar art of the period were found by them. The site has now been given to the Egypt Exploration Society, and their first post-war expedition was superintended by Prof. T. Eric Peet, the holder of the Brunner Chair of Egyptology at Liverpool. Prof. Peet will give a lecture on the season's work in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, on Thursday, July 7, at 8.30 p.m. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Egypt Exploration Society, 13, Tavistock Square, W.C.2.

The statement regarding the replacement of M. Karadjoff, Director of the Consortium, by another deputy is hereby contradicted.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Italy and Asia Minor.

An article in the *Glasgow Herald* of June 10 deals with the withdrawal of Italian troops from Asia Minor, which, it says, amounts to an abandonment of the Italian position under the Treaty of Sèvres; and the policy of conciliation, as consummated in the agreement between Bekir Sami Bey and Count Sforza, is shown to be futile as applied to the Turks.

It is possible that in due course, apart from anything a Greek offensive may or may not achieve, a joint Franco-Italo-British naval blockade may curb the arrogance of Kemal and his associates. But Angora propaganda to the effect that France and Italy have been expelled from Asia Minor will undoubtedly create an impression in the world of Islam which no naval demonstration short of laying Stambul in ruins is likely to obliterate. Our own sole consolation—a somewhat selfish one—is that although we too are closely involved in the Turkish tangle, we have not at any rate made the mistake of definitely occupying any part of Asia Minor, and are consequently unhampered by the necessity of having at a critical juncture to decide between an undignified evacuation and the costly despatch of heavy reinforcements.

Serbia, France and Bulgaria.

Our Sofia Correspondent sends us the following free translation of an article which appeared in the Bulgarian journal, *Preporetz*, the organ of the Democrats. It is in reference to M. Picot's speech, a brief report of which was given in THE NEAR EAST of June 2.

At this moment, when people are talking of a new phase in Serbo-Bulgarian relations, it is not without interest to reproduce what is written in one of the most influential Belgrade newspapers. The subject is the remarkable speech which the French Minister, M. Georges Picot, made at the opening of the French Chamber of Commerce at Sofia on May 19, in which he did not hesitate to announce that the Allies wish for peace in the Balkans; that they will not allow anyone to violate this peace; and, finally, that France and Bulgaria will work together for the establishment of peace in the Balkan peninsula.

In commenting on this speech, *Tribuna* (the Belgrade paper in question) is frankly grieved that France, instead of looking to Serbia and her other Balkan Allies for assistance, casts her eyes on a country which until yesterday was an enemy of them all. The paper writes:—"For us here in the Balkans we must take it, after these announcements, that the French Republic has looked far and has found in the Bulgaria of to-day a true and loyal helper in her Balkan politics. From this, we, the rest of the Balkans, must draw the logical conclusion. It is true that everyone has the right to choose his friends and allies as he pleases, and we make no objection against the choice of Bulgaria by France, as that is a matter for her diplomacy and her interests. But all the same, we cannot preserve silence when an official makes declarations in the name of his Government—declarations like these that greatly affect us."

"We Serbians are hurt by these declarations from the French Government, for France must know that it was Bulgaria who disturbed the Balkan peace. It is a very odd fact that the diplomacy of one of the most important countries of human freedom should regard the 'bloody and untruthful Bulgaria' as her help and ally in order to make peace in the Balkans. We are being disillusioned about France, and she is sinking in our estimation. For some time we have felt in Serbia that our French friends have changed their attitude towards their faithful Serbian ally. In connection with this it may be noted that a very important and widely-read Swiss newspaper recently stated that

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the Great Powers were treating their small Serbian allies like a poor orphan. Until the present moment we have regarded this as a temporary lapse. To-day, however, we cannot pass over the sad fact which the disloyal and unwise tying of knots with treacherous Bulgaria that France is now accomplishing has caused. This grieves us very much, but we have had so many trials and misfortunes to endure that we can suffer this latest one. But when, however, it is a question of peace and order in the Balkans, then it is we, the Balkans, who have the last word, and not our French friends. We Serbians do not fear the Bulgarians; even when they were stronger than we we did not fear them, and to-day we are in a position to keep Bulgaria quiet and to preserve peace and order. To us the preservation of peace in the Balkans is much more important than it is to France."

The Claims of the Turks.

The *New Statesman* of June 18, in an article called "The Claims of the Turks," pays tribute to the "qualities of decision and imagination" in Mr. Winston Churchill's recent speech, and proceeds to discuss the possibility of peace with Turkey. First of all—

We must stop this war. But what are we to do? It is, of course, idle to pretend that we can get out of the mess as easily as we got into it. There are, however, as it seems to us, three principles which ought to guide our policy, which are, indeed, absolute conditions of a firm settlement in the Near East. In the first place, we must hold rigorously to the neutrality which the Government professes. We must not, on any pretext, support Greece with a man or a penny in this violent adventure. There will doubtless be many Greeks, and there may be a few Englishmen, who will call this refusal of aid a betrayal. It is nothing of the sort. Greece may perhaps be justified in laying a large part of the responsibility for her sufferings on Mr. Lloyd George and those rash Philhellenes, who started her last summer on the path of militarism in Asia. But for her present position, and any unfortunate consequences which may flow from it, not even Mr. Lloyd George can be blamed. After the Conference in London a few months ago the Greeks were clearly warned that they were to expect no assistance from us if they took aggressive action. They took aggressive action, and they brought disaster on their own heads. If they choose to incur the same risks a second time, let them cherish no illusions about our possible intervention on their behalf.

But, granted that the British people are resolute, as they undoubtedly are, for neutrality, and that they are able to keep their shuffling Government from any covert infraction of it, neutrality will obviously not carry us very far. We need to apply a second, and a positive, principle if this conflagration is to be put out. That means a definite and wholehearted attempt to conciliate Turkey. From the earliest negotiations in Paris in 1919, down to the abortive Conference of London last March, most of our politicians and publicists have been playing with fantasies in the Near East. They have misjudged their men and miscalculated their chances; they have poured out oceans of twaddle about Constantinople and the Caliphate; they have frightened themselves with Bolshevik bogies all over Asia; they have mistaken the rising of the Turkish nation for an outbreak of brigandage; they have seen Athens at one moment as the capital of Alexander the Great, and at the next as a new Hohenzollern Potsdam. They have handed out generous slices of the Ottoman pie to themselves and their friends. One thing only they have consistently forgotten—the rights of the Turkish people. It is true that a recognition of these rights had begun to creep into the minds of British statesmen at the time of the London Conference, and some attempt was made to repair the grosser blunders and injustices of the Treaty of Sévres.

The people of this country are in no mood to wage war against Kemal for the benefit of King Constantine—nor even, we may add, to save Mr. Lloyd George's face. Neither are we morally entitled to resist Turkish claims, unless they prove extravagant, which, so far as we know, they are not. The Turks want a revision of the Treaty of Sévres, which will give them the possession of Anatolia (with a proper régime for the Greeks in Smyrna), of Constantinople (with proper international safeguards for the Straits), and of that part of Thrace which Mr. Lloyd George used to call "the homeland of the Turkish race." They are justified in making these claims, and we believe that the vast majority of the British people, and probably even of the members of the British Government, consider that they are justified. Why, then, are the claims not to be conceded? There are only two reasonable explanations. One is that there are commitments, economic or political, to persons or groups or nations, which require the suppression of Turkey. If that be so, let Mr. Lloyd George make them public, and we venture to say that public opinion will demand their instant abandonment. The other possible explanation is that we are afraid that any strengthening of Turkey would be a menace to the general peace. That, too, is an illusory fear. Neither Turkey, nor anybody on her behalf, is asking for a restoration of the Ottoman Empire. It is not suggested that Turkish misrule should be re-established over its former victims. But it is plain that the Turks should be allowed to rule themselves, and it may well be that in the course of a few years we shall make the remarkable discovery that they can manage this business in a perfectly creditable way. There are, in point of fact, worse governments in Europe at this moment than the Government of Angora, and worse statesmen than Mustapha Kemal. In any case, whether they do it well or ill, the Turks will govern themselves, and we cannot prevent them save at a cost which no one is willing to incur. As for Turkey becoming again a danger in the East, there is only one sound guarantee against that, which is that we and France and Italy should find a new basis for a common policy in the Aegean and in Asia Minor.

MUSICAL NOTES.

Eugene Goossens and Stravinsky.

There is no man more representative alike of England's creative and interpretative ability at the present time than Eugene Goossens, whose second orchestral concert of contemporary music was given at the Queen's Hall on June 23. For not only is he a very notable composer—his symphonic poem, "The Eternal Rhythm," has magnificent stuff in it—but his readings of Berners' "Spanish Fantasy," of Ravel's "La Valse," and, above all, of Stravinsky's "Le Sacre du Printemps," proved him to be a conductor, in modern music at any rate, of most unusual brilliance. After this concert there will be no bar to his claim to universal attention. The "Spanish Fantasy" I liked even more than when I heard it a week previously; its mirth is thrillingly infectious. Of Ravel's "La Valse" the sinuous, glittering rhythms were splendidly captured; but even so this artificial intoxication was prolonged too far. There was a little too much CO₂ about the work. And by the notorious "Sacre" of Stravinsky I still remain unconvinced; for the physical appeal which much of it undeniably makes grows less with its repetition. Its rhythmic genius no one would dream of disputing, and it is certainly good to have been shown so strikingly the opposite side of music to the romantic. But since the greatness of the "Sacre" lies in its rhythms and sonorities, and since its technical merits appear chiefly in its exploration of the substance of sound—in its ambition, that is, to be utter as opposed to sublime—it is a work which, laden with experimental tricks as it inevitably is, palls (with me, of course, that is) with repetition.

Violinists.

When first I heard Miss Winifred Smith (it was in the Elgar Sonata), it was obvious that her gifts were well above the average, and the impression was confirmed in a pleasant recital which she gave, with Mr. Vivian Langrish at the pianoforte, at the Wigmore Hall on June 7. Her intonation is exceptionally good, and her serious intentions were manifest in some capable performances of Bax, Malipiero, and Szymanowski. Her playing of the Bax "Legend" was particularly good, and with sympathies so wide as she shows herself to possess she should do well.

I do not know how many notes there are in the Japanese octave, but there were not a few foreign to the Western ear in M. Kenzo Satow's violin recital at the Wigmore Hall on June 10. His tone was rich enough, his technique was fluent enough, but his intonation! I meant to hear two Japanese works of his own composition, but Wieniawski's concerto in D minor and two Beethoven romances diverted the attention. The playing of Madame Setsuko at the pianoforte consisted of the depressing, sometimes rightly, of the notes as they were printed.

The capital virtue of Mlle. Valentina Crespi, who gave a recital at the Aeolian Hall on June 21, is a sincere belief in the value of what she is playing, whether that be the heavily cast concerto of Sibelius or the trivial "Valse Bluettes" of Drigo. Her technique is fairly facile, but she is given to wandering in her intonation and in her rhythm (though in the last respect she was not much helped by Mr. Percy Kahn at the pianoforte).

Mme. Blanche Marchesi.

The name of Marchesi is famous to all the singing world, and the song recital which Mme. Blanche Marchesi and some of her pupils had prepared at the Aeolian Hall on June 22 was a demonstration of the soundness of the Marchesi method of teaching. Mme. Marchesi has very individual ideas of interpretation, some of which (as in Schubert's "Erlkönig" or in Franck's "La Procession") one could not agree with; but there is no doubt that she is a great authority. Technically her pupils showed to great advantage, though no good would be done by pretending that one could hear any of the words of Miss Phyllis Archibald in Bemberg's "La Mort de Jeanne d'Arc," or that "When the King went forth to War" of Koeneman, which Mr. Mosley sang, is anything but a very poor song indeed. The first part of the recital was really more a personal triumph for Mme. Marchesi than for her pupils.

M. Toscha Seidel.

This famous young Russian violinist made his first appearance in England at the Queen's Hall on June 15, when, unfortunately, I was able to hear him only in the Vitali chaconne. Without doubt his general technical equipment is exceptionally fine and his tone and finish excellent, but whether he is, like Kreisler, the real musician, or, like Heifetz, first and last a consummate violinist, it would not be fair to judge. For the rich depth of his tone alone he is worth going to hear.

ANDANTE.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

I.—"NILE AND JORDAN." By G. A. F. Knight, M.A. (London: James Clarke and Co., 1921. 36s.)

II.—"RUPERT BROOKE AND SKYROS." By Stanley Casson. (London: Elkin Matthews. 6s. net.)

I.—NILE AND JORDAN.

This elaborate work, an account of the "Archæological and Historical interrelations between Egypt and Canaan from the earliest times till the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70," is one of astonishing industry and research. Through 500 closely-printed pages the author gathers together the information diffused through some seventeen hundred books and journals, and presents in a connected narrative the long and tangled history of Egypt and Palestine over some seven millenniums. Such a work is bound to provoke criticism, for, unless the writer is to be content merely to enumerate a mass of conflicting views, he must give his own conclusions. Thus, on all points of detail, probably no one student will agree, but Mr. Knight is most scrupulous in giving authorities for all his facts. For the student who wishes to balance other views against those of the writer the ample bibliography and countless footnotes offer every facility.

The book is by no means a mere compilation. The writer has a clear and vivid style, and many of his terse descriptions of persons and places are excellent. For those who wish to obtain a comprehensive general impression of the historical setting of the Old Testament the work will well repay a careful reading. The results of excavation and other archæological research all over Egypt and Palestine are here worked into the historical narrative in a most successful manner. To many, who find archæological reports too technical for their significance to be appreciated, this method will be a revelation of the extent and importance of this newly acquired knowledge. What is elsewhere diffused through archæological reports from many sites is here placed in its historical setting. To many this work will be valued for the fresh understanding which it gives to the Old Testament, and the history of Israel; indeed, without some such historical background much of the literature of the Old Testament has no meaning—with it the whole purpose of sacred history becomes significant. Probably the author will fall foul of the two extremes of Biblical critics, as his position is a *via media*, but for the ordinary reader that matters not at all. As has been said, the author invites criticism from the earnest student.

Amidst such an exhaustive study it is only possible here to refer to a few points of interest. The author takes the view, now perhaps increasingly held, that the Exodus took place considerably earlier than the XIX. Egyptian dynasty, and that Thothmes III., not Rameses II., was the "Pharaoh of the Oppression," and Amenhotep II., not Merenptah, was the Pharaoh of the exodus. The strongest argument against the older popular view is the famous Merenptah-Stele discovered by Petrie at Thebes in 1896, where it states that "Israel is wasted, he hath no seed." The conquests of the Khabori, recorded in the Tel el-Amarna tablets, are here accepted as those of the Hebrews, now arriving from their wanderings; but, however much this may agree with chronology it is difficult—and here scarcely attempted—to square this invasion with that described in the Old Testament under Joshua.

The archæological discoveries which have demonstrated two Jewish temples in Egypt—rivals of the Jerusalem temple—are of ethnic interest. First, at Elephantine papyri were discovered showing that on that island there had been a Jewish temple for over a century, which had all the appointments for sacrifice of the great temple in Jerusalem. It had been built in the lifetime of Cyrus the Great, but in the 14th year of Darius II. heathen Egyptian priests destroyed it completely. One of the papyri contains an appeal from the Egyptian Jews to Palestine for permission to re-erect the temple. The whole incident opens up most important and interesting questions.

The second temple of which we have knowledge belongs to a later period. When the persecutions of Antiochus Epiphanes drove many of the Jews to Egypt, Onias IV., the son of Onias III., the Jerusalem high priest, obtained permission from Ptolemy VII. to build in Leontopolis in the Delta a temple after the model of that in Jerusalem. Petrie found its remains in the form of an "artificial mound, six acres in extent and 70 feet high to the platform, placed at the north-east corner of the old Egyptian town, just as the temple stood on the north-east of the older city of Jerusalem. There was an imitation Mount Moriah, a Kidron Valley, a Tyropæan Valley running through the city, a staircase running up from the valley to the temple on the model of the steps which formed 'the ascent by which the King went up into the house of the Lord,' a castle of Antonia, a Bezettia quarter and a new town to the north of the old." The temple itself was built on the exact proportions of that in

Jerusalem, but smaller; the altar was similar and priests and abundant sacrifices were maintained by revenues accruing from endowments from surrounding districts.

The significance of Egypt and all it stood for to the great prophets of Israel is strikingly illustrated by copious extracts from their writings, which in their correct historic setting are pregnant with new meaning. The troubled times between the death of Alexander the Great and the destruction of Jerusalem are described with considerable detail and the intimate connection of Palestine and Egypt is well illustrated. The reader is here too constantly referred to contemporary Jewish literature—the Apocrypha, Josephus and other Jewish writings.

The book has been published largely at the expense of a generous grant made by the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, and in spite of its size is a wonderfully light book to hold. Suitable illustrations would have much added to its attractiveness, but would perhaps have made its price prohibitive. A good map of the Nile Valley is inserted.

E. W. G. M.

II.—RUPERT BROOKE.

There is no lover of English literature who does not know the story of Rupert Brooke, and who did not regret his early death in death in 1915; it is by a wide public, therefore, that Mr. Casson's words upon the poet's resting-place will be read. Many do not know where Skyros is, and those few who do will know little about the island, even though it be one of those corners of "a foreign field that is for ever England."

In April, 1920, Mr. Casson brought to Skyros the monument that now stands over Brooke's grave, and his little book is a description of what the island was and is, and of how he performed his reverent act. He begins by reminding us that Skyros was very early the home of the legendary heroes—Achilles, Theseus, and so on—and proceeds to display his classical learning in the pleasantest manner. In this wild island, the chief production of which are marble and flocks, there are but few inhabitants, and those, because of the pirates, not on the coast, so that the valley of Tris Boukes Bay, where Brooke's tomb lies, is "a lonely valley in a lonely bay, with none but shepherds and storm-bound sailors to see it." It is good, however, to read that, despite this loneliness, the valley is covered with wild flowers. "Pale blue anemones, orchids, rock hyacinths, and sombre russet fritillaries star the turf, while everywhere is the scent of wild thyme and mint that grows thick between the bushes of wild olive." Is it not a fit place for an English poet?

Brooke's tomb was consecrated (according to the rites of the Greek Church) by a monk of the monastery of St. George, so that, as the final sentence of the volume puts it, "For once St. George of Skyros and St. George of England have met on common ground."

Mr. Casson's essay, which first appeared in the *London Mercury*, and is reprinted, with one omission and a few additions, is beautifully produced, and is greatly enriched by some delightful woodcut illustrations of Phyllis Gardner.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Koran: Translated into English from the Original Arabic." By George Sale. With explanatory notes from the most approved commentators and "Sale's Preliminary Discourse." With an Introduction by Sir Edward Denison, C.I.E., Ph.D. (London: Frederick Warne and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

"My Term Off." By Capt. N. G. Brett James. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Administration of Bengal. 1918-1919." (Calcutta: The Bengal Secretariat Book Depot. Rs. 5.12.)

"Sir Edward Elgar." By J. F. Porte. (London: Kegan Paul. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Arabian Medicine." Fitzpatrick Lectures, 1919-1920. By Professor E. G. Browne, M.B., F.R.C.P. (Cambridge: University Press. 12s. net.)

"Haunts of the Gay East." By Sydney A. Moseley. (London: Stanley Paul and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

"A Picture of Modern Spain: Men and Music." By J. B. Trend. (London: Constable. 15s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

June 30 (New Style).

June 17 (Old Style).

Shawwal 24, 1339 of the Moslem Calendar.

Sivan 24, 5681 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir M. M. Bhownaggee has returned from his Indian tour.

Viscount and Viscountess Milner have returned to Sturry Court.

The Earl of Shannon has arrived in England from India, and is at 18, Ovington Gardens, S.W.3.

Sir Francis and Lady Elliot have arrived at the Stanhope Court Hotel, Stanhope Gardens, South Kensington.

It is officially announced that the Prince of Wales is to visit India during the coming cold weather, arriving in Bombay in November.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, who recently underwent an operation in a London nursing home, is making good progress towards recovery.

The Commission to delimit the boundaries of the British and French mandates in Syria has now been constituted. Colonel Newcombe will be the British representative.

It is stated that the King of Roumania proposes to visit Paris, London, Brussels, and Rome this summer, and that he may also extend his visit to include the United States.

Sir Charles Ernest Low, K.C.I.E., was married last week at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, to Helen Ada, second daughter of the late Captain E. K. E. Spence, of the Indian Staff Corps.

General Gouraud, the French High Commissioner in Syria, has arrived in Damascus on a tour which will be extended to Deraa, Kuneitra, Palmyra, Homs, Hama, and Aleppo.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between Mr. Julian A. R. Young, only son of Lieut.-Colonel Julian Young, Indian Army, retired, and Margaret, eldest daughter of the Rev. W. Perowne Holmes, of the Rectory, Porlock, Somerset.

The marriage of Lieut.-Colonel Robert Loraine, D.S.O., M.C., and Winifred Lydia, elder daughter of Sir Thomas and Lady Strangman, of Bombay, now at 12, Cork Street, W., will take place on July 14 at St. George's, Hanover Square, at 2.30 p.m.

The marriage between Lieut.-Colonel J. H. S. Allen, I.A.R.O., and Kathleen, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Westropp-Dawson (born Lathom), and adopted daughter of the Hon. Mrs. J. W. Harris, took place at Canterbury on June 22.

The engagement is announced of Hubert Vincent Gough, Royal Irish Fusiliers, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh George Gough, of Dinard, formerly of Hyderabad, and Norah Mary Dorien, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Stanley Clarke, of Cromer, Bournemouth.

Our Cyprus Correspondent writes (June 6):—

M. Halid Bey, District Judge at Famagusta, who has been studying at Gray's Inn, has been called to the Bar in London, and is now returning to Cyprus.

Mr. W. A. Russell, King's Advocate, has left for England on leave. Mr. B. Dickenson acts as Puisne Judge.

A marriage has been arranged between Lieutenant John Pilditch, R.N., only son of the late John Jarvis Pilditch, and nephew of Sir Philip Pilditch, M.P., of Bartropps, Weybridge, and Cecil Ruth, only child of the late Captain C. P. Down, Indian Army, and Mrs. Down, and granddaughter of Colonel Marshall, 6, Chester Place, W.2.

The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place at the end of July, between Major Hastings Ismay, D.S.O., 21st Cavalry (Frontier Force), younger son of the late Sir Stanley Ismay, K.C.S.I., and Lady Ismay, and Laura Kathleen, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Clegg, of Wormington Grange, Broadway, Worcestershire.

The marriage of Mr. Alexander W. Cowe, head of the Near East Department of the Federation of British Industries, and late of Constantinople and Athens, to Miss Gwendolen E. Marsh, until lately a member of the staff of the International Labour Office of the League of Nations, Geneva, took place at St. Luke's, Redcliffe Square, S.W., on June 15.

At the British Embassy, Constantinople, on May 11, the marriage took place of Major O. H. van Millingen, C.S.I., Army of the Black Sea, to Mme. Anastassia Akimoff, daughter of the late Lieut.-General Laboutin, of the Imperial Russian Army. Major O. H. van Millingen is a nephew of the late Professor Alexander van Millingen, M.A., D.D., the Byzantine archæologist and writer, of Robert College, Constantinople.

Our Athens Correspondent writes (June 5):—

Prince Andrew, with his wife, Princess Alice, and their two daughters, arrived at Corfu and took up their abode at the villa "Mon Repos." Prince Andrew, who is a Brigadier-General in the army, has asked the Minister of War for permission to proceed to the Asia Minor front.

Colonel Sir Frederick Halliday, chief of the British Police Mission to Greece, has left Athens for London on a short holiday.

A marriage has been arranged between Captain Patrick Grant, Q.V.O., Corps of Guides (Indian Army), eldest son of Colonel H. G. Grant, C.B., late Seaforth Highlanders, and Mrs. Grant, Balvraid Lodge, Tomin, Inverness, grandson of Field-Marshal Sir Patrick Grant, and Irene Madeleine, widow of Lieut.-Colonel Donald Wood, the Rifle Brigade, and youngest daughter of the late Mr. H. T. Ross, Superintendent of Madras Police, and Mrs. Ross, of 30, Norton Road, Hove.

Captain John K. im Thurn, C.B.E., who relinquished last week the post of Director of the Signal Department at the Admiralty, has been appointed with effect from June 21 to the light cruiser Ceres, of which he will assume command at Malta shortly. He succeeds Captain H. O. Reinold, whose two years in the ship have nearly expired. The Ceres is one of the six vessels in the Third Light Cruiser Squadron of the Mediterranean Fleet, now commanded by Rear-Admiral Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt.

Her Highness the Princess Kamala Devi Gaekwar of Baroda held an "At Home" last week at 15, Cleveland Gardens for ladies interested in the Indian Women's Education Association. Her Highness made a speech on the subject, and amongst other speakers were:—Mrs. Patrick Villiers Stuart (in the chair), Miss Balchandra, B.A., on "The Student's Point of View"; Viscountess Chelmsford, on "The Present-Day Conditions"; Miss Anson (for Lady Baden Powell), on "The Guides' Part in Education." Lady Carmichael proposed the vote of thanks.

Bishop MacInnes, the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, has cabled his regret that his name was not added to the recent appeal for a personal memorial to the late Bishop Blyth in St. George's Collegiate Church, Jerusalem, which he trusts will receive the support not only of the late Bishop's personal friends, but of all those Church men and women who value the work which the Bishop did to establish and maintain relations of Christian charity with the Orthodox and other branches of the Church represented in Jerusalem. The Archbishop of Canterbury and many others have already responded to the appeal.

The Governor-General of the Sudan has approved the formation of an advisory body to be called the Scientific Research Committee (a) to co-ordinate the scientific work (other than medical) in the Sudan as far as possible, (b) to advise on any matters dealing with scientific questions which may be referred to it, (c) to collect and distribute scientific information of local interest. This committee, which will have the Director of Education as chairman, will consist of the Director, W.T.R. Laboratories, the Government Bacteriologist, Botanist, Chemist, Entomologist and Geologist as members. Dr. Joseph, the Government Chemist, will act as Secretary.

APPOINTMENTS, ETC.

The Rev. Arthur Higgins, curate at St. Peter's, Harrow, has been appointed English Chaplain at Capri. He was ordained nine months ago at the age of sixty-five. He has been round the world nine times.

OBITUARY.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* reports the death last week of Sir Charles de Rocca Serra, Legal Adviser to the Egyptian Cabinet, 1912-20, and afterwards appointed honorary Sultania Counsellor in recognition of his distinguished services.

Professor Morris Jastrow, of the University of Pennsylvania, has died at the age of sixty. He was a recognised authority on Semitic languages and literature, and wrote several books on the religion of Assyria and Babylonia and kindred topics. He was a contributor to many encyclopædias, including the *Britannica* and the *Jewish*.

With the regretted death, at the age of 83, of Mr. Robert Johnson Moss, Alexandrian society loses one of its oldest and most greatly esteemed members, and the Anglo-Egyptian business world a pioneer and a pillar of integrity. To his many charming characteristics the late shipowner added a very generous heart, and many younger Anglo-Egyptians of both sexes and "generations" of His Majesty's Army and Navy can never forget the delightful hospitality of his Ramleh home.

The death occurred on June 26 of Sir Robert Nathan, formerly of the Bengal Civil Service. Entering the Indian Civil Service from Cambridge in 1888, he became, in 1895, Under-Secretary to the Financial and Commercial Department of the Government of India, and two years later to the Home Department, of which he became Deputy-Secretary later. In 1902 he acted as secretary to the Indian Universities Commission. After a period as private secretary to the Viceroy, Sir Robert Nathan was appointed in 1907 Commissioner of the Dacca Division, and in 1910 officiating chief secretary to the Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam. He also acted as president of the Dacca and Patna Universities Committees. He was the author of the official History of Plague in India and of works on the progress of education. Sir Robert Nathan was created a C.I.E. in 1903, a C.S.I. in 1911, and K.C.S.I. in 1919.

The death has occurred of Rear-Admiral Sir Massie Blomfield at the age of eighty-six. Admiral Blomfield's name will always, says the *Morning Post*, be closely associated with Egypt, as from 1879, after twenty-five years' service in the Royal Navy, he assumed duty under the Egyptian Government, which he continued to serve loyally for twenty-nine years. With the late Earl of Cromer and others he performed much of the "spade-work" which laid the foundations of Egypt as the prosperous country we know to-day. He entered the Navy in 1848, and served throughout the Crimean War. Retiring from the Navy as a captain in 1873, he was employed under the Admiralty for another three years as a member of the Torpedo Committee. In 1879 he was selected for the newly-instituted post of Comptroller of the Port of Alexandria. Sir Massie's outstanding work in connection with the Port of Alexandria was its development into a port in fact, instead of in name only; the great breakwater of which remains as tangible evidence of what he accomplished. During his period of service in that country he successfully held the posts of Comptroller of the Port of Alexandria, Deputy Controller of Egyptian Ports and Lighthouses, and Controller-General, finally retiring in 1908 as Director-General of Ports and Lighthouses. His great services were recognised by the award of the K.C.M.G. and the Order of the Osmanieh and Medjidie from the Khedive. After his retirement from the Egyptian Service he interested himself in archaeology and in the Boy Scout movement.

TURKEY AND GREECE.

A meeting was held last week at the Connaught Rooms to protest against the Greek atrocities in Asia Minor, and to urge the restoration of peace between Great Britain and Turkey. It was presided over by Lord Lamington, and the speakers included Lieutenant-Colonel Aubrey Herbert, M.P., Viscount Curzon, M.P., General Conyers Surtees, M.P., and Captain E. H. Griffin. A number of pro-Venizelists, including Sir Arthur Crofield, endeavoured unsuccessfully to address the meeting.

M. Mayromichaelis, the Hellenic Minister of Marine, has returned from Smyrna to Athens.

Local levies acting for the Government have seized 226 rifles and some ammunition which had been brought to Khamisiya (Nasriyeh district of Mesopotamia) from Nejd.

Representatives of the exiled National Governments of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Northern Caucasus, in a treaty signed in Paris on June 15, agreed to co-ordinate their foreign policy, accept obligatory arbitration on the subject of their territorial disputes, and to establish a Customs Union. This agreement will come into force after the collapse of the existing Soviet Administrations, which are subordinated to Moscow, and the subsequent restoration of the National Governments in these States.

"SAVRITI."

On June 23 and 24 two special performances were given at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, of Gustav Holst's opera, "Savriti." From the purely musical side much might be said in praise of the work and something in praise of the performance: for the simplicity of Holst's scoring (the only instruments being two string quartets, a double bass, two flutes, and a cor anglais), and the certainty of his effects were remarkable. But, apart from technicalities, the story of Savriti, taken from "The Mahabharata," makes a universal appeal, for it is, in mystically Indian effect, really the old tale of the triumph of Love over Death. Savriti, the most beautiful of Indian women, is visited by Yama, the King of Death, who threatens to take away the life of her husband, Satyavan; but, moved by her eloquent pleading for life, Death relents, and wife and husband are at the end left together.

The opera, which is in one act, was extremely well received. The hidden orchestra was admirably conducted by Mr. Arthur Bliss, the part of Death was impressively taken by Mr. Clive Carey, and Savriti was, except for an occasional forcing of tone, excellently portrayed by Miss Dorothy Silk. But most memorable of all was the beautifully apt setting in which the late Mr. Lovat Fraser had conceived the whole thing. "Savriti" was preceded by three of Holst's hymns from the "Rig Veda," which are written for female voices and harp. The choice of these things was good enough, but their performance was another matter.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

M. Venizelos has arrived at Aix-les-Bains, Savoy.

Five thousand men employed by the Buckingham Mill Company, Madras, have struck work in sympathy with the workmen of the Carnatic Mill.

A memorial to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the I. W. T. (R. E.) was unveiled in the Garrison Church, Busreh, on May 8, by Col. Commandant Nepean. The Bishop of Persia performed the dedication.

The Rome Correspondent of the *Morning Post* telegraphs that the *Giornale d'Italia* publishes from its Albanian Correspondent an attack on what is styled British political and commercial propaganda in Albania.

According to the *Temps* (Paris), the Moroccan chief, El Moktar el Tuzani, a bitter adversary of France, has surrendered to the French Commandant at Taza.

The Council of the League of Nations has left the consideration of the Albanian question to the Conference of Ambassadors, which is at present dealing with the matter.

A statement having been made in the Turkish Press that an Albanian officer had been invited to serve in the Kemalist Army, the Albanian Assembly, in a resolution, has called upon the Albanian Government to declare that the Albanian people has no connection with Turkey.

M. Briand has informed the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber that the Emir Faisal's position in Irak is purely a British question. The French Government only desired certain guarantees, such as having a zone adjacent to the frontier of Syria which would be outside the sovereignty of the Emir.

On June 22 the bodies of two Bulgarian poets, who had died abroad, were buried at Sofia. They were Pentcho P. Slaveikoff, who sang the Bulgarian struggle for independence, 1874-77, and Petko Todoroff, one of the creators of the modern Bulgarian drama.

Yussuf Kemal Bey, the Turkish Nationalist Minister for Foreign Affairs, embarked last week at Adalia on an Italian destroyer for Brindisi, says an Athens Reuter message.

Great activity is reported on the part of the insurgent Osetes and Daghestanis in the Northern Caucasus, where many railway bridges on the Vladikavkaz line have been blown up.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1921.

GREECE, TURKEY, AND THE ALLIES.

The immediate result of Lord Curzon's discussions with the French Government was the dispatch of an Allied Note to Greece to inquire whether the Hellenic Government would be willing to accept the mediation of the Allied Powers for a settlement of Greek and Turkish differences. Scrupulously avoiding anything in the nature of an ultimatum, the Note, it is understood, expressly left to Greece a free hand in regard to acceptance or refusal; but in the event of her rejecting mediation the Allies, it was indicated, could assume no responsibility for eventual developments in the situation in the Near East. If Greece decided in principle to accept mediation, the Allied Governments would make known the conditions on which they hoped to secure an understanding between the two belligerents, and the prospect was held out that the Allied Governments would know how to bring about a cessation of hostilities on the part of Turkey and obtain Turkish acceptance of the terms that they were prepared to recommend. The Greek reply is contained in a lengthy communication, which sets forth the Greek conception of the position in Asia Minor. The situation, it is pointed out, is not the result of an accidental and isolated conflict, but is in reality a continuation of the world-conflict. By defending the traditional aspirations of Hellenism Greece has the conviction that she is defending at the same time the rights of the civilised world in the Eastern Mediterranean; she has reached the point of being able to impose the decisions taken in common accord with the Allies which originally induced her to proceed to the military occupation of Asia Minor; military considerations alone must guide her conduct and her decisions, and every delay of the operations beyond the date and limits indicated by the military chiefs would be prejudicial to Greece and compromise the military situation to her disadvantage. For these reasons the Greek Government is unable to accede to the Allies' proposals, which would necessarily entail a suspension of hostilities. The reply is calculated to be received with greater satisfaction in Greece than elsewhere; but its tenour was determined when the Allies raised the subject of mediation in the form of an offer to the Hellenic Government.

By accepting of its own volition an Allied offer of mediation, M. Gounaris's Cabinet would have placed an effective weapon in the hands of its political opponents. Smyrna and Thrace were gained for the country by M. Venizelos, and to tolerate their loss by any other means than *force majeure* would never be forgiven politically, however well satisfied individually the people might be to exchange them for more practical and immediate advantages. The Allied Governments meant well, but the necessity of a compromise has stultified their good intentions. It was, no doubt, apparent

in Paris that Allied intervention was the only way out of the Near Eastern dilemma. The desire on the part of one or more of the three Powers to gild the pill for Greece led to the offer being made to the Hellenic Government in the form that it actually took. The pains and penalties of rejection were clearly set forth, but the mistake made, if the Allies wanted to bring about a settlement, was to throw the onus on to King Constantine and his advisers. Few Governments would be heroic enough to place themselves in a false position by acceptance in such circumstances. M. Gounaris will have argued that a solution of the Turkish question is as essential to the Allied Powers as it is to Greece. Provided that the Greek army can withstand a Turkish attack, his Government has little or nothing to lose by rejecting the Allies' offer, whereas acceptance must necessarily entail political suicide. Rejection, indeed, will enable the patriotic drum to be beaten with considerable effect, and already echoes of the pounding may be heard. "Other countries have reconquered their liberty and independence; why should Greece be prevented from liberating her own kith and kin as well? She can fight successfully for her rights, and will not shrink from the necessary sacrifice." If, as seems possible, the Greek army can contrive to withstand a Turkish attack, the only sacrifice entailed is the printing of more paper money, and the Greek Cabinet may have a shrewd suspicion that in the Allied countries economic considerations are playing at least as large a part in the desire for a Turkish settlement as they are in Greece, to say nothing of the possibility of the Allies having to help to redeem the depreciated currency. Great Britain and France cannot tolerate an indefinite period of stalemate in Greco-Turkish relations, and after rejection of their offer the next move will still be with them.

In our issue last week the hope was expressed that the British and French Governments would not aim at some diplomatic compromise, but would base their Near Eastern programme on the actual requirements of the situation. Possibly the offer to Greece was an indispensable preliminary. The desire to avoid wounding susceptibilities has been gratified, and the field is now clear for practical proposals. Greece, it cannot be repeated too often, is entitled to the fullest consideration, but it does not necessarily follow that she has a monopoly of political wisdom and that the solution of the Turkish question proposed by her is the one that answers to her own interests. If there could be no alternative to pre-war Turkey, then there would be no other settlement possible than that already reported to have been carried out in territories where the Greek army was confronted with a hostile Turkish population. So long as the Allies fail to convince the Greeks that they intend to make Turkey a safe place for religious minorities, they cannot expect any Greek Government to meet them half-way in the matter of a Turkish settlement. At the present moment they have only succeeded in embittering Greco-Turkish relations, by placing Turks under Greeks and by giving the Turkish Nationalists fresh opportunity to settle old scores in the old way. No settlement can be arrived at by free consent of the two parties; it must be imposed "from above." The only way to meet Angora, short of an Allied war against Turkey, is to remove Turkish territory from Greek jurisdiction. Greece must be met first by showing that there can be no question of Christian communities being exposed to the pre-war methods of Turkish domination. But she is also entitled to full redress for the mistakes of Allied diplomacy at her expense—the misguided awards of the Treaty of Sèvres, the occupation of Smyrna, the employment of the Greek army as a screen for the weak Allied hold on Constantinople and the Straits, the withholding of recognition from King Constantine and the effect on her economic position of the Allies' political boycott. The situation, therefore, calls for a definite and detailed plan to be submitted simultaneously to the two belligerents, and to be couched in such a form that each party in accepting it can plead *force majeure* and thus disarm the hostile criticism of extremists or political opponents.

IN SOUTHERN PERSIA.

MEN AND METHODS.

By "Kalantar."

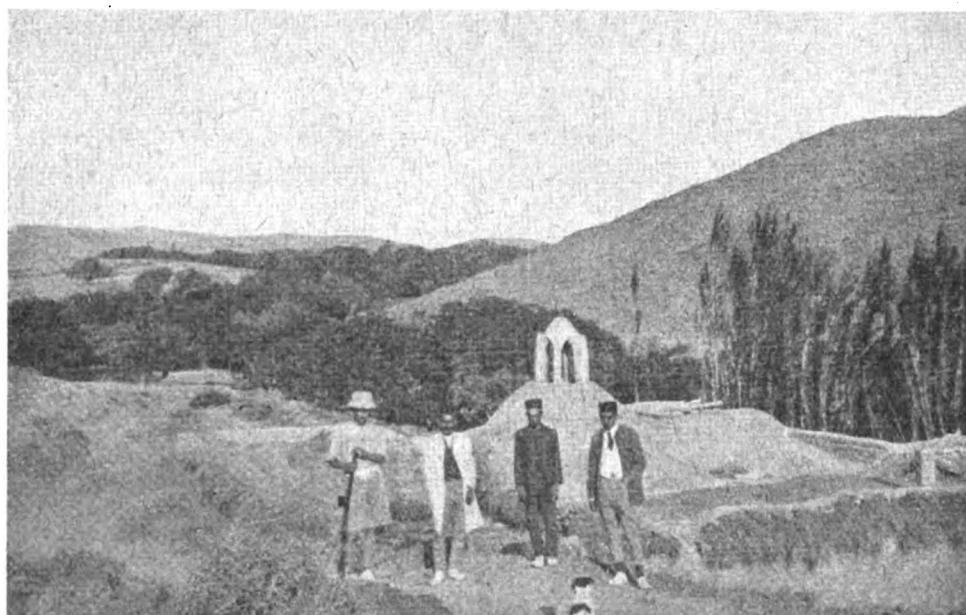
III.

The party rode out one starlight night and struck the camel track two miles beyond the town.

Meanwhile, at Hashimabad the Arab shepherd on the hills whistled to his straggling herd, and glanced occasionally into the blue distance towards two ragged peaks which marked the village of Zaitun. It was here that he would first see the little veil of dust thrown up by the horses of newcomers. Not that the tribesmen expected the early return of the Bakhtiari. The latter were doubtless furious at the indignity they had suffered, but Yezd was over fifty farsakhs from Hashimabad; the Governor would not risk defeat by sending another handful of men; and the assembly of a force, if this were practicable, would entail months of delay. Truly, Ahmad Quli was a worthy chief! Ten lambs had he distributed among the tribesmen to prepare a feast of rejoicing at the discomfiture of the Bakhtiari. The shepherd broke into a low, droning song, urging his animals

and for three stages they had seen no human being—no one whom they could have commandeered as a guide. On leaving Rud-i-Safed, two stages from their destination, they had almost abandoned hope of making a surprise entry when fortune favoured them: they sighted an old man hustling along a donkey two miles off the track. A couple of sowars, kicking their ponies into a mad gallop, soon headed off the aged woodcutter and brought him to their party.

Trembling with terror at the sight of so large a body of armed men (he computed the party at 100 rifles at least), he eventually explained that he belonged to the little community which had tilled the soil at Hashimabad village for many generations, long before the Arab had come to rob and plunder. Here was a heaven-sent guide! Ahmad Khan, in a few words, explained that he wanted to enter the village on that very night, and by a track which would keep them clear of all Arab forts and encampments. The old man hesitated, looked in the gathering dusk at a cluster of distant foothills, and began a long tale of woe. He was old, the track was faint and difficult to follow, the distance twelve farsakhs at least. The Bakhtiari unfastened a whip from the pommel of his saddle. The villager glanced up, saw it, and, giving his donkey a blow on the quarters, led them off on a narrow sheep track. Ahmad Khan and Hashim rode beside the guide, while the remainder of the party, in groups of two or three, ambled behind, exchanging gruff sentences on the prospects of the expedition.



AT PARIZ.

This village, of about 800 inhabitants, lies in a picturesque valley 30 miles north of the important town of Saidabad. It is situated about 7,500 feet above sea level, and its climate is almost perfect. In the well-watered valley, poplars, walnuts and cypress trees flourish, and a dozen varieties of fruit are grown, including grapes and excellent peaches. In any Eastern country it would attract attention as a summer residence, and by the dwellers on the vast bare plains of the Asian plateau it is spoken of as Paradise.

down the slopes towards a little star of fitful flame, where the womenfolk cooked beside the goat-hair tents.

On this evening Ahmad Quli sat with his brothers, and the kalyan passed from hand to hand. He talked of the Bakhtiari. A week earlier a grain merchant from Zaitun had brought stories of Bakhtiari preparations, and Ahmad Quli had thought it wise to pack his most valued possessions and send them by night to a cave in the hills. "Would they really come?" "The grain merchant had surely lied!" Anyway, he could depend on his followers. Once again he would flout the Bakhtiari, and this time there would be bloodshed. His own Ilkhani had sent a special messenger from Shiraz with a letter of congratulation and a promise of support. What need to worry oneself? Only fools and cowards worried. The issue was in the hands of Allah.

Now, at ten o'clock on the very night that Ahmad Quli made these conjectures the Bakhtiari brothers commenced the last stage of their march. They had long since decided that their best chance of entering Hashimabad unopposed lay in leaving the main track and following by night one of those minute paths which cross and recross, like strands of a spider's web, even the most desolate wastes in this inhospitable land. Some of these tracks were beaten by herds, following in single file to a water-hole, some by hewers of wood, others by qasids, or messengers, who carry food and water on their backs and travel by "short cuts" at five miles an hour.

To follow any of these tracks with safety requires local knowledge. But the Bakhtiari knew nothing of this region,

At midnight they dismounted for half an hour near a pool of brackish water, ate a few mouthfuls of bread, and watered their ponies. A rug was spread, and the leaders stretched themselves out and lit cigarettes. They were now in a more hopeful frame of mind than at any time since leaving Yezd, for their guide had told them of the fort of Hashimabad with its four high towers and many loopholes. It was situated half a farsakh from the nearest Arab fort and possessed two wells of sweet water. Of the Arabs and their movements he knew little. Rumours of the Bakhtiari's return were certainly in circulation, but no one expected them so soon. With lighter hands and jauntier bearing the Bakhtiari once more swung themselves into the saddle to finish the last stage of this weary trek.

Two hours before dawn they crossed a river-bed and passed under a hill on whose crest glimmered the red star of a shepherd's fire. A mile farther on the path led into a patch of cultivation, then through a collection of deserted huts. A dog barked, and a thread of golden light escaping through the chinks of a door told them that they had reached the village—that their journey was over.

The guide halted and laid a hand on Ahmad Khan's rein. "This," he said, "is Hashimabad. That black mass is the fort." That morning Bakhtiari horses shook their heads over the mangers of the fort, and a white patch on each tower showed where a Bakhtiari tufangchi peered over the parapet towards the Arab encampments.

In a clean upper room looking on to the courtyard Ahmad Khan unwound his puttees and, smiling at Hashim, remarked: "This time we've come to stay!"

IV.

In a room of the fort at S— two officers, pencil in hand, pored over a map. Beside them lay a telegram, containing in half-a-dozen lines a *résumé* of the situation at Hashimabad and orders to proceed at once to the rescue of the Bakhtiari, and to take measures for the protection of the Hashimabadis.

For three days past the C.O. had been expecting these orders, for rumours of fighting in the robber stronghold had been circulating in the bazaar with increasing frequency, and that very morning a messenger from Zaitun had brought the Governor a letter telling of Arab revenge on the Hashimabad villagers for their share in the death of Ahmad Quli and his brother.

At S— the dispatch, at a few hours' notice, of parties varying in strength from ten to 100 rifles was a common occurrence; for the town lies on the borders of a robber district, and hardly a week passes without its report—very often false—of a band of robbers having been seen in the vicinity. These small pursuit parties used to slip away very quietly, with their transport of a dozen or so of donkeys, carrying two blankets for each man and three or four days' rations. But the present movement was a larger affair: there would be one company of infantry and two troops of cavalry, and as the hundred odd miles to Hashimabad was to be covered by forced marches, every available donkey would be taken for mounting the infantry.

The telegram was received at 10 a.m., and until early afternoon, when the column marched out, the barrack square presented a scene of feverish activity. Here two men laboured under the weight of a pair of leathern water-carriers, there a squad placed boxes of ammunition ready for loading, while outside the regimental stores a platoon fell in to receive khaki kullahs, issued only for work in the field, and water-bottles.

At midday the cavalry marched out, and at the same time the drivers, uttering strange cries to keep their animals together, ushered 250 donkeys into the fort. The process of marshalling these animals in their correct places among the loads, already roped and laid out in neat lines, is accompanied by shouts, choruses of oaths, and the sound of heavy blows. One of the six animals allotted to Abdul, the son of Hassan, notices that his driver is busy adjusting a load-roping, and wanders off in a most wilful manner to rub noses and perhaps to exchange a friendly kick with Said Riza's white donkey mare. "Pidar-i-sag!" shrieks Abdul, while the Said murmurs a string of quite unrepeatable adjectives, and gropes wildly for his staff. Meanwhile the offending ass, guided by unerring instinct, deftly avoids a furious blow, and returns, calm and triumphant, to his allotted place among the loads. Similar little comedies are enacted a hundred times over in every corner of the square, and one despairs of moving before the sun slides out of sight over the edge of the plain and the eastern night spreads her golden-starred mantle over the rugged hills and the vast, silent wastes.

This confusion, however, hides a deal of hard and skilful work, and at the end of half-an-hour a bearded charvadar reports his animals loaded and ready to start. Word is passed to the Persian officer standing by his company on the parade ground. A sharp word of command, the rattle of arms brought to the slope, and the men move off in a dense cloud of dust.

The British officers climb the massive south tower of the fort to watch the column go and to see whether they can pick up the cavalry in the gathering dusk. An occasional cry floating back from the hurrying drivers and the plaints of an ungreased water-wheel are the only sounds that break the perfect silence—the silence of vast and empty spaces. The west wind has died away, and the "dust-devils," tired of chasing each other over the plain, have settled to form yet another layer of sand on the scrub-covered dunes. The shadows under distant hills are changing from purple to black. Far away to the north a thin cloud of moving dust shows that the cavalry is nearing Firuzeh, their halting-place for the night. On hill slopes twenty miles distant shepherds' fires twinkle like golden stars. Twilight gives place suddenly to a clear but moonless night as they descend the echoing steps, and, mounting their sturdy Persian ponies, canter after the column.

V.

With the first streak of dawn the last animal of the convoy stumbled on to the camping-ground at Firuzeh. The infantry were asleep in their tents, the cavalry in the rooms of a dingy old caravanserai, and, with the prospect of thirty miles to cover before the next dawn, no one was roused until 10 a.m. At that hour the O.C. column, accompanied by the N.C.O. in charge of supply arrangements, proceeded into the village to inquire about the purchase of forage and meat. An atmosphere of suppressed excitement pervaded the straggling bazaar. The shoemaker had laid aside his awl and had gone across the street to smoke a pipe with the coppersmith, while beside the fruitteller's stall

a dozen bearded camel men, seated in a circle, glanced shyly at the intruders and exchanged whispered conjectures. On the flat roofs squatted groups of women, shrouded from head to foot in blue or white chadars, while in the kadhuda's courtyard two mullahs, half a dozen merchants, and all the village greybeards disputed as to the strength of the "army" which had arrived in the night.

The kadhuda himself, infirm and bleary-eyed from a too frequent indulgence in opium, had certain information that the force numbered 1,000 rifles and 200 sabres! His own son, who had only now returned from S—, had heard it from the Governor himself. There could be no doubt about it. The merchants murmured assent and sipped their tea. The mullahs fumbled with their beads.

Further conversation was interrupted by the C.O., who stepped into the courtyard. Immediately the company rose and bowed, while he shook hands with the kadhuda and murmured the usual greetings. Followed a conference on the question of supplies, during which the guests slipped away unostentatiously. In half an hour all was arranged, and the kadhuda's numerous retainers were scouring the village to procure the promised supplies.

As the C.O. prepared to depart his host murmured, "You are going to punish the Arabs? Year before last they carried off fifty of my donkeys from the Kuh-i-Darakht. I have little left now. You will get them back for me?"

And at every village en route the C.O. heard a similar tale. From one place 200 goats and sheep had been taken four years previously; at another two aged brothers pleaded, with tears in their eyes, for the return of five cows robbed from their very doorstep only two months before. A few bolder spirits even followed the column to watch the course of events and to be ready, should opportunity offer, to claim, on the spot, their property, and, possibly, that of others!

At noon the cavalry moved out, and at 4 p.m. the infantry, their every movement followed by 500 pairs of wondering eyes, began their thirty-mile trek.

The route lay across a type of country known to the Persian as "dasht," an open plain entirely devoid of trees, and, for long stretches, even of withered scrub. The surface is hard and strewn with small black pebbles. The desert lark and lizard are the only inhabitants of this sea-like waste. Woe betide the unlucky traveller who wanders off the beaten track in this inhospitable region! Unacquainted with the few and distant landmarks, he will cover miles of ground in a frantic attempt to regain the path, and eventually sink exhausted to die of thirst. Robbers know the landmarks, and they cross this waste carrying large skins of water in order to approach unobserved the flocks that graze on the hill slopes.

An hour before sundown on the day of this march the west wind blew with such fierceness that long stretches of the track were completely hidden, and the animals, dazed and half blinded by a hail of gravel and sand, turned tail to wind and refused to move. At dawn the column left the "dasht" to traverse, first, a region of low hillocks, and then a belt of scrub, on the northern edge of which could be discerned the domed roofs of Deh Nau.

Within a very few moments of entering the caravanserai the men were asleep on the mud floors, and the patient donkeys, tethered in groups and eased of their loads, after twelve hours' continuous marching, were enjoying a well-earned rest. From S— to Hashimabad is reckoned at 106 miles. Of this distance forty-five miles had been covered in thirty-six hours.

(To be continued.)

BABYLONIAN GEMS.

The Story-Maskelyne collection of ancient gems, the property of Mr. W. E. Arnold Forster, of Zennor, near St. Ives, Cornwall, will be sold at Sotheby's on July 4 and following day. The collection was formed between 1860 and 1899, by Mr. Story-Maskelyne, who was Keeper of the Mineral Department of the British Museum from 1857 to 1879. The collection contains fine specimens of all periods from the early Babylonian and Mycenaean to the late Roman and Sassanian; it is especially rich in Greek gems of the fourth and fifth century. Many were shown at the Burlington Fine Arts Club in 1903, and have been illustrated in various works. The gems are, for the most part, mounted in gold rings.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

June 20.—Mr. Harry Brittain asked whether the Government had made approaches to the Zionists throughout the world with a view to their assuming the full financial responsibility with regard to Palestine. If not, whether such approaches would now be made. Mr. Wood replied that the answer to both parts of the question was in the negative. As long as this country continued to act as the Mandatory Power in Palestine His Majesty's Government considers that it is incumbent upon them to accept the responsibilities, financial or otherwise, which such a position involves.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore asked whether work has ceased on both the Blue and White Nile dams; what was the original estimate for the cost of the two dams respectively and the present estimated cost; how much money had actually been spent to date on each dam; and what is the financial liability in respect of either falling upon the British Treasury under the Sudan Loan Act of 1919? Mr. Harmsworth replied that work on the White Nile dam has been suspended, but work is proceeding on the Blue Nile weir. According to information recently submitted to the Egyptian Government, the White Nile dam was summarily estimated in 1914 to cost ££1,000,000, but this estimate was made before any complete examination of the site had been effected. In 1918 the figure was revised to ££1,700,000, and in 1919 to ££2,200,000. The latest estimate for the dam itself, exclusive of subsidiary works which its construction would involve, amounts to ££5,700,000. The Blue Nile weir and Gezira canalisation project was estimated in 1916 to cost ££2,550,000, and in 1919 this estimate was revised to ££3,500,000. The latest estimate amounts to ££8,252,800. Actual expenditure up to March 31 last on the White Nile dam amounted to about ££556,000; that on the Blue Nile weir and canalisation scheme will amount on June 30 to about ££3,264,000. No financial liability in respect to the White Nile dam is incurred by the British Treasury. The contingent liability of H.M. Government in respect of the guarantee under the Sudan Loan Act, 1919, of interest on loans raised by the Sudan Government, is £350,000 sterling per annum.

Mr. Wood informed Sir John Rees that it was proposed that the capital value of such parts of the railways in Palestine as were constructed by the British military authorities shall be made a charge against the Palestine Government. The properties in question had not yet been valued. With regard to the Kantara-Rafa section, which runs through Egyptian territory, the Egyptian Government have not yet agreed to take over the section in question. The matter is still under discussion.

June 21.—Sir L. Worthington Evans informed Colonel Burn that during the period from January 1, 1921, to May 31 last, 4,572 horses, 1,794 mules, and 43 bullocks were destroyed in Mesopotamia. All these animals were unfit either for retention or sale. An offer had been received from a shipowner to transport 10,000 horses now in Mesopotamia from Beyrout to France or England. This offer was receiving consideration.

Mr. Chamberlain informed Mr. Aubrey Herbert that the provisions of the Treaty of Sèvres for guaranteeing the freedom of the Dardanelles do not contemplate the exclusion of the warships of any Power from navigating those waters. There could accordingly be no question, even if the Treaty were already operating, of preventing the passage of Greek men-of-war.

Mr. Chamberlain informed Mr. Aubrey Herbert that the question of fixing the frontiers of Albania had never come before the League of Nations. It had been referred for settlement to the Conference of Ambassadors at Paris by agreement between the British, French, and Italian Governments. Meanwhile the Albanian Delegation in Paris had appealed to the Council of the League of Nations to compose certain local differences that had arisen between Albania and her Serb and Greek neighbours.

Mr. Lambert asked for the total cost to the British Exchequer caused by the British occupation of Mesopotamia and Palestine for the years 1919 and 1920 respectively. Mr. Hilton Young replied that in the financial year 1919-20, during which demobilisation was proceeding, the total expenditure on Mesopotamia and Palestine together was estimated at between £70,000,000 and £80,000,000. He estimated the expenditure during the past financial year (1920-21) as about £40,000,000.

Mr. Harmsworth informed Sir Harry Brittain that no definite allocation of railway stock between the Succession states of the ex-Austro-Hungarian Empire had been settled. The movement of engines and goods wagons across the frontiers of the Succession States is not yet proceeding freely, but provisional arrangements have been made on the basis of the status quo, to render rolling stock the ownership of which is disputed available both for internal and international traffic. Austria, Hungary, and Roumania have entered into an agreement whereby the interchange of rolling stock between these countries is regulated.

Answering further questions regarding the sale and destruction of horses in Mesopotamia, Colonel Stanley informed Major Wheler that, in addition to those destroyed, there had been sold during the period from January 1, 1921, to May 31 last, 1,364 horses, 3,077 mules, and 621 bullocks, at an average of £30 per head. It is also proposed to hand over to the civil government 4,107 dairy cattle and 3,800 horses, the latter being for the use of the Arab army and levies. The Commander-in-Chief is allowed full discretion with regard to the disposal of all animals, subject to the instructions which have already been issued, that animals are not to be sold to natives unless there is good reason to suppose that they will be properly cared for.

June 23.—Mr. Chamberlain made the following statement regarding Lord Curzon's recent visit to Paris:—

In default of a meeting of the Supreme Council which cannot for the moment be arranged, the Foreign Secretary went to

Paris in order to exchange views with Monsieur Briand upon the principal questions which are at present concerning Great Britain and France, notably the position in the East and in Silesia. Prolonged and friendly conversations took place between them, and the Italian Ambassador joined the Conference when questions of Allied policy or Allied action were involved. It was felt by all the parties to be desirable that a renewed attempt should be made to terminate hostilities in Asia Minor and to conclude a peace between Turkey and the Allies. With this object in view it was decided to send a telegram to the Greek Government, to which the assent of the Italian Government was given, offering the services of the Allied Powers. The conviction was expressed in this communication that whatever might be the immediate result of a renewal of conflict between the Greek and Turkish forces in Asia Minor there was not to be found therein the prospect of any enduring pacification of the East or of a solution compatible with the real interests and ultimate capabilities of either party. In these circumstances the Allied Governments informed the Greek Government that they felt they were only discharging an international duty as well as an obligation of friendship in stating that they were prepared to attempt the task of conciliation if the Hellenic Government were disposed to place its interests in their hands. Should the Greek Government decide that it was not prepared to accept outside intervention or advice, the Allied Powers could not persevere in an action that would obviously be fruitless. In such a case the responsibility for the consequences of renewed struggle would rest upon the Greeks themselves. On the other hand, should the Hellenic Government decide in its own interests to accept the intervention of the Powers, the latter were prepared to state the terms upon which their assistance would be proffered, and, in the event of these being accepted, to approach the Turkish Government with a view to the immediate suspension of hostilities and to negotiations for the conclusion of peace. The Greek Government were invited to return a prompt reply to this proposal.

THE LEAGUE OF NATION'S ANNIVERSARY.

At the second anniversary of the League of Nations, which was celebrated in Hyde Park on June 25, the peoples of the Near East were well represented. Bodies of many different nationalities in London took part in the rally, including Georgians, Yugoslavs, Bulgarians, Italians, Czechoslovaks, Ukrainians, Roumanians, and Persians. Among the high personages attending the function were the Bulgarian Minister, M. Stancioff, and the Serbian Minister, M. Gavrilovitch; and the foreign speakers included M. Chedo Miyatovitch (Yugoslavia), M. D. Mamartcheff (Bulgaria), M. Pochobradsky (Czechoslovakia), M. Gugushvili (Georgia), M. Manzi Fe (Italy), Hajji Mirza Isphani (Persia), M. Mitrani (Roumania), and M. Olesnitsky (Ukraine).

THE LAST OF THE FUNGS.

(FROM OUR KHARTOUM CORRESPONDENT.)

A comparatively unknown but very picturesque character is that of the present chief representative of the Fung dynasty of Sennar, now residing at Abu Geilan. He was born in 1835, and is the grandson of the last Fung Sultan, Badi, who was forced to surrender to the troops of Ismail Pasha at Wad Medani in 1821. At the age of 21 he, with his family, accompanied his uncle, Taj el-Din (a son of the Sultan Badi), and the Mek Adlan of Singa, another grandson of the Sultan Badi, to Cairo. In 1863 he again performed the arduous journey to Cairo, in those days a matter of many weeks, and had the privilege of being received by Queen Victoria. In the historic defence of Sennar against the Dervish hordes he was second in command of the Fung troops, under his uncle Taj el-Din, distinguishing himself by his personal valour and generalship. He was seriously wounded on this occasion, and for a long time did not recover from the grief occasioned him by the loss of his eight sons, who fell in the severe fighting that then took place. Lord Kitchener, upon the reoccupation of the Sudan, specially noted him for reward in consideration of his conspicuous loyalty to British rule, and bestowed upon him a robe of honour. He does not occupy any official position under the Sudan Government, but in spite of his advanced age is most punctilious in paying his respects to the governing authorities upon every possible occasion.



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THE CARAVANSERAI.

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

—OMAR KHAYYAM.

Apropos of the note in "English" from a Serbian interpreter to his O.C., which I reproduced in these columns recently (June 2), here is another specimen sent me by a kind correspondent. It was written by a Greek who sought employment with our forces during the war, and I give it in all its native beauty: "Sir,—I am refuse from Constantinople. I am brother the Cocho's, who is in your work for nine months. I speec the greek, frensh, turkish and a little English self editent. Also I am student of the university greek. Well founded in mayself. What can I to execute the duty the adjutant's. I beg you if you ple-ase and you have necessity the adjutant's, to accept me in your work. Willing. Peter D——." The "refuse from Constantinople" is indeed a delightful touch!

In its summary of the day's news the other day *The Times* placed an Egyptian item under the heading "Imperial." Apparently the energetic Zaghoul has not "spotted" this error (?) (yet); for we have heard nothing of any protest from him against it.

The following was reprinted in the *Balkan News* from a Yorkshire paper: "Messrs. The ——— Fish Trawling Co. Dear Sirs,—Enclosed please find p.o. value 2s. Send me basket of fish value 2s., as per advt. Do not send me cod, hake, plaice, or flukes, but send some middle cut salmon, a few lobsters and make up weight with oysters.—Yours, etc., ——— Secretary, Officers' Mess." To which the reply was: "Your p.o. to hand. It is a pity you did not send another tanner, as then you could have had the ——— trawler.—Yours, etc., The ——— Fish Trawling Co." Without vouching for the truth of the story, I would suggest that the writer of the reply must himself have been in the Army before he joined the ——— F.T.C.

The story of the Indian Post Office clerk whose valiant efforts to trace "R.S.V.P., Esq.," to his lair I recorded the other day, has reminded a correspondent of another case on similar lines within his own experience. He writes: "Some years ago, when I was well in the Indian back-blocks, I had occasion to send a parcel to Norwich. I sent it by peon to the local post-office together with the usual forms (yellow, green, blue, etc.), all duly filled in, but most carelessly omitted 'England' from the address. Post-haste came the following reply: 'Most deeply regret no country named Norwich is shown in Indian Postal Guide. Shall I try Norway?—Ram Lal, sub-postmaster.' The *cy-pris* doctrine is not, in India, at least, confined to lawyers."

I observe that at the Richmond Horse Show a number of metropolitan police appeared as (I quote the *Morning Post*) "wild sons of the desert, some mounted and some on foot, with blackened faces, wearing flowing Arab cloaks of the brightest hues, surmounted by turbans, gorgeous puggarees, and the more prosaic fez," etc., etc. Now I do not know why the police should have had black faces if they wanted to appear as Arabs; for though you do find blacks among the Arabs, they are no more true Arabs than the Irishman's kittens that were "born in an oven" were "loaves." Again, I never heard of Arabs wearing "puggarees"; though they may have taken to them quite lately. Probably the writer meant kefiyehs, the really "gorgeous" folded square of silk, cloth, or cotton that the Arab wears, held in place by the *agal*, or coil of camel-hair, or wool. But what I decline to believe at any price is that any *real* Arab would wear a fez (as a fez—that is without a turban or folded cloth round it) under any conditions. This costume, combined with the "weird dances, contortions," and so forth, of which the report makes mention, may be the policeman's "conception of the part," but it is not mine; and I venture to think that it is not that of anybody who knows the Arab. For all that, I am sure the police gave a good show; for they are a splendid set of men, for whom I have a great admiration. Only I expect that most of them know only the "street" variety of Arab.

A correspondent writes: "The following is an attempt at the reproduction of a speech made by a Macedonian who had learnt 'English' in America. It is recorded as accurately as possible, only the blasphemies and swear-words omitted. It was delivered at lightning speed.

"Men no good men.. What's the matter me? Working all day, hurry up! Hurry up! By G.! there'll be trumbles! Dat man no right. Got one man Turk men. That me no toikin good: every man right good.

no sick, no ting. Me Macedonian good man. I one right, die men. You no good officer toikin for me: bread all right, boys! Three timekeeper, no vershtay: what's the matter? Timekeeper me gone for me time-check in America-country. Here me eat the bread of the English king: blagaj me know: copreden for me job: tumach lie me: me fight: I toikin, me all right. I got 30 men. Eat the bread of the English king. One fool talk, come back all right: him come back for me."

My correspondent adds: "Toikin probably means talking: vershtay is obviously from the German; copreden probably means comprehends: blagaj is from Serb for paymaster; and tumach is Serb for interpreter." On what occasion the flood of oratory was poured forth, or to what purpose, I am quite unable to say. Perhaps some readers may amuse themselves trying to solve the puzzle during their summer holidays.

CORSAIR.

ENGLISH IN ROUMANIA.

The following paragraph is taken from the *Times Educational Supplement* of June 18.—

The Roumanian Government recently showed their appreciation of the value of the English language by a regulation making it a compulsory subject in all *lycees*. This regulation remains to some degree ineffective, owing to the want of a sufficient number of adequately prepared Roumanian teachers of English and to the depreciated currency which renders it impossible to invite English teachers to Roumania. The Government has now, however, taken another step in order that Roumanians may learn something about English. It has invited Professor Craigie, co-editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, to pass a month or so in the summer in Roumania to organise a pioneer summer school for English in Transylvania and to lecture on English. As is well known, Professor Craigie has originated a new method of teaching English pronunciation—namely, to reduce English to the level of a phonetic language by the use of a small number of accents and signs. This method commends itself strongly to Roumanians, accustomed as they are to accents in their own language. Mr. A. R. Wright, vice-president of the Folk Lore Society, will also visit Roumania, bearing greetings from various learned societies in England to the Roumanian Academy and to other Roumanian societies. It is hoped that the visit of Professor Craigie and Mr. Wright may not be an isolated event, but may lead to closer intellectual relations between England and Roumania, and to frequent interchange of visits among their savants.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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The Industrial Outlook.

After being prolonged since the end of March, it would appear probable that the coal strike is at last drawing to a close; but optimism at this outcome is unhappily tempered by the fear that the general resumption of industry may suffer a further and almost equally serious postponement as a result of a dispute that has arisen in the engineering trades over the reduction of wages. One can only trust that wiser counsels will prevail, and that this further calamity will be averted. Labour has only to look in any direction to see the results of its present policy, and the futility of high wages if it is impossible to produce goods at a price at which they can be sold. If a strike in the circumstances could force the consumer to pay, there might be something to be said for the use of the weapon; but, as it is, it is simply an attempt to avoid the inevitable, and its only result is to place the whole community at an added disadvantage as compared with other countries. The present position is aptly illustrated by the news published in the last few days of two further contracts that have been lost. In the one case the contract was for steel axles for India. America obtained it with a tender 30 per cent. below the offers of British firms. The other contract was for 10,000 tons of steel rails for Australia, and this went to the Continent, British firms being hopelessly under-quoted. Unless this process is to be indefinitely repeated we must produce more cheaply, and for that two things are necessary—a greater spirit of sacrifice on the part of Labour and an abandonment of the “ca’ canny” policy.

Burmah Oil Profits.

The announcement with regard to the dividend for 1920 made a few weeks ago showed that the Burmah Oil Co. had continued its successful progress. Details of the year's working are now forthcoming in the shape of the preliminary profit statement, which shows that the profits have risen from £4,654,784 in 1919 to £4,891,476. This time the chief allocation is in respect of depreciation, while there is a considerable reduction of the amount placed to the general reserve. The dividend of 30 per cent., as against 50 per cent., involves a distribution of £1,543,050, as against £1,428,750, on account of the bonus share issue. There is a considerable increase in the carry-forward at £2,142,184, but of this sum it is estimated that no less than £1,935,000 will be absorbed by the excess profits duty and the corporation profits tax.

Egyptian Hotels.

As the tourist season was not far removed from being a complete failure, the report of the Egyptian Hotels can only be regarded as being uncommonly satisfactory. The profits for the year ended April 30 were £56,675, as compared with £58,736 for 1919-20, and £36,500 for 1918-19. After the deduction of administrative charges, the profit amounts to £55,249, as against £56,200, and with the balance brought forward the available total is £64,200. The allocation to reserve and the dividend of 25 per cent. are unchanged from last year, but the carry forward of £9,100 is slightly higher than before. The company now appears to be in a fairly strong position, and provided conditions enable the normal resumption of the tourist traffic, shareholders should have little ground for dissatisfaction.

India and Export Credit.

While the suggestion I advanced recently that the extension of the application of the export credit scheme to British Possessions was to be attributed to the belief that the introduction of the Ter Meulen scheme rendered a wider sphere of operations necessary if the British scheme was to be retained is no doubt the accurate explanation, it is none the less hopelessly inadequate. For one thing, the Ter

Meulen scheme has yet to be applied, and as I have pointed out, its adoption may be a very long process indeed. For another, it is difficult to see what possible service the scheme can render, except in the case of trade with the mandated territories. But once its operation has been extended to British Possessions, there can be no case for the exception of any territory, however futile the scheme may be, and one can therefore sympathise with the spirited protest of Sir Manackjee Dadabhoy, Governor of the Imperial Bank of India, on the exclusion of India from the scheme, though it is impossible to follow him in his gloomy prognostications as to what will be the fate of British trade with India without the export credits scheme. I gather that the view is that the scheme will be useful in tiding over the time until the rupee reaches the magical 2s. But few people now believe that that parity can be attained, and in the circumstances it is to be regretted that anything should be said which can by any stretch of imagination be interpreted as lending support to that view.

The G.I.P.

The past year was not altogether a satisfactory one for the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company. The gross receipts have again increased, though to a smaller extent than before, but working expenses have continued to rise, mainly as a result of the higher cost of labour, and the net result shows a deficit of Rs.13,99,000, as against the previous surplus of Rs.1,73,10,900. As a result there is no balance from the working of the line to provide any addition to the guaranteed dividend of 3 per cent., but from funds in hand the directors are paying an extra 1 per cent., making 4 per cent. for the year, as against 7 per cent. At the general meeting the chairman referred to the unfavourable trade position during the past year, and said that he could not say anything very encouraging at the moment as regards the current twelve months. He hoped, if the monsoon was favourable, for a considerable improvement before the end of the year, but the higher cost of working and the greatly increased cost of coal would again affect their yearly accounts.

Cable Delays.

Once more the question of cable delays has arisen, complaints being frequent in the last few weeks regarding the shortcomings of the service to India. An official explanation of the position is now forthcoming. It appears that the cables between Suez and Aden were stopped for a few days during May by magnetic storms, the result being a great accumulation of messages. Then during the whole of that month, owing to a cable of the Commercial Pacific Company being out of action, all the traffic between America and the Far East was diverted to the Eastern Telegraph Company's cables. These happenings took place at a time when renewal work was being carried out on this company's cables in the Red Sea. Hence the delays which are causing so much annoyance to the business community here.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(REPORTS FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, June 8.

The Roumanian Treasure at Moscow.

The gold reserve of the National Bank, the jewellery and other valuable objects, which were entrusted to the Czarist Government for safe keeping in 1917, and were deposited in the vaults at Moscow, were till now supposed to have been misappropriated by the Soviet Government. The Soviet Commissary Litvinov, in a letter recently addressed to the Roumanian Commercial Attaché in Italy, declares in the name of Krassin that the treasure exists intact, and its restitution is dependent on the conclusion of the negotiations for an economic treaty which are in progress between the two Governments. In connection with this, at the request of the Moscow Government, the Roumanian delegation will meet the Soviet representative, M. Karakon, at Warsaw, instead of Reval, as previously arranged.

Miscellaneous.

The Custom House dues collected in April from imports and exports amount in round figures to 151 millions, compared with 13 millions for the corresponding month in 1920.

The tax on the export of tobacco leaves has been reduced by 1 per cent., and the export tax has been fixed at 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The negotiations between the Roumanian and Hungarian delegations for the regulation of the passenger and freight traffic between the two countries are being continued at Biharspusok, in Hungary.

A fair will be held at Cluj in Transylvania from July 15 to August 15, at which samples of all hand-made economic and industrial products from all workshops in Greater Roumania will be exhibited.

Counterfeit 500-lei banknotes, made in Russia and Poland, are being circulated; they are to be easily detected, the paper being coarse and the filigrane indistinct. A printing press for such notes has also been discovered in Berlin.

BUCHAREST, June 15.

Financial Reforms.

The outstanding feature of this week's proceedings in Parliament was the speech of M. Titulescu, Minister of Finance, in reply to the various criticisms of his Bill. He analysed all the objections raised against his scheme in Parliament and the Press, and disposed of most of them. His speech, which lasted nearly five hours, was most illuminating, and the whole House listened to it eagerly and marked its conclusion with enthusiastic applause, in which the public joined.

I propose to reproduce some of the most important statements made by the Minister. "Our pre-war national debt, he said, was 1.7 milliards of lei; to-day it reaches 27 milliards, of which four milliards represents our quota of the public debt of the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Of the 27 milliards, our external debt is about five milliards, reckoning the lei at par, which represents one-fifth of our total debt; but if we take the present value of the lei, then the external is equal to the internal debt. The coupon of the external debt is 400 million francs. The redemption of our external debt must be postponed until the value of the lei rises.

"Besides this expenditure, we must make the necessary sacrifices for the development of the resources of New Roumania; we need railways, those of little Roumania being insufficient. Our future budgets will be increased for two causes—the extraordinary budget on account of the expenditure for reconstruction, and the ordinary on account of the rise in salaries. The ordinary budget will be covered by ordinary revenues, and the extraordinary with extraordinary resources, derived from the exploitation of the national riches.

"It would be a misfortune if deflation were to take place rapidly. Conditions of values have been established on the basis of the present circulation, which, if shattered, would cause disaster. A capital invested at present in industry would vanish if the lei were to rise suddenly.

"I do not aim at covering the deficits in one single year, but they must be eliminated from the ordinary budgets. The programme for reconstruction ought to be carried out within the ensuing seven years. The system of taxation until now was antiquated and unjust; it consisted of 90 per cent. indirect revenues and 10 per cent. direct; that means that the poor paid as much as the rich. My scheme is based on direct taxation on capital and income.

"The taxation on capital will not tend to reduce the capital possessed in 1914, but that made since, even if

made in the most honest way. I will strike hard at those who profited with roubles, crowns, commodities, permits, etc., and, last but not least, at the fortunes made by public officials. I refuse to make any reduction in the quotas imposed on fortunes made during and after the war; I have, of my own accord, lowered the quotas imposed on the banks, even below those proposed by their representatives, in order not to affect trade and industry."

Miscellaneous.

A large number of locomotives have arrived here from Austria. Many are expected soon from Czechoslovakia.

On account of the very heavy arrivals of foreign goods, 4,000 loaded wagons are blocking the principal lines and stations in Transylvania.

The Bucharest Municipal Council has resumed the negotiations with a group of English bankers for a loan of 150 million lei to be raised in London for the town of Bucharest.

It is proposed to reduce the export tax for cattle to 100 lei per head instead of 20 per cent. *ad valorem* and the commission tax to 20 lei. The export tax for pigs will also be 20 lei per head.

The Roumanian Government has been officially informed by the Inter-Allied Reparation Commission at Sofia that the first cash instalment to be paid by Bulgaria on account of the War Indemnity has been fixed for July 1.

M. Jan Vatrube, the vice-president of the Prague sample fair, has been delegated by his Government to go to Roumania to make the necessary preparations for the train with samples which will shortly visit the principal towns of Roumania.

Seven boxes containing gold crowns to the value of 14,300,000 gold francs have arrived here from Vienna. This sum represents a portion of the amount arising from the liquidation of the Austro-Hungarian Bank, which was allocated by the Paris Reparation Commission to Roumania.

The Manufacturers' Union have petitioned the Prime Minister urging the necessity of immediately putting in application the new customs tariff, as very large quantities of goods are being imported, which will be sufficient for the next two years, thus imperilling home industries, without, however, being of any benefit to the consumer, while the State will lose the increase in the import duty.

GREECE.

ATHENS, June 5.

Shortage of Labour in Thessaly.

The Inspector of Agriculture in Thessaly has applied to the Government for the immediate supply of labour, pointing out that if this is not done at once the crops will be entirely destroyed owing to the shortage of hands in the province. The Ministry of Agriculture has wired to the agricultural authorities at Salonika to arrange for the immediate dispatch to Thessaly of a large number of Caucasian refugees.

Ploughs for the Caucasian Refugees.

On being informed that the Ministry of Agriculture contemplated ordering 1,000 ploughs in Czechoslovakia for distribution among the refugees from the Caucasus, the Greek Chamber of Commerce in Athens protested to the Government at preference to foreign firms over local manufacturers. The Chamber of Commerce points out in its letter that in other countries, in addition to the special laws protecting home industry, the Government, as a rule, prefers to place orders locally, even though the prices quoted be 15 to 20 per cent. higher than those of foreign competitors.

ATHENS, June 18.

Control of the Exchange.

At a meeting held early this week at the National Bank, the Ministers of Finance and National Economy, the Governor of the National Bank, and the directors of the Bank of Athens, the Orient Bank and the Ionian Bank, examined for the last time the measures which would ensure the working of the Consortium.

The Committee of the Syndicate of Banks consists of M. Iliascu, of the Bank of Athens; M. Georgiadis, of the Ionian Bank; and M. Criezis, of the National Bank; and will be presided over by the Minister of Finance or by the Minister of National Economy. This committee will fix the rate of exchange every afternoon for the following day. For the time being only the banks participating in the formation of the syndicate will be authorised to operate in foreign exchange. These banks are those mentioned above.

Any person desirous of obtaining a cheque on a foreign bank must submit an application to one of the four banks. This application will be examined every evening by the committee, and on the following morning the client will know whether this has been passed or rejected. Travellers and persons, members of whose families reside abroad, will be granted foreign currency up to the amount of 1,000 drachmæ on presenting a signed application. The rate of exchange will be identical throughout the country. Sub-committees are being formed in all the principal towns in the provinces for the purpose of examining the applications submitted.

The Moratorium and Houses.

At a house tenants' meeting held at the Municipal Theatre it was decided to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding:—(1) The prolongation of the moratorium on houses for a further period of five years. (2) No increase whatsoever to be authorised on the present rents. (3) The families of tenants now serving in the army to be fully protected. (4) Cancellation of the moratorium article which gives permission to the landlord to eject his tenant under the pretext of demolishing or repairing his house.

Bulgarian Cattle for Greece.

The Inter-Allied Commission at Sofia has notified the Greek Government that the handing over to Greece of the Bulgarian cattle, in conformity with the Treaty of Neuilly, will commence on June 26 at Nevrokop. The first instalment will consist of 6,000 sheep, which the Government has decided to distribute to the populations of Eastern Macedonia.

BULGARIA.

SOFIA, June 18.

Need for an English Bank.

Although the proposed tax on the reserve capital of banks has been the subject of much adverse criticism in local banking and financial circles, none of the foreign banks here attach much importance to the matter. These banks are for the most part doing very good business. Thus the Italian-Bulgar Bank, which I mentioned some weeks ago, has in the fourteen months ended December 31 conducted operations totalling seven milliards of levas.

It is true that to-day we cannot sell great quantities of merchandise to Bulgaria because of the great difference in the rate of exchange, but the presence of a British or an Anglo-Bulgarian bank would give a much-needed impetus to trade between the two countries. It would help Bulgarians in opening credits in England, giving guarantees and doing all the work which goes to constitute the business of the commercial side of a bank.

If French, Italians, and Austrians, to mention but a few of the foreigners engaged in the transaction of banking business at Sofia, can obtain good results—some of them astonishingly so—then surely we can do the same.

At present, owing to the financial policy of the Government, everyone is looking for a sure and safe place in which he can invest his capital, and here again the opening for an English bank is obvious. At any rate, it would seem that British bankers might with advantage visit the country and make a complete examination of the situation as it affects their interests.

Tradition dies hard, and a considerable mass of the Bulgarian people still regard Great Britain as the nation that counts, and it is by finance and commerce that one can most readily justify this view.

The Consortium.

This institution is still very active, and during the last few days has sold about 2,000 wagons of wheat to Greece and Austria, and also a few hundred wagons of maize and rye to the latter country. The reduction of the export duties on cereals by a half will, it is hoped, enable further and bigger sales to be undertaken, and pending the intervention of the Reparations Commission in the matter the position of the Consortium remains very strong.

It is proposed to draft a law in the immediate future by which the export of wheat, rye, maize, and barley will be controlled by the Consortium, whilst the export of other cereals will be conducted by private traders. This does not very materially affect the position, as the remaining cereals do not constitute a very large proportion of the agricultural wealth of the country; oats, with an annual average production of 264,753 tons during the period 1906-1910, being the most important.

Considerable changes in the personnel of the Consortium are anticipated, but it is not the intention of the Government to abolish the institution, always provided that strong

outside pressure is not brought to bear on them. A view held by a number of disinterested persons is that it would be advisable to allow both the Consortium and private traders to function during a certain period, and peasants would thus be able to choose between the two, and at the end of the period the Government would be able to judge by results whether the Consortium is a success or not.

The Consortium will have as the foremost plank in its defence the construction of wheat elevators, which will be done out of the accrued profits. In this connection the Consortium claim to have made since the beginning of the year fifty million levas clear profit, of which 25 per cent. goes to the elevators, and to this has to be added 90 per cent. of the preceding profits, which amounted to 150 million levas, so that large funds are now at the disposal of the Government for the development of the industry.

YUGOSLAVIA.

ZAGREB, June 16.

Improving Conditions.

The harvest promises to be a great success. The country is prosperous, and the peasants are well off and contented. Foreign buyers from Germany, Austria, and Italy have been pouring money into their pockets, and there is no lack of food. The wine crop appears to promise to rival that of 1917, and communications, though still leaving much to be desired, have improved immensely.

General News.

The krone notes of the Austro-Hungarian Bank are now definitely obsolete in Yugoslavia, and have been proclaimed officially as valueless. The dinar is now the official currency throughout the country.

A Commission has proceeded to Wiesbaden to take over railway material which the Germans took away from Serbia and have not yet returned.

CYPRUS.

May 25.

As regards the asbestos mines on Mount Troodos, the sale of which to an English company for £125,000 was announced, it was stipulated that there should be a delay of three months, during which experts may inspect and report on the mines.

The traffic receipts of the Smyrna-Aidin railway for the week ended June 18 amounted to £45,424.

A new railway line is to be built between Nandyal and Roilkuntha in Madras, at a cost of Rs. 12,50,000.

The strike at the Union Dock and the British India Steam Navigation Company's workshop at Howrah, in which 5,000 coolies were involved, is now at an end.

The British Burmah Petroleum Co. has declared an interim dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, free of tax, payable July 8, to shareholders on books June 21.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange.	Latest Quotations
Alexandria	Piastres to £	97½	97½
Athens	Drachmæ to £ ...	25·22½	63·00-64·00
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25·22½	133-136
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee ..	24d.	1·3½-1·3¾
Bucharest	Lei to £	25·22½	235-245
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee..	24d.	1·3½-1·3¾
Constantinople	Piastres to £	110	504
New York	Dollars to £	4·86½	3·74-3·77½
Paris	Francs to £	25·22½	46·55-46·80
Prague	Kronen to £	24·02	270-280
Rome	Lire to £	25·22½	74½-76½
Sofia	Levas to £	25·22½	335-355
Teheran	Krans to £	50	50½
Vienna	Kronen to £	24·02	1,875-2,100
Warsaw	Marks to £	20·43	5,900-6,400

In some cases quotations are nominal.

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THE LEBANON SILK INDUSTRY.

DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF THE WAR.

Among the provinces of the once Turkish Empire, what is now known as the Greater Lebanon has perhaps suffered most through the war, notably through the practical ruin of the silk-growing and spinning industry, the greatest of its internal resources. The total exports of raw silk from Beyrout and Tripoli before the war ranged between 3,000 and 4,000 bales of 100 kilos each per year. During the few years preceding the war, owing to the growing scarcity of labour resulting from emigration, the owners of mulberry plantations found it more remunerative and less trouble to grow the orange instead of the mulberry tree, and many mulberry fields were transformed into orange groves, so that in the last year before the war the lowest average export was recorded, viz., about 3,000 bales.

During the war a great number of mulberry plantations in the plains round about Beyrout perished through want of care, and in many cases, especially in the essentially Maronite district of Kesrawan, most seriously affected by famine, the owners were reduced to cutting down their trees, having no other resources with which to stave off starvation for a time. In that ill-fated district the famine-stricken inhabitants ended by tearing down the wooden roofs, doors, and windows of their dwelling-houses in their desperate efforts to save their lives. There the once flourishing silk industry was absolutely ruined. The consequence was that the total silk crop last year hardly came to 700 bales! The silk crop from the plains round Beyrout and Tripoli represents about one-third of the total crop of the Lebanon.

It is sad to see that so far there is no sign of an organised effort to revive this industry, which was once the mainstay of the Lebanon peasant, and without organised help and official patronage there would be little chance of this being achieved, as may be seen from the following comparison drawn up by an expert between the yield of a Syrian feddan of land (about 2½ acres) before and after the war. In 1914 the feddan, which was worth about 56,000 Turkish piastres gold, was sufficient to raise six boxes of silkworm seed of 25 grains each. The box produced 30 okes of cocoons, which were sold at an average price of 20 piastres gold. The gross revenue was, therefore, 3,600 piastres, and the net income, after deducting cost of seed, price of manure, and the share of the tenant farmer, which amounts to one-quarter of the yield, came to 1,762 piastres, which represents about 3 per cent. on the capital. Since the war, however, owing to the impoverishment of the soil through lack of manure, only two boxes of seed have been raised per feddan, and the quality of the silk has been inferior, as the worms have been fed on the leaves of weakened trees. The oke was sold at 30 piastres gold, but the high cost of labour, which has more than doubled, and the difficulty and high cost of transport, left a deficit in the final balance. The gross proceeds of 1,800 piastres, after deducting price of seed and the quarter share of the tenant, left a net income of 1,270, but if the price of the indispensable minimum of manure were to be also deducted, there would be a deficit of 1,230 piastres gold.

It is hoped that the French authorities, as soon as they have settled more urgent and important problems, chiefly of a military nature in the interior, will take a practical interest in this industry, which so far has been a preserve of their own.

It was thanks to Government help that the orange groves of Jaffa, so seriously affected by the war, have been saved, and are now on the way to complete revival, as in a couple of years it is estimated that the pre-war level of exports will be reached. Facilities for the supply of petroleum for the motors at the beginning of the occupation, the granting of advances to the orange grove proprietors at a very moderate rate of interest, the supply of cattle and seed-corn to the farmers, as well as financial help to the villages for carrying out water distribution schemes in Palestine are so many examples of the Anglo-Saxon faculty of organisation and common sense. The achievements of the French in similar fields of activity in their colonies encourage the hope that it will not be long before the territory under their mandate in Syria and the Lebanon will receive similar benefits.

To relieve the serious plight of the mulberry grove owners, the establishment of land credit banks has been suggested; but, so long as the project of the cadastral survey remains in the domain of possibility, land mortgage and credit banks will move very warily. Unfortunately, the cadastral survey of the Lebanon is said to be an undertaking involving much time and expense, and it may be some years before it is carried out.

INDIAN TIMBERS AND PAPER MATERIALS.

Inquiries into the possibility of increasing the utilisation of Indian timbers in this country, and of making use of Indian paper materials, have been carried out in connection with the Indian trade inquiry undertaken by the Committee for India of the Imperial Institute, and the reports have just appeared in a volume published by Mr. John Murray under the title, "Reports on Timbers and Paper Materials" (price 4s.).

Hitherto the exports of timber (other than teak) from India have been relatively small, owing chiefly to the existence of a large local demand. It is considered, however, that there would be an opening for an extended export trade to the United Kingdom in certain hardwoods, which would be of value for decorative and other purposes, and are at present little known in this country. The characters and uses of a number of such timbers are described.

In the section on paper materials, a general statement is given as to the world's pulp and paper-making industry, special reference being made to the position in India. Details are included as to the possibility of utilising Indian bamboos and savannah grasses for paper-making, and the opinion is expressed that in these two materials India possesses valuable resources which occur under circumstances not unfavourable for their commercial development. It is considered that the immediate aim in the development of an Indian paper-pulp industry, which should receive every encouragement from the Government of India, should be to reduce, and finally to replace (as far as possible) by Indian supplies, the large amount of pulp and paper imported into that country. It is believed that the replacement of imports by Indian produce would be quickly followed by a surplus production which would be available for export.

SUDAN LOAN SERVICE.

In the House of Commons last week Mr. Ormsby-Gore asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the sum of £350,900 per annum had been received to date from the Sudan Government in respect of the guarantee given by the British Government under the Sudan Loan Act, 1919, or whether any charge in respect of guaranteed interest had fallen on the British Treasury; whether it was now anticipated that, owing to the under-estimation of the cost of the Blue Nile dam and Gezireh schemes, the contingent liability of the British taxpayer would become an actual one; and, if so, to what extent?

Sir R. Horne: I have no reason to suppose that the Sudan Government will not continue as hitherto to meet the interest payments as they fall due, without recourse to the British Government guarantee.

Mr. Ormsby-Gore: Does that mean that the Sudan Government have a surplus revenue over expenditure this year?

Sir R. Horne: It means that the income which will ultimately be yielded upon the undertaking will be sufficient not merely to cover interest upon capital, at present expended, but also upon the capital that may be further required.

Earl Winterton: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that this undertaking has earned no money and is absolutely brought to an end; and is he aware that the Sudan Government has never had a surplus, but has had the greatest difficulty in making ends meet?

Sir R. Horne: I did not say that they had a surplus. I said that the income they will make when the undertaking is in working order will be more than sufficient to pay the interest on capital expenditure, and on any further capital that may be required.

Earl Winterton: Is the right hon. gentleman aware that it was announced the other day that the undertaking was held up altogether, and that it is not in a revenue-bearing position? What is going to be done meanwhile?

Sir R. Horne: I have not learned that there is any difficulty in raising the necessary capital.

The Roumanian Government have established at Hamburg an agency which will collect quotations and tenders from firms desirous of transacting business with Roumanian concerns.

The Yugoslav Government are considering the reduction of import duties on certain French goods with a view to the encouragement of French capitalists to undertake road and railway construction.

The Greek Government propose to waive or decrease the import duties on the necessary material and machinery for housing purposes and to exempt those who will build new houses from land tax and house duty.

It is announced that at the last sitting of the Superior Customs Board of Prague the following export taxes were fixed:—Maize 1,500, barley 2,000, and millet 500 lei per wagon. Wicker work articles are exempted from taxation.

A trade note from Sofia emphasises the unsuitability of English as the language to be used in correspondence with Bulgarian traders. German is used by most of our competitors for the market, and is generally understood by merchants in Bulgaria who, failing this, would prefer to receive communications in French.

BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

I.—EGYPT.

We give the following extracts from the recently issued report of Mr. E. H. Mulock, H.M. Commercial Agent, Cairo, on the economic and financial situation of Egypt in 1920:—

The year 1920 has been a memorable and in many ways a phenomenal one in Egypt's economic and commercial history. It has been a year of crises, beginning with one on the Cotton Bourse in March, followed by the commercial crisis dating from April, a wheat crisis, a coal crisis, and finally the present cotton crisis. It has seen not only the rise of cotton futures and spot prices to a high watermark, which will probably remain an unbroken record, but also a sixfold drop therefrom to a figure which is only slightly more than 50 per cent. of the prices prevailing when this record season opened. It has witnessed a deadlock in the internal movement of imported manufactures simultaneously with wild speculation in cotton and land. It has seen a record cotton acreage, followed by legislative restriction of cultivation to one-third of each cultivator's holding. It has produced a record Budget and Note issue, and experienced the transformation of the exceptionally favourable trade balance of 1919 into an adverse balance of trade, as the result of foreign trade figures, especially imports, which upset all previous averages and surpass all former records. It has thus been a year of sensational developments, fluctuations and contrasts, and the factors in the economic situation of Egypt which the vagaries of cotton call forth have changed, and are still changing, with such bewildering suddenness that an appreciation of the situation that is true at the time of writing may be entirely falsified by the time these lines are in print.

Thus the prosperity of Egypt's finances in the early part of 1920 has given place to a condition of things which calls for retrenchment and economy on the part of the Egyptian Government in order to meet the deficit which began to manifest itself as the result of the working of the first five months of the financial year, while the fall in cotton prices, which has been continuous since March, 1920, is reflected in the monthly reduction of the Note issue from £E67,300,000 at the end of December, 1919, to £E37,200,000 at the end of January, 1921, thus adversely affecting the revenue accruing to the Government thereon. This latter figure is below the lowest level attained in 1919, viz., £E39,900,000 in July of that year, to which it fell from £E45,500,000 in January, and from which it rose to £E67,300,000 in December.

It should be borne in mind that public finance in Egypt can never be more than a superficial and incomplete index to the wealth of the country so long as the bulk of that wealth remains untapped, for a variety of reasons which are outside the scope of this report; also that, even if these obstacles to taxation were to be removed an appreciable but indeterminate portion of the country's wealth will always defy taxation, viz., the gold and notes concealed by the fellaheen, who distrust banks, in the soil and other hiding places, the secret of whose location is only known to, and sometimes dies with, its owner.

There are, therefore, considerable difficulties in the way of assessing the country's purchasing power, and although record import figures in 1920 are to some extent a gauge thereof, the trade slump dating from April, 1920, through which the country is passing, and which, though primarily the outcome of the world's commercial crisis, has been intensified in Egypt by wild speculation in, and overstocking of, manufactured goods, particularly yarns and textiles—which had since the Armistice commanded high prices and a ready market—would appear to indicate that the purchasing power of Egypt has been overestimated by those who based their calculations on the income likely to accrue to the country from the record-priced cotton crop of 1919-20, and on a continuation of high prices in the 1920-21 cotton season.

Bankruptcies, especially among importers of cotton piece goods, have been frequent, and the Mixed Courts are choked with

lawsuits brought against firms and merchants who have refused to take up consignments. The tendency of the importer during 1920 to keep his goods in the bonded warehouses rather than risk a fall in prices by putting them on the market has hardened the eventual consumer's resolution to hold out for the fall in prices, which he foresaw must come about when merchants realised that they must cut their losses and put their goods on the market at a sacrifice in order to raise money for the repayment of loans from the banks. The latter are in turn suffering the consequences of having, during the boom of high prices and quick profits, advanced money to speculators on a very narrow margin.

The fellaheen, who constitute so large a portion of the element of eventual consumers of yarns and cotton piece goods, cannot afford to buy so long as they are embarrassed by the difficulty of paying rents of agricultural lands which are disproportionate to the low price of cotton at present prevailing, regulated as they are to some extent by land values which are really artificial, having soared to fantastic heights during the frenzied speculation in cotton land, arising out of the boom in cotton prices, both spot and futures, which characterised the 1919-20 season. In many cases they have been fixed for three years on the basis of cotton at \$150, the results of which, when it stands at only \$30, are obvious.

Pilion v. Sakellarides.

The cultivation in Arizona of "Pima" or American-Egyptian cotton has been so successful that it bids fair to oust Sakellarides, so far as quality is concerned, from its pride of place in the eyes of the American spinner, and, if cultivated on a sufficiently extensive scale, to enable him to dispense with the finest grade of Egyptian cotton, except in so far as he needs it to make up such small remaining balance of his requirements as may be necessitated by slight shortages of the "Pima" crop.

In the meantime, the smallness of the demand from the United Kingdom spinners is an equally conspicuous feature of, and important factor in, the present cotton crisis, and one of the many dangers of its undue prolongation is that Egyptian cultivators may come to the conclusion on a large scale that it is not worth their while to grow Sakellarides, which no longer commands much higher prices than other inferior grades of cotton, but that the cultivation of some more prolific variety, such as Pilion (which, according to some authorities, produces 5-6 kantars per feddan, as against 3-3½ of Sakellarides), would be more remunerative, and therefore a far more attractive commercial proposition from their point of view.

Pilion first leapt into prominence in July, 1920, owing firstly to the fear that it might oust Sakellarides because of its more prolific yield and secondly to the danger of its affecting the purity of Sakellarides by admixture or hybridisation, either at the ginneries or, if planted too close together, of the seeds of the two varieties, owing to the similarity in colour. The controversy that raged round the rival merits of these two varieties, as also the protests and appeals made to the Egyptian Government, culminated in the passing of a Law, No. 41 of October 26, 1920, prohibiting the mingling of any two varieties of either cotton or cotton seed.

The supremacy of Sakellarides for the spinning of the finer counts might well become a matter of indifference to the Egyptian cultivator (who is at liberty to grow any variety he chooses), if tangible proof of its appreciation by the spinner in the form of brisk demand and an attractive margin of difference in prices were lacking for long. For instance, on February 25, 1921, the spot prices for Pilion were \$15½-16, as compared with only \$20-20½ for Sakellarides, whereas on October 29, 1920, the former stood at \$54-55 as against \$73-74 for the latter. It is also significant that previous to the latter date Pilion was never quoted separately at all, but was included under the general heading "Other Varieties." In other words, the remedy for abnormal decreases of acreage, increased cultivation of inferior and more prolific short staple varieties at the expense of Sakellarides, and any other actual and potential developments dictated by the financial aspect of the cotton situation that alarm the spinners, lies in their hands primarily and is afforded by the maintenance and promise of a good demand and prices that will, without being abnormal, furnish the necessary incentive to the grower.

Motor Tractor Trials.

That the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture are not confined to scientific research and experiments, or to the development of the cotton industry only, is shown by their enterprise in holding motor tractor trials of an international nature during the last four days of December, 1920. The report of the judges has not yet been made public. American tractors provided 50 per cent. of the twenty-six entries. The United Kingdom was represented by the Austin, Wallis Glasgow and Saunderson tractors, and the Crawley Agri-motor. The remaining machines were of French, German, Italian and Austrian manufacture. The soil of the locality where these trials were held, viz., near Benha, is comparatively light, and it will be interesting to see how the various tractors behave on the heavy land near Damanhour, where further trials are to be held in April.

It is unfortunate that this exhibition of the capabilities of rival motor tractors in the cultivation of Egyptian soil should have coincided with a period when the purchasing power of likely buyers has been reduced to its lowest ebb, but these tractor trials have been on the tapis for so long during 1920 that their postponement would have involved considerable financial loss to those manufacturers who showed sufficient enterprise to compete. It must also be remembered that it is only between the months of November and March that tractor trials can usefully be held on a large scale in Egypt. At all events purchasers will postpone judgment on, and choice of, the particular types of tractor

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that they think will suit them until the concluding trials are over and the judges' reports on both sets of trials are published.

It is to be hoped that by then the trade slump will have eased somewhat, since, as will be seen below, price rather than quality is the principal consideration in determining purchases of machinery and other goods by native buyers.

Trade.

The year 1920, with its attendant commercial crisis, has proved very unfortunate for many firms both in the United Kingdom and in Egypt, as owing to (1) the enormous stocks held in the Egyptian bonded warehouses; (2) the present shortage of ready money due to the cotton crisis; (3) the number of small local manufacturers of various classes of goods which sprang into being during the war and are now, naturally, competing with United Kingdom products; and (4) the increase in the number of firms of doubtful character who are the usual aftermath of war, local agents have been unable to place orders for stocks on their hands, thereby causing, in many instances, great delay in payment of consignments from the United Kingdom and a loss of reputation in the eyes of the British exporter.

Small importers, who were in the habit of transacting business, in most cases in a perfectly straightforward way, by means of the C.O.D. parcel system, are now, owing to inability to raise money, refusing to accept such parcels, thereby involving a loss to the United Kingdom exporter and arousing his suspicion of firms in Egypt, as the Postal authorities are compelled to return parcels which are not claimed within fifteen days.

Larger men were refusing to withdraw their consignments of goods from the Customs, in view of the high prices charged by British exporters which will, in most cases, be unable to compete with foreign products if there is any market at all. Complaints in regard to the high prices demanded for cutlery of all kinds and machinery by the British exporters, whose goods are admitted to be the best on the market, are made on every possible occasion, and in the majority of cases it is the cheapest price that is preferred to superior quality of material, sometimes even in the case of Egyptian Government contracts. Large orders for railway material and rolling-stock, steel work, dynamos, etc., have thus gone to foreign firms because the British quotations have been too high, added to the fact that the date of guaranteed delivery was not satisfactory.

On the other hand there was a rush of deliveries throughout 1920 of various kinds of goods, particularly cotton piece goods, in the case of the United Kingdom, resulting in such appalling congestion of the Customs sheds, quays and bonded warehouses from April to October that all the available space was soon overflowing, and various buildings in the town, as well as sheds evacuated by the military authorities had to be rented or taken over by the bonded warehouses with the permission of the Customs Administration. The latter did what it could to relieve the pressure by holding daily sales at a 30 per cent. reduction, but it was principally due to a steady falling off of imports from August onwards that an improvement became possible at the end of October, after which the congestion became easier, until by February, 1921, it had become a thing of the past.

Exports of Algerian esparto amounted to 5,000 tons last year, compared with about 3,000 tons annually during the war and 10,000 tons before its outbreak.

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 April 30 (new style January 14 to May 13), 1921.

	Monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, Naxos emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross receipts, April, 1921.....	6,073,519'39	4,040,245'00
Do. do. 1920.....	6,096,246'48	5,359,646'00
Estimated receipts for 4 months (Law of Control)	9,633,333'33	3,566,666'67
Actual receipts for 4 months, 1921	20,518,206'66	17,755,147'65
Actual receipts for 4 months, 1920	20,616,348'18	21,177,961'90
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 4 months	1921 +10,884,873'33	+14,188,480'98
	1920 +10,983,014'85	+17,611,295'23

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 on the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893.

The products of the sales of Naxos emery have been paid in paper drachmæ since August, 1920. In the case of the Piræus Customs, the receipts in gold are included in the above statement at par.

TENDERS INVITED.

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

[Particulars of tenders marked (D.O.T.) are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.1.]

Egypt.

Clothing, etc.—The Ministry of the Interior, Egypt (Lunacy Division) invites tenders for the supply of clothing and household requisites to the Abbasiya and Khanka Asylums. Tenders, on the proper form and accompanied by a provisional deposit of 2 per cent., are to be submitted to the Lunacy Division, Abbasiya. July 11 (D.O.T.).

Boots and Gymnastic Shoes.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for the supply of boots (infantry and cavalry) and canvas gymnastic shoes. Tenders and specifications may be obtained from the Inspecting Engineer, Egyptian and Sudan Governments, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.1, and samples may be seen at the same address. July 15.

Calcium Carbide.—The Egyptian Postal Administration at Alexandria invites tenders for the supply of 15,000 kilogrammes of calcium carbide for acetylene gas light plants. Quotations should comprise free storage at the sole risk of the contractor and free delivery (by periodical partial supplies during the year) at 62 railways or river stations specified. July 15 (D.O.T.).

Beans, etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of 150 kilos beans, 150 kilos barley, and 4,000 kilos tinn, required for four months commencing August, 1921. July 16.

Yugoslavia.

Motor-Vans.—The Yugoslav Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs invites tenders for the supply of three (half-closed) light motor-vans. July 6.

Telephone Material.—The Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs, Belgrade, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of telephone material of various kinds. They should bear a 10 dinars duty stamp, and should be addressed, "Ekonomsko Odeljenje Ministarstva Posta i Telegrafa," Belgrade. A deposit of 20 per cent. of the total value of the tender is required from foreign firms. It is almost essential that United Kingdom firms competing for Government contracts in Yugoslavia should do so through an agent in that country. July 13 and 14 (D.O.T.).

India.

Steel Rails, etc.—The India Office invites tenders for the supply of steel rails and fishplates. (Spec., Director-General of Stores, Whitehall.) July 5.

Sleepers, etc.—The G.I.P. Railway Co. invites tenders for the supply of (1) cast-iron pot sleepers, (2) tiebolts, gibs, and cotters; (3) steel fishbolts and chairbolts; (4) helical springs; (5) spare parts of carriages and wagons (buffers); (6) spring steel; (7) linoleum; (8) plate glass; and (9) galvanised corrugated sheets. Specifications from the Secretary, 48, Copthall Avenue, £1 for 1, 2, 4 and 5; 10s. for 3, 7, 8 and 9; and 7s. 6d. for 6. July 5.

Steel Springs, etc.—The India Office invites tenders for the supply of steel springs and chilled cast-iron wheels for rolling stock. (Spec., Director-General of Stores, Whitehall.) July 8.

Springs, etc.—The India Office invites tenders for the supply of laminated springs, steel screw spikes, steel fishbolts, and dog spikes. (Spec., Director-General of Stores, Whitehall.) July 12.

Steel Bearing Plates, etc.—Tenders are invited by the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Co. for the supply of: (1) steel bearing plates; (2) spring steel; (3) wood screws, nails, split pins, etc. Specification £1 for 1 and 2, and 10s. each for No. 3. Secretary, The White Mansion, 91, Petty France, S.W.1. July 15.

Steel Underframes, etc.—H.E.H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Co., Ltd., invites tenders for the supply of: (1) 11 steel underframes for bogie carriages (metre gauge); (2) 44 pairs of wheels and axles for the above. (Specifications 10s. each.) Secretary, Winchester House, 50, Old Broad Street, E.C.4. July 15.

Bulgaria.

Telegraph and Telephone Material.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones invites tenders for the supply and delivery of various tools, instruments, and materials for the current financial year. It is desirable that United Kingdom firms competing for Bulgarian State contracts should do so through agents resident in the country. July 11 (D.O.T.).

Telegraph and Telephone Material.—The Bulgarian Department of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones invites tenders for the supply and delivery of various tools, instruments and materials, for the current financial year. July 11 (D.O.T.).

Cotton Waste and Machine Oil.—The Bulgarian State Railways, Sofia, invites tenders for the supply and delivery of: 100,000 kgs. coloured cotton waste, 2,000 kgs. white cotton waste, 100,000 kgs. cotton pieces, 600 tons machine oil, 300 tons wagon oil, 300 tons cylinder oil (ordinary), 20 tons cylinder oil (special), 200 tons impure petrol. July 15 (D.O.T.).

Malta.

Turbo-Alternator.—The Government of Malta invites tenders for the supply of 1,000 kw. steam turbo-alternator, 2,200-2,500 volts, single-phase, 100 cycles. Particulars can be obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, S.W.1. July 7.

ENGINEERING TOPICS.

By our Engineering Representative.

An Austin Record.

I hear that the Alexandria-Cairo motor record has been broken by one of the famous Austin "Twenty" models, of the coupé type, driven by Mr. A. L. Benachi, who is well known in cotton circles in Alexandria. He made the journey, without an involuntary stop, in 5 hours 27 minutes, the best record previously being 5 hours 30 minutes, running time. It is only fair to add, however, that the previous record took no account of stops for engine trouble, tyre cooling, and replenishment of supplies of oil, fuel, and radiator water, so that Mr. Benachi's performance was evidently one of which he has every reason to be proud. Incidentally, I may say that the road between Alexandria and Cairo only dates from Lord Kitchener's time, and does not in the least resemble the Portsmouth road or the Great North road. In fact, it has been described as being little, if any, better than a camel track. It is full of pot-holes, very narrow, and has a surface of loose earth, which in winter is a sloppy mud, and in summer a fine, penetrating dust. A ditch, designed and used for irrigation purposes, runs on either side, and in many places it is an actual canal, with steep, unguarded banks. As the road is seldom used for vehicular traffic, there is great need for care in driving, as it is used by the natives as a highway for camels, donkeys, oxen, flocks of sheep, and also as a chicken-run. Motoring at anything like speed on this road must be a somewhat nerve-trying performance.

The Engineering Industry.

The peculiar position existing in the British engineering industry has been ably set forth by Mr. D. A. Bremner, of the British Engineers' Association. He points out that, although that body, being a purely trade association, confines its activities to the promotion of the commercial interests of the engineering industry, and plays no part in labour disputes or wages negotiations, it is vitally interested in their effects upon output costs of production and selling prices. As representing the commercial side of the industry—i.e., the side concerned with the profitable disposal of the products of their joint labours—he says it may claim to speak alike in the interests of employer and employed.

The present situation in the engineering trades is so grave, and the consequences to the nation threaten to be so serious, that the Council feel it their duty to present the following facts and reflections for the earnest consideration of all engaged in the engineering industry, both masters and men, and of every thinking citizen. Even before the national stoppage of work in the coal mines, a critical situation was developing rapidly in the engineering industry, because our costs of production were far too high in relation to the purchasing power of an impoverished world, in which many prospective customer countries were further restrained from buying by adverse exchanges entailing insupportable losses.

A contributory cause of our loss of trade was the ability of the United States, Germany and Belgium to undersell us. To the extent that Germany has been able to produce and export, the depreciation of her exchange has enabled her to quote prices with which the British engineering manufacturer could not possibly compete. In a lesser degree this also applies to Belgium.

In spite of the strenuous efforts of directors and managers, of which we have abundant evidence, our engineering firms are quite unable to secure the volume of business required to replace the orders executed during the last six months or now rapidly approaching completion. The fact is that although the world is in urgent need of vast supplies of products of engineering industry, to make good the losses due to the war and to increase the future rate of wealth production, these supplies cannot be ordered until prices are brought within the purchasing power of the customer. This applies even to the home market, where many big schemes are being held in a state of suspense because of the prohibitive cost of carrying them into execution at present prices. To the extent that our competitors can undersell us they will not only capture the overseas trade, but also invade our defenceless home market.

It must not be imagined that the resumption of coal mining will, by itself, revitalise the engineering industry, even though the settlement be on terms consistent with a low enough price for industrial coal. It cannot be too clearly and widely understood that the engineering industry has no chance of recovery unless and until a substantial reduction has been made in the costs of production. This is the problem to be solved, and failing its solution other considerations will be of little more than academic interest.

At some time in the not very distant future masters and men in the engineering trades will be compelled by the pressure of stern necessity to compare their differences and agree upon a *modus vivendi*. All their thoughts and energies

will be needed for the task of saving the industry by which they live. Delay in making this great constructive effort will merely increase the amount of leeway to be painfully and laboriously recovered, and imperil the chances of ultimate success.

Coal and Castings.

The use of coal in foundries for certain purposes appears to be a necessity, and although it is true that oil fuel can do practically all that can be done by coal in the way of smelting and annealing, and all the other operations in which heat plays a part, there is one essential in which, at present, oil does not give anything like efficient results. In almost every foundry devoted to the production of grey iron castings, coal, in a powdered form, is used as a facing to the moulds. It is mixed with the sand, which comes in contact with the pattern in varying proportions, which range from one part of coal to six of sand in the case of heavy castings up to one part in thirteen for light work. The gas evolved by the combustion of the coal dust, as soon as the molten metal comes into contact with it, forms a cushion between it and the sand of the mould, and so prevents the metal from burning into it. A limited number of small castings are produced in moulds in which no coal facing is used, but the great majority of casting users insist upon being supplied with clean, smooth products, and this feature so far necessitates the use of special coal. To such an extent is coal used for this purpose that in some of the largest foundries devoted to motor-car castings 200 tons of coal are ground to powder and used in the sand. A conservative estimate places the entire consumption of sea-coal facing in trans-Atlantic foundries at over 25,000 tons per month.

A Warning.

Owing to an extraordinary oversight on the part of the authorities responsible for drawing up the "log books," or registration books, for motor-cyclists, no provision was made therein for entering the frame and engine numbers of the machines. The various county authorities are now sending round the following notice to motor-cyclists:—"The motoring associations have represented to the Ministry of Transport that the accidental omission from the first issue of motor-cycle registration books of provision for insertion of frame and engine numbers will facilitate traffic in stolen cycles. The recipient is requested to send on the omitted numbers, and also to enter them in his own registration book."

Scientific Methods.

There is no doubt that there is ample room for the adoption of more highly scientific methods in our foundries and our engineering and metal-working shops. To-day nearly every large foundry depends, or should depend, on the chemist for the synthetic control of the iron charged into the cupola, and the smaller establishments where the output does not justify keeping up a chemical laboratory recognise that it is necessary to know the composition of the various consignments of raw material delivered to them, and would be thankful indeed if the pig iron manufacturers would supply them with analyses of all consignments. Dr. Stead said some little time ago that few can conceive what prejudice existed a few years ago in the minds of those who controlled the mixing of metals in the iron foundries. These gentlemen did not realise that, although the fractures of the pigs they used might be the same in different consignments from any single firm of pig-iron makers, the composition might vary to a marked extent, and that corresponding variations would occur in the castings. At one works where advice was given how to prepare synthetically suitable meltings from local iron to replace more expensive material imported from a distance, the foreman expressed the view that the expert was a "dangerous man." In more than one establishment it is beyond doubt that when a chemist was introduced and his advice taken, something was done to obtain a bad result. This sounds almost incredible, but is nevertheless true. Before real progress could be made the foreman had to be replaced by men who were less prejudiced.

That cast iron of almost any desired properties could be produced, given the necessary varieties of raw pig irons, has been proved long ago, even in the early 'seventies, by one firm which synthetically produces almost every kind of iron required, such as white iron suitable for carburising in the manufacture of crucible steel, iron having all the properties of cold blast iron, iron suitable for the manufacture of chilled rolls, malleable castings, and so on; but this was only possible because, from the inception of the work, chemical assistance was freely employed. It is now generally admitted that the peculiar properties of every brand of iron are due to differences in composition.

NEAR EAST MARKETS.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Dried Fruit.—A rather quieter tone has been in evidence in the market than in the previous week. Currants have been in moderate request at somewhat lower rates. The demand for sultanas continues, and prices are rising. Persian dates are moving off well at slightly harder prices.

Sugar.—Home refined has been steady at the official rates. West Indian crystallised is eighteenpence lower at 45s. to 50s. 6d., and American granulated at 56s. is 2s. 6d. down. Czecho-Slovakian at 28s. has shed a like amount. Quotations are:—June, 18s.; July, 17s.; August, 16s. 6d.; September, 16s.; October, 15s. 3d.; November, 15s., and December, 14s. 10½d.

Coffee.—Futures have remained firm. Quotations are:—July, 38s. 6d.; September, 39s.; December, 40s.; March, 40s. 6d.

Oilseeds.—A rather weak tone has prevailed. Indian linseed has lost 1s. 6d. to 20s., and La Plata at 18s. 9d. has dropped 9d. Rapeseed is higher, with bold Ferozepore 1s. 3d. up at 20s. 3d., and brown Cawnpore also 1s. 3d. up at 19s. 9d. Toria is unchanged at 21s. 5d. Cottonseed is lower, with Egyptian black at 11s., 9d. lower.

Oils.—Prices have declined. Linseed oil at 34s. 5d. is 1s. down. Rape oil is lower, with crude at 52s. and refined at 62s., decreases of 2s. in both cases. Refined cotton oil at 44s. and deodorised at 50s. are unaltered, while Egyptian crude at 37s. 3d. has risen 1s. 3d. Turpentine remains the same at 81s.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

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

Gum.

Kordofan Province.—12,562 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during April, as against 13,628 kantars during the same month last year, at an average price of 656 m/ms. per kantar of 100 rottles (45 kilos.). 6,148 kantars were sold at Nahud at an average price of 300 m/ms. the kantar. The amount sold at Um Ruaba was 2,829 kantars, as against 1,218 kantars last year, the average price being 600 m/ms. per kantar. At Rahad 2,683 were sold at prices ranging between PT50 and PT70 the kantar, as against 848 kantars during April last year.

Cotton.

Kassala Province.—The total crop for the season is estimated at 45,000 small kantars. The cotton market commenced early in March, and 372 bales have been despatched to Suakin and 138 to Atbara direct. It is estimated that the crop will yield about 665 tons of lint; of this amount it is hoped to transport 285 tons to Suakin and 60 to Atbara direct by camel, leaving 320 tons to be dispatched by barge from Sasareib to Atbara during the flood. The Inspector of Agriculture reports as follows:—“All the cotton from throughout the Delta is sakellaridis. This year both quality and quantity appear to be very satisfactory. The plants are healthy and free from ‘Asal’ attack, and although a certain amount of damage was done by cold snap at the end of January, the quality and quantity of the crop seems to have been little affected.”

Red Sea Province.—Cotton is being brought in in large quantities, and the majority has been bought at a price of £2,835 per kantar of 315 rottles.

Wheat.

Halfa Province.—The barley crop for March is almost all in, and is very good in quantity and quality. The wheat crop is late but good. The wheat crops of April are being harvested in Halfa District, and the yield is reported fair to moderate. Barley crops are good.

Berber Province.—What is probably a record crop of wheat, and to a lesser extent of barley and beans (Egyptian) has been successfully harvested. The price of wheat was PT300 per ardeb of 420 rottles (189 kilos), and of barley PT90 per ardeb of 315 rottles (142 kilos).

Darfur Province.—The El Fasher wheat crop is, on the whole, good, but owing to the unusual hot spell experienced during the past month the late-sown wheat has almost entirely failed.

(To be concluded.)

Two companies of Berlin have combined with the object of working the Palestine market and that of neighbouring countries. Government control over the sale of alizarine dyes in Bengal has now been withdrawn.

Sleeping and restaurant cars are attached to the train leaving Kantara at 0.45 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for Haifa and Jerusalem, and from Haifa at 5.30 and Jerusalem at 6 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, also on the 4.50 train from Kantara on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and from Haifa at 5.30, and Jerusalem at 6 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Restaurant cars are available on the train leaving Jerusalem at 6 for Jaffa, and from Jaffa at 12.45 for Jerusalem.

HOPEFUL ROUMANIAN OUTLOOK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BUCHAREST, June 8.

In consequence of the favourable prospects of the coming crop for all cereals, the grain trade has been freed from all restrictions throughout the interior of the country.

During April the following quantities of cereals were exported (the figures representing tons of 1,000 kg.): Wheat 3,349; flour, 4,315; rye, 2,272; barley, 21,244; oats, 10,290; maize, 145,451.

On account of the decline in prices in the western grain markets, exporting firms have obtained a reduction of the export taxes, which are now as follows per 10,000 kg.: Barley, 2,000 lei; oats, 1,200; maize, 1,500; beans, 1,000; millet, 500.

CURRENT PRICES.

General Produce.—Bacon, 131s. cwt.; butter, 182s. cwt.; cheese, 97s. cwt.; chillies, 125s. cwt.; eggs, 20s. 3d. per 120; cloves (Zanzibar), 9d. lb.; cocoa (Ceylon, good to fine), 77s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Costa Rica), 122s. cwt.; coffee (East India, bold), 118s. cwt.; coffee (Mocha, longberry), 94s. 6d. cwt.; coffee (Santos, superior), 56s. 3d. cwt.; coffee (Nairobi), 100s. cwt.; lard, 77s. 6d. cwt.; hams, 161s. 6d. cwt.; ginger (washed, Cochinchina), 35s. cwt.; nutmegs (110's to 80's), 10½d. lb.; pepper (Singapore, black), 4d. lb.; pepper (Muntok, white), 9d. lb.; raisins (Valencia), 105s. cwt.; raisins (sultana, Smyrna), 145s. cwt.; currants, 71s. cwt.; sugar (granulated), 59s. 7½d. cwt.; sugar (No. 1 cubes), 62s. 9d. cwt.; sugar (white Mauritius), 54s. 6d. cwt.; sugar (West Indian, crystallised), 49s. 6d. cwt.; tapioca (fair Singapore), 2d. lb.; sago (small pearl), 25s. 6d. cwt.; sago flour, 15s. 9d. cwt.; rice (Rangoon No. 2), 16s. 7½d. cwt.; rice (bran, Rangoon), £6 14s. ton; cinnamon (firsts), 1s. 3d. lb.; mace (fair Singapore), 1s. 1½d. lb.; tea (Indian, common to good common), 8½d. lb.; tea (Ceylon, common to good common), 9½d. lb.; tea (Java, common to good common), 5d. lb.; wheat (Australian), 82s. 10½d. qr.; wheat (English, white), 96s. 6d. qr.; wheat (La Plata), 85s. 6d. qr.; barley (malting), 67s. 6d. qr.; oats (English) 47s. 6d. qr.; oats (La Plata), 29s. qr.; maize (La Plata), 47s. 9d. qr.; flour, 70s. sack.

Chemicals.—Acids: Boric, 71s. cwt.; oxalic, 9½d. lb.; citric, 2s. 5½d. lb.; tartaric, 1s. 7½d. lb.; ammonia (sulphate), £17 5s. ton; arsenic (white powdered), £45 10s. ton; benzole (standard), 2s. 5½d. gallon; bleaching powder (35 per cent.), £19 ton; borax crystals, 34s. 6d. cwt.; cream of tartar, 139s. cwt.; Potassium: Bi-chromate, 9½d. lb.; chlorate, 5½d. lb.; caustic, £39 ton; nitrate, £54 ton; permanganate, 1s. 8½d. lb.; prussiate yellow, 1s. 2½d. lb.; sulphate (90 per cent.), £21 ton; Sodium: Crystals, 145s. lb.; bi-carbonate, £10 5s. ton; bi-chromate, 6½d. lb.; alkali (58 per cent.), £8 15s. ton; chlorate, 4½d. lb.; caustic (70 per cent.), £22 ton; hyposulphite, £21 10s. ton; prussiate, 7½d. lb.; nitrate, £18 8s. 9d. ton; glycerine (crude, 80 per cent.), £105 ton; glycerine (industrial, 1260 per cent.), £127 10s. ton; sulphate of copper, £31 10s. ton; sulphate of iron, 150s. ton; lemon oil, 3s. 1½d. lb.; quinine, 4s. 0½d. oz.; red lead, £37 10s. ton; white dry lead, £42 5s. ton; white ground lead, £50 12s. 6d. ton.

Metals.—Aluminium, £150 ton; antimony (English Regulus), £39 10s. ton; bismuth, 7s. 6d. lb.; copper (standard), £72 ton; copper (electro), £78 ton; gold bars, 109s. 3½d. oz.; iron (No. 3 Cleveland), 130s. ton; hematite (mixed number), 160s. ton; galvanised sheets (24G), £22 5s. ton; lead (soft foreign), £22 6s. 3d. ton; manganese Poti, 1s. 3d. unit; molybdenite, 48s. 9d. unit; nickel, £185 ton; platinum, 365s. oz.; plumbago, £20 ton; quicksilver, £10 17s. 6d. bottle; silver bars, 35d. oz.; spelter (G.O.B.), £27 ton; tin (standard), £168 7s. 6d. ton; wolfram, 12s. 9d. unit; zinc sheets, £36 10s. ton; tin plates (20 by 14), 25s. 3d. box.

Hides and Skins.—Ox and heifer (first), 90 lb. and up, 8½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 8½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 8½d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 7½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 6d. lb.; (second) 90 lb. and up, 7½d. lb.; 80 to 89 lb., 7½d. lb.; 70 to 79 lb., 7d. lb.; 60 to 69 lb., 6½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 5d. lb.; Cows (first), 60 lb. and up, 7d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 7d. lb.; (second) 60 lb. and up, 4½d. lb.; 59 lb. and under, 4½d. lb.; Bulls (first), 4½d. lb.; (second) 3d. lb. Calcutta market prices in rupees per 20 lb.: Arsenic hides (cows), Agrad, 9 to 13; Durbhangas, 9.8 to 11.8; Patnas, 7 to 8; Salted cows, 3 to 7. Arsenic hides (buffalo), 3 to 8. Skins: Calf, 8 to 10 per 20 lb.; goat, 235 to 290 per 100 pieces.

Miscellaneous.—Cotton (American), 8.40d. lb.; cotton (Egyptian), £11 11s. 3d. ton; linseed (La Plata), £18 10s. ton; rape (Toria), £20 ton; soya beans, £12 12s. 6d. ton; palm kernels, £19 7s. 6d. ton. Oils.—Linseed, £34 12s. 6d. ton; soya, £35 ton; cotton (crude), £36 ton; olive (Levant), £82 10s. ton; ground nut, £40 ton; palm, £32 15s. ton; rape (crude), £54 10s. ton; cocoanut (Ceylon), £46 4s. 6d. ton; petroleum, 1s. 10d. gallon; turpentine (American), 78s. 6d. cwt.; shellac (A.C. garnet), 290s. cwt.; shellac (T.N. second orange), 382s. 6d. cwt.; rosin (American), 21s. cwt.; copra (Ceylon), £29 15s. ton; copra (Straits, F.M.S.), £28 6s. 3d. ton; tallow (Australian mutton), 34s. 3d.; tallow (Australian beef), 35s. cwt. Rubber.—Plantation (No. 1 crepe), 8½d. lb.; smoked sheet, 8d. lb.; fine hard Para, 11d. lb.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Production week ending June 17: Gamsah, 34 tons; Hurghada, 3,140 tons.

COTTON AND COTTON GOODS.

POSITION IN THE SUDAN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

KHARTOUM, June 9.

Red Sea Province.—Reports to hand during the month of May state that cotton has been brought into the Tokar market in good quantities, some 5,000 kantars (of 100 rattles) being dealt with there daily. There has been a certain amount of difficulty in respect to the insurance of unginced cotton for transport on the Tokar-Trinkitat Light Railway, but it is understood that this matter is in course of being satisfactorily arranged. Sales from April 2 to 28 were as follows (in kantars):—First class, 43,665; second class, 19,423; third class, 692; total, 63,780.

Kassala Province.—Cotton ginning returns from the Government factory at Kassala give a total of 9,434 kantars handled, producing 3,010 kantars of lint. The total cotton marketed during April amounted to 18,418 kantars. The factory has been running at its maximum capacity for sixteen hours daily from the middle of March last. The present installation can only deal with a maximum of 40,000 to 45,000 kantars in the season. Transport between Kassala-Atbara and Kassala-Suakin is reported to be operating satisfactorily.

MANCHESTER REPORT.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Monday.

As was generally expected, the settlement of the wages question in the cotton industry has resulted in a firm tone being established in the market. After a three weeks' stoppage the Lancashire mills are now at work, though not on full time; the Masters' Federation are shortly to consider the state of trade, but it is not anticipated that they will recommend the mills working a full week. During the past week quite an extensive inquiry has been dealt with, and some useful lines from stock have been cleared. With regard to the outlets of the Near East, Egypt has been the principal buyer, but no big sales have been registered. Occasional transactions have taken place for the Levant and Constantinople. Quotations for Egyptian counts have been well held, and prices are tending to stiffen. The turnover, however, has been nothing to boast about. The piece goods inquiry for India has tended to broaden, but some very poor offers are still being cabled over. At the same time some useful sales have taken place, chiefly in light goods for Calcutta. Shippers to China have not been altogether idle, and encouraging sales have taken place, principally in bleaching descriptions. South America still lags behind. Users of American yarns have shown no increased disposition to replenish their stocks, but prices have continued firm. Taking the market all round, the position at the moment is extremely favourable, and the opinion is fairly prevalent that should the coal strike be settled within the week the trade will commence to move upwards towards a period of increased activity. All traders believe that we have turned the corner towards better times.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended June 23:—

We regret that no favourable change in the general situation has yet occurred to influence this market. The one bright feature this week has been the obstinate way in which prices have held up in face of the bitter disappointment experienced at the commencement of the week. At a time when the result of the miners' ballot was still in doubt, prophets were not lacking who foretold dire calamity to the market should the coal strike continue. "Egyptian cotton at eightpence" was a phrase frequently heard. Well, the strike continues, unfortunately, and the net result to-day is a decline of one halfpenny. Contracts certainly suffered more of a set-back, but at the worst they declined little over one penny, and are now only 30 points from where they were this time last week, and they look quite healthy. Manchester, whilst unable to report very much doing at the moment, reiterates what it has already pointed out not once but many times, as to the volume of business piling up and waiting until that happy time arrives "after the (coal) war," when contracts can be booked without the ubiquitous strike clause being included, and some certainty of delivery can be guaranteed. Business in Liverpool has been of a most meagre description, the demand having dwindled almost to the vanishing point. Fifty bales a day has been the rule, and the figures speak for themselves. Thirty bales of Sudan were moved, at what price is not known. A slight improvement in c.i.f. business has been noted. Total sales 250 bales. Quotations generally are reduced $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. F.G.F. Sakel 15.50d.

INDIAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Indian Trade Commissioner has issued the following cabled news received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, dated June 13:—During the week ending June 4 rainfall nearly general in Burma and Bengal and light to moderate elsewhere; since that date the monsoon has been fairly active in Burma, and in the south of the peninsula it is extending on the west coast. Crop prospects fair to good generally, except in Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, where more rain badly wanted. Weather again favourable for new jute crop in Northern Bengal. Some damage done by excessive rainfall. Sowings recommended in Daisee district, but acreage under jute there expected greatly reduced during this season.

Bombay cotton market steady. Fine M.G. Oomra, July Rs.298, September Rs.311. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to June 2, 1921, were 2,242,000 bales, as compared with 2,942,000 during the corresponding period of the last year. Bombay piece-goods market quiet, but steady. Stocks of piece-goods in Bombay Port Trust warehouses on April 30 last were 76,689 packages, as compared with 86,082 packages on March 30 last. Calcutta jute market very dull, with prices a little weaker. Hessians firmer, owing to bazaar demand, but no overseas inquiry; heavy goods steady to firm, with continuing fair demand for Cornsacks. Rangoon paddy arrivals fair by boat. Railway strike being over, increased arrivals expected by rail. Rates steady at Rs.201 to Rs.204 for rail and Rs.204 to Rs.206 for boat, for 100 baskets of 46 lb. each. White rice market declined in earlier part of the week, and fair quantities of small mill and meedung qualities sold from Rs.515 to Rs.530 per 100 baskets of 75 lb. each. Specials fell to Rs.510, but quickly recovered, and are now at Rs.517.80 to Rs.522.80 for June-July delivery.

Construction of metre gauge railway from Gadwell, on the Nizam's State Railway, to Kurnool, on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway (forty miles) by Nizam's Government sanctioned. No change in bank rates.

A later cable, dated June 20, states:—

During the week ending June 11 rainfall heavy in Burma, Assam, Eastern Bengal, Bombay, and West Madras Coast, and light to moderate elsewhere. Since that date monsoon again active in the peninsula and central parts of the country. Crop prospects fair to good generally, but more rain urgently wanted in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Punjab, and North-West Frontier Province, and also in Bihar and Orissa. Rainfall somewhat in excess and spell of bright weather would be beneficial. Flooding has occurred in some very low fields where cutting has commenced, but loss expected to be small, as average height of plants is 7 ft. Daisee sowings proceeding slowly.

Bombay cotton market steady to firm during earlier part of last week, but easier later. Fine M.G. Oomra July Rs. 312, September Rs. 329. Bombay cotton arrivals from September 1, 1920, to June 9, 1921, were 2,321,000 bales, as compared with 3,015,000 bales during the corresponding period of the last year. Bombay piecegoods market shows some improvement in both wholesale and retail inquiries. Certain staple styles getting short of stock and necessarily prices for these firm, but stocks of certain styles in whites, such as nainsooks, very heavy. Local goods moving steadily, demand for local fancies being good and clearances satisfactory. Calcutta jute market very dull, with prices unchanged. Hessians quiet, but steady. Heavy goods steady, with some small inquiry for heavy C's. Rangoon paddy arrivals good by boat and fair by rail. Prices have firmed up, and are Rs. 207 for rail, and Rs. 207 to Rs. 212 for boat, for 100 baskets of 46 lb. each. In white rice business is fairly brisk both in specials and small mill quality. Fair quantities of former sold at prices ranging from Rs. 517½ to Rs. 545 per 100 baskets of 75 lb. each for July delivery. At first tea sale of new season on June 14 offerings were only from Dooars, Terai, and Darjeeling. Dooars very good, Terai good, and Darjeeling irregular. Prices were 3 to 6 pies dearer for all common grades. Tippy kinds also dearer. Good liquoring, Broken and Fannings met with keen competition, and realised very high prices: 7.276 packages sold at sale at an average price of 8 annas 3 pies per lb.

OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

Burmah Oil.

The preliminary accounts of the Burmah Oil Company for 1920 show that the profit was £4,891,476, as against £4,654,794 in 1919. The sum of £1,153,753, as against £498,856, is reserved for depreciation; £195,000, as against £1,291,000, is placed to general reserve; and £20,000, as before, is allocated for insurance reserve. A final dividend is proposed of 4s. per share, free of tax, making 30 per cent. for the year on an increased capital, and £2,142,184 is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, as against £1,536,994 in 1919, also subject to this liability.

Anglo-Persian Oil Dividend.

The transfer books of the Eight per Cent. Cumulative First Preference shares of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company will be closed from July 4 to July 16, inclusive, for the preparation of dividend warrants in respect of the cumulative dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended March 31, 1921, and the 2 per cent. participating dividend for the year ended that date, both payable July 30. The participating dividend is paid six months earlier than usual in accordance with the circular issued to shareholders in February last. The fixed dividend of 8 per cent. on the above shares will in future be payable half-yearly.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY.

Outlook for Current Year.

The 143rd half-yearly general meeting of the stockholders of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Co. was held on June 24, at the company's offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C.

The Chairman (Sir Charles H. Armstrong), in moving the adoption of the report, pointed out that, while the statistics of the railway were for a full year, the London accounts were for six months only. This was in accordance with the company's Act, and with the arrangement lately concluded with the Secretary of State. The year under review had not been as satisfactory as he had hoped, and owing to a variety of circumstances, mostly adverse, they did not show the same steady progress as in the past. Gross earnings had increased by only 1.48 per cent., and the improvement was mainly due to larger receipts under the head of sundries. Although the number of ordinary passengers carried was over 39,500,000, or about 3,750,000 in excess of the previous year, the receipts from trouping fell off considerably, and the net result in coaching was a decrease of nearly 5 lakhs of rupees. Goods earnings, on the other hand, increased by about 6½ lakhs, or 0.83 per cent., as compared with the previous year. Working expenses were higher, however, by over two crores of rupees, and the net result, after the inclusion of all interest charges, was a deficit on the 3 per cent. guaranteed by the Secretary of State of 13.99 lakhs, which was equal to one-fifth per cent. on the capital expenditure of the line. From funds in hand the directors were, however, declaring a dividend of 1 per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent. for the six months, which made a total for the year of 4 per cent., against 6 per cent. and 1 per cent. bonus distributed a year ago. The export trade of India had been greatly hampered during the twelve months by the inability of continental markets, owing to their general impoverishment and low exchanges, to purchase raw materials, such as cotton and oil seeds, in which they were very largely interested.

As regarded the current year, he could not say anything very encouraging at the moment. Passenger fares had lately been increased more or less up to the limits allowed. The rate for coal had also been brought, he hoped, on to a paying level. In other directions rates had been increased to some extent, but even with these advances their gross receipts did not so far show any material advance on the figures of a year ago. He was hoping, if the monsoon was favourable, and the progress of the rains was so far satisfactory, for a considerable improvement before the end of the year, but the higher cost of working and the greatly increased cost of their coal supplies would again affect their yearly accounts.

The report of the Indian Railway Committee was likely to be issued during the summer, and its financial recommendations were being awaited with considerable interest. With the best will in the world, it was impossible for an Indian railway to keep ahead of its traffic if funds for necessary improvements and extensions were not forthcoming. He hoped this question of an improved system of finance would form the main recommendation of the Indian Railway Committee, for without a sufficiency of funds no system of railway management could be really successful.

Mr. J. E. Dallas (managing director) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously; and the proposed dividend was also approved, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. J. F. Finlay, C.S.I.

At the twenty-first annual meeting of the annuitants, which was held previously, the chairman stated that a year ago he mentioned that there was considerable depreciation on some of the investments, and the position to-day was very much the same as at that time. As a set-off against this depreciation, they were now able to invest on a much more favourable basis. The total amount to be invested every year was over £500,000, and on the average they were able to get a return of about 6 per cent., which, after deduction of income-tax, gave about 4 per cent. net, against 2½ per cent., the basis on which the fund was formed. The average return on the whole of the investments was £3 19s. 10d., and the average net yield, after deduction of income-tax, £2 18s. 3d.

The Doars Tea Co. declare a dividend of 3½ per cent. on preference (7s. per share), being moiety in respect of 1920, less tax.

The Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Co. declare a dividend of 2½ per cent. on preference (5s. per share), being moiety in respect of 1920, less tax.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the week ended May 31 amounted to £E8,205; total for year, £E55,719. For the corresponding period of last year, receipts amounted to £E11,015 and £E69,889 respectively.

Constantinople Telephone—Coupons on six per cent. obligations and six per cent. certificates due July 1 are payable on or after that date at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.2, where listing forms can be obtained.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Mortgage Company of Egypt.

The report of the Mortgage Company of Egypt for the year ended March 31 states that after providing for interest on the 4½ per cent. first-charge debentures and on temporary loans, and applying a sum of £1,500 in writing down the value of the freehold premises of the company in Cairo, the accounts show a profit for the year of £80,310 2s. 3d. Deducting the amount of the dividend paid and accrued on the 5 per cent. preferred shares to March 31, 1921, viz., £50,000, there remains a balance of £30,310 2s. 3d. Adding the amount brought forward from last year's account, £52,939 2s. 3d., there is available for distribution a total sum of £83,249 4s. 6d., which the directors propose to allocate as follows:—(1) To payment of a dividend of 12 per cent., being 3s. per share, on the amount paid up on the ordinary shares, £30,000; (2) to general reserve, £10,000; leaving a balance to be carried forward to the next account of £43,249 4s. 6d. The price of cotton, which was very high at the commencement of the period under review, fell rapidly during the year, and the consequent check to the prosperity of Egyptian agriculture resulted in a large increase in the applications for loans and a falling off in the collection of instalments. The amount invested in first mortgage, increased from £2,589,083 to £2,877,848, and the instalments in arrear from £111,158 to £240,238. Any losses which may arise under the latter head are considered to be fully provided for in the reserve for bad debts. During the financial year the company purchased a further £136,400 nominal of its 4½ per cent. first mortgage debentures, of which £53,780 nominal have been cancelled, and the remainder, £82,620 nominal, are held in investment account. Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I., the Hon. A. H. Mills, and Captain R. G. Westropp, directors of the company, retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.4, to-day, 12.15.

Egyptian Hotels.

The report of the Egyptian Hotels for the year ending April 30 states that after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels the profits were £56,675 4s. 4d., as compared with £58,736 17s. 6d. for 1920. After providing for the charges payable in London and Cairo, the accounts show a profit of £55,249 9s. 2d.; the balance of undivided profit brought forward from last account is £8,950 9s. 5d.; from this has to be deducted depreciation of plant, fixtures, and fittings at hotels, £3,118 4s. 11d.; leaving an available balance of £61,081 13s. 8d. The directors recommend the payment of a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the year to April 30, absorbing £5,750; the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares of 25 per cent. for the year, which will absorb £31,250; to place to special reserve £15,000; leaving a balance to be carried forward of £9,081 13s. 8d. Since the close of the company's financial year the business of Shepherd's Hotel has been satisfactorily maintained. The director retiring is Sir William B. Peat, C.V.O., who offers himself for re-election. The auditors, Messrs. Turquand, Youngs, and Co., retire, and offer themselves for re-election. Meeting, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., to-day, at 11.30 a.m.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

The report of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Co. for the year ended March 31, 1921, states that the gross receipts totalled Rs.13,83,04,893, and net revenue was Rs.3,18,80,321, a decrease of Rs.1,91,60,673. The gross earnings of the railway totalled Rs.12,81,81,819, and net earnings were Rs.2,91,33,269. Total interest charges absorbed Rs.3,05,32,324, leaving deficit of Rs.13,99,055, compared with a surplus of Rs.1,73,10,955 the previous year. From reserve funds the directors have decided to pay a dividend of £1 per cent., in addition of £1 10s. per cent. for half-year guaranteed by the Secretary of State for India. Capital expenditure during the year amounted to Rs.2,29,97,905.

The Bombay-Baroda Railway.

The net earnings of the Bombay-Baroda and Central India Railway Company for the year to March 31 totalled Rs.3,18,20,361, a decrease of Rs.1,07,21,438 compared with the previous year. Coaching traffic shows an increase of Rs.21,53,500 on broad gauge and Rs. 12,42,902 on metre gauge; goods traffic, an increase of Rs.8,34,661 on former and a decrease of Rs.9,79,011 on latter; sundries, an increase of Rs.6,89,590 on broad gauge and decrease of Rs.43,281 on metre gauge; and telegraph, decrease of Rs.6,052 on former and Rs.15,932 on latter. Out of Rs.6,27,608 due to the company in respect of 1920-21, Rs.2,91,434 was remitted to England in December, 1920, producing £20,415, and the balance is, in view of the present low rate of exchange, being retained in India on deposit. Directors recommend a final dividend of 2 per cent. (of which about 1 per cent. will be paid from the balance at credit of stockbrokers' revenue account), making 6 per cent., compared with 7 per cent. for 1919-20. Meeting, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., to-day, noon.

Travellers to the Near East

Can obtain all information as to the journey from
Continental Traffic Department,
Victoria Station (S.E. & C.R.), S.W.1.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES IN THE NEAR EAST.

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

STAMBOUL, June 11.

The improvement in business noted in previous weeks has again been checked, Anatolia having ceased buying. The consumption of stocks consigned to Roumania goes on gradually, but at more and more reduced prices.

Sales are limited to those for local consumption. The marked rise in sterling has embarrassed merchants who had given orders for seasonable commodities.

Produce.—Sugar: Prices continue to fall for Java and for American. It is reported that there have been offers of Java June-July at £22-23 per ton, and for August-September at £18-19. Despite the fall, buyers are maintaining a reserved attitude. Quotations are: Java, £23-24; American, 11 dollars per 100 kilos; Dutch, £34-35 per ton. Disposable here is quoted at £37-38 per ton.

Rice.—There has been a rapid improvement as a result of large purchases that have been effected. Rangoon f.o.b. Port Said is £17 per ton, and Saigon No. 1 is £16. Here Saigon is quoted at 13 to 14 piastres per oke.

STAMBOUL, June 18.

The consumption of stocks is proceeding slowly. Wholesale prices continue to fall. Imports consist chiefly of flour and colonial produce; those of manufactures are negligible.

Taking advantage of the determination of retailers to maintain the high prices, a great number of stallholders are established on the public road, who buy for immediate resale goods of an inferior quality. These sales have led to a small improvement of business.

Produce.—Sugar: Offers at reduced prices from the principal producing centres continue, but buyers are still holding aloof, and will not take more than small quantities for fear of a new fall in prices.

Coffee.—The market is firm, and a rise of two to three piastres is to be recorded.

Oil.—The fall in prices continues. The bidon sells at Ps.300 for first quality and Ps.280 for second quality.

Exports.—There has been some business in mohair. About 2,000 bales have been sold at prices ranging from 55 to 65 piastres per oke. The stock here is down to 3,000-3,500 bales. Twenty cases of opium have been also sold—druggist at Ps.800 per oke, fine at Ps.1,000-1,050.

PANDERMA.

The report for May states:—The forecasts of the yield of the forthcoming crop of cereals continue to be very optimistic. Up to the present their yield (maize excepted) is estimated at from three to four times greater than that of the past year, and the quality is expected to be excellent. As regards maize, while the forecasts are all very satisfactory, the harvest being far off, it is too early yet to give a definite opinion. As a result of the favourable climatic conditions, the crop of cocoons in the neighbourhood of this town is reported to be much better than that of the previous year. There is nothing to record as regards trade.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000

CONSTANTINOPLE.

Messrs. L. STEEG, Director-General.
Lt.-Col. J. PROCTER, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. P. REDON
B. KERESTEDJIAN } Directors.
J. UNGAR
DJEVAD BEY.
HAMID BEY.
NOURY BEY.

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LONDON.

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THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH,
C.M.G.
THE EARL OF CHICHESTER, O.B.E.
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EGYPT.

Alexandria. Cairo.
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Port Said.

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Jerusalem.
Jaffa.
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CYPRUS.

Nicosia. Larnaca.
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SYRIA.

Aleppo. Beyrout. Hamah. Saïda.
Alexandretta. Damascus. Hama. Tripoli.

MESOPOTAMIA.

Ashar. Bassorah. Bagdad. Mossoul.

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TUNIS, AFRICA.

(Over 80 Branches in the Near East.)

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

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

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued.

Letters of credit granted.

Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

ON 'CHANGE. TONE FAIRLY CHEERFUL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Monday Night.

As a result of political developments of the past few days, markets are showing a much more cheerful tone, and it is obvious that it would not take very much now to bring about a marked revival in certain lines.

Gilt-edged stocks have been very firm. War Loan Fives are $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 88 $\frac{3}{4}$, while Consols have gained $\frac{1}{4}$ at 46 $\frac{1}{2}$. Victory Bonds are 77 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the Funding Loan is 71 $\frac{3}{4}$. India Sevens are now at a premium of 3 $\frac{1}{4}$, while the Ceylon Loan is $\frac{1}{2}$ premium. It is understood that a loan will shortly be forthcoming for the port of Calcutta, and anticipations make the issue a 7 per cent. one at 94, which would seem a not unreasonable estimate if India has to pay 7 per cent.

Another possible loan in the future is one for Bucharest. Some time ago negotiations were in progress, but without result; but now, as recorded by the Bucharest correspondent of THE NEAR EAST, they have been resumed, and provided conditions favour them, as they will do, the issue may this time be successful. The difficulty obviously is the rate at which the loan can be raised. The investing public, as a result of the constant disturbances of recent years, is not very partial to Near East issues, and through lack of interest is, unfortunately, not in a position to be able to discriminate between those that are good and those that are not, and so cities like Bucharest, which ought to be able to raise a loan on really reasonable terms, may have to pay an exceptional rate for the accommodation.

Business has been restricted in Industrials, and there has been so far no sign of the awakening of public interest. For that we must await the definite termination of the coal strike and a settlement of the dispute with the engineering trades. Oils have been somewhat unsteady, and in many cases the shares are lower on the week. Rubbers continue to be very depressed, and in view of developments and the probability that two or even three years may elapse before the industry recovers, shareholders are naturally wondering whether there will not be a number of reconstructions in the intervening period.

Near Eastern securities have been steady. Egyptian Guaranteed 3 per Cent. at 69, Greek Guaranteed 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent., 1889, at 66, and Turkish Guaranteed 4 per Cent., 1855, at 70 are unchanged.

Greek shares have continued firm. The 5 per Cent., 1881, has gained a point at 44, also the 5 per Cent., 1884, at 44. The 5 per Cent., 1890, is $\frac{1}{2}$ up at 41 xd, while Fundings at 39 are 1 up. The 4 per Cent., 1910, Loan is unchanged at 30, but the 4 per Cent., 1902, Loan is 1 up at 36. The 5 per Cent., 1914, Loan is 2 up at 39.

In Land shares Beheras are unchanged at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the Preference shares remain at 3. Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotments at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ and Egyptian Consolidated Lands at 1s. are the same, while Egyptian Delta Lands at 6s. 6d. are also unchanged. Gharbieh Lands are 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, but New Egyptians have shed 1s. at 21s. 9d. Union Foncières are $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd, while Sudan Plantations are $\frac{1}{2}$ lower at 2 15-16.

In Oils, Anglo-Egyptians are 3-16 up at 1 11-16, while Phoenix have gained 3d. at 11s. 9d. Roumanian Consolidated are unchanged at 13s. 3d., but Steaua Romana have lost 1s. at 14s. 6d. Burmahs are 1-16 up at 6 $\frac{3}{4}$.

In Banks, Agricultural 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Bonds are $\frac{3}{4}$ up at 51 $\frac{1}{2}$, while the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per Cent. Guaranteed Bonds are $\frac{1}{4}$ up at 53 $\frac{1}{2}$. Imperial Ottoman Banks have risen $\frac{1}{4}$ to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, but National Bank of Egypt have lost $\frac{1}{4}$ at 17 $\frac{3}{4}$. Land Bank of Egypt at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd are 1-16 up.

Among Miscellaneous descriptions, Abyssinian Corporations are 2s. Alexandria Waters at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd are 5-16 down. Morums are unchanged at 10s., while Egyptian Markets at $\frac{1}{2}$ are 6d. down. Egyptian Salt and Soda are 6d. down at 27s. 3d.

PALESTINE-MESOPOTAMIA AIR ROUTE.

It is announced that a new air route has been opened up across the desert between Palestine and Mesopotamia. The new route is about 590 miles in length, starting from Ramleh, the main R.A.F. aerodrome in Palestine, and passing through Amman, in Transjordan and Kasrazrak, where landing-grounds have been prepared, and proceeding thence across the Arabian desert to Ramadie, on the Euphrates, and on to Baghdad. The last few intermediate ground stations for use in case of forced landings will shortly be completed. The distances between the principal stations are as follows:—Ramleh-Amman, 65 miles; Amman-Kasrazrak, 55 miles; Kasrazrak-Ramadie, 400 miles; Ramadie-Baghdad, 60 miles.

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

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

Prices on June 10 were as follows:—Agricultural Bank of Egypt, £4 1-32; Alexandria Water Co., Ltd., £6 $\frac{1}{2}$; Anglo-American Nile Steam, £2 $\frac{3}{4}$; Associated Cotton Ginners, £11-16; Banque d'Orient, Fr. 56; Behera Ord., £E7 $\frac{1}{2}$; Behera Priv., £3 3-32; Bonded Stores, £9 $\frac{1}{2}$; Brasseries d'Egypte, Fr. 75; Building Lands of Egypt, £19-32; Cassi di Sconto Priv., Fr. 102 ex; Ciments d'Egypte Priv., Fr. 35; Ciments d'Egypte Div., Fr. 23; Comptoir Fin et Com d'Egypte, £1; Consolidated Land, Pt. 5; Credit Foncier Fondateur, Fr. 780 ex; Credit Foncier Egyptien, Fr. 595 $\frac{1}{2}$; Credit Foncier 1885 Oblig., Fr. 317 $\frac{1}{2}$; Credit Foncier 1903 Oblig., Fr. 222; Credit Foncier 1911 Oblig., Fr. 225; Crown Brewery Priv., Fr. 162; Crown Brewery Div., Fr. 130; Eaux du Caire Capital, Fr. 77; Eaux du Caire Jouissance, Fr. 103; Egypt and Levant, S.S. Ord., 27s. 3d.; Egyptian Delta Light Railways, £4 $\frac{1}{2}$; Filature Nationale d'Egypte, £9 $\frac{1}{2}$; Gabbari Lands, £11-32; Immeubles d'Egypte Soc. an des., £4 15-16; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Ord., 110s.; Khedivial Mail S.S. Co., Pref., £2 $\frac{1}{2}$; Kom Ombo Ste. Ane. de Wadi, £4 7-32; Kom Ombo Ste. Fondateur, £33 9-16; Land Bank of Egypt, Parts de Fond, £35; Lots Turc, Fr. 39; Menzaleh Canal Navigation, Pt. 230 ex; Nungovich Hotels, £6 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ramleh Railway, £1 $\frac{1}{2}$; Salt and Soda, 27s.; Tram. d'Alexandrie Priv., Fr. 35 $\frac{1}{2}$; Tram. d'Alexandrie Div., Fr. 48V; Union Fonciere d'Egypte, £1 15-16 ex; Egypt Hotels, £2; Urbaines et Rurales, £2 27-32.

A new cable has been laid between Madras and Singapore.

Algerian cereals have suffered lately through heavy rains and storms.

A loan of Rs. 71.5 lakhs is to be devoted to harbour improvements at Calcutta.

The Yugoslav Government have removed the prohibition on the export of cattle.

The present prohibition on the import of carbonic soda into Greece has now been withdrawn.

The Trzobank are founding a new concern in Belgrade with the title Donau Kredit. Anstalt, with a capital of 5 mill. dinar.

Owing to a landslip in the Corinth Canal, communications by sea between Piræus and Patras have been interrupted.

The Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Co. announces an interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. on ordinary shares, less tax, payable June 30.

The first day's subscriptions to the new 6 per cent. Government of India loan, says Reuter, totalled nearly eleven crores of rupees.

H.M. Commercial Secretary at Constantinople states that the Turkish customs authorities have announced that duty will be levied on all samples having a commercial value at the time of importation.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

PACKING OF GOODS FOR VARNA.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Varna reports frequent cases of petty pilfering in the port enclosure during the last few months. In the majority of instances the pilfering arises from insecure packing, resulting in the wrenching away of a loose plank, the bursting of a seam, etc. It would, therefore, appear desirable that exporters of goods to Varna should be aware that it is essential that such goods be strongly packed, more especially as the risk of pilferage is increased by the considerable length of time at present taken to clear goods through the Customs (one to three weeks are normally necessary owing to insufficiency of staff).

IMPORTANCE OF SALONIKA.

An interesting article on the port of Salonika appeared in a recent issue of the *Economiste d'Athènes*. Emphasising the importance of Salonika from a pro-Balkan standpoint, the writer declares that the port has many advantages compared with Constantinople owing to the depth and expanse of the gulf and the protracted situation of the port. As regards communication with the East, it can compete successfully with Constantinople, as it is nearer such ports as Smyrna, Alexandria, the Piræus, Trieste, Marseilles, and Algiers by some 250 kilometres. Salonika's chief advantage, however, lies in its central situation in the Balkan Peninsula, which should enable it to strengthen its commercial influence on all important producing centres in the Balkans, from many of which Constantinople is remote. The commercial relations between Constantinople and certain portions even of the Eastern Balkans have been considerably weakened during the last few years.

The Salonika-Alexandria route is destined, in the view of the writer, to become the favoured trade route, being the shortest and cheapest, from Central Europe and the Balkans to the Far East, and it behoves the Greek State to set about effecting the improvements to the port of Salonika which are necessary to enable it to play its part worthily.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia, for Bombay (Liverpool, July 8).

Anchor-Brookbank Line.—S.s. Masirah, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 6); s.s. Maimyo, for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 16); s.s. Maïdan, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 27).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 6); s.s. Lancashire, for Marseilles, Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 20).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Kenneth, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 7); s.s. Clan Macbeth, for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, July 19).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, and Constantinople, (Swansea, July 2; Glasgow, July 5; Liverpool, July 11); s.s. Brescia, for Gibraltar, Genoa, Leghorn, Naples, Palermo, Messina, Catania, etc. (Swansea, July 12).

Ellerman Line.—S.s. Malatian, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, July 6); s.s. Trentino, for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, July 30).

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Ellerman's "City" Line.—S.s. City of Karachi, for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 2); s.s. City of Marseilles, for Bombay and Karachi (Birkenhead, July 2).

Ellerman's "Hall" Line.—S.s. City of Rangoon, for Bombay, Karachi, and the Punjab (Liverpool, July 14).

Ellerman's "Westcott and Laurance" Line.—Steamers sail fortnightly for Mediterranean, Egypt, and Levant ports.

Glen Line.—S.s. Glentara, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, July 14); s.s. Glenapp, for Port Said, Port Swettenham, Singapore, etc. (London, July 28).

Harrison Line.—S.s. Inventor, for Calcutta (Liverpool, July 11).

Henderson Line.—S.s. Amarapoor, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 13); s.s. Mandalay, for Port Said and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 27).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Volo, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Tulcea, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 20).

Maindy Line.—S.s. Maindy Tower, for Antwerp and Moroccan ports (London, end of July).

Moss Line.—S.s. Karnak, for Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, and Sulina (Liverpool, August 6).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Bosnian, for Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. *Caledonia, for Bombay (London, July 1). S.s. Sicilia, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London, July 15); s.s. *Devonha, for Bombay (London, July 15). *Taking cargo for Gibraltar, Port Said, and Aden. (with transhipment at Bombay) for Indian coast and Persian Gulf ports. S.s. Nagoya, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta [taking cargo for Malta, Port Said, and Aden] (London, July 29).

P. and O. British India Line.—S.s. †Mashobra, for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 1); s.s. *Merkara, for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 1). *Taking cargo for Persian Gulf and Malabar coast ports; †taking cargo for Port Said, Suez, and Aden.

ENQUIRY BUREAU.

Readers abroad desirous of getting in touch with British manufacturers, export merchants, etc., are invited to insert a brief reference as to their requirements in this column free of charge.

Replies should be addressed "The Enquiry Bureau, The Near East, 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2."

ADVERTISERS in and annual subscribers to "The Near East" will be supplied with names and addresses of enquiring firms on application. All catalogues sent to "The Near East" for transmission abroad must be accompanied by stamps to cover postage.

No guarantee is given as to the financial stability of firms using this column, and enquiries as to status, etc., must be made by the firms concerned.

Agents Wanted Abroad.

ADVERTISERS requiring agents abroad may insert a paragraph in the following column free of charge. Letters in reply should be addressed to "The Enquiry Bureau, 'The Near East,' 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2," when they will be re-directed to the firms concerned. It must be understood that "The Near East" accepts no responsibility in connection with such replies.

109. A reliable firm of Egyptian hand-made cigarette manufacturers and exporters desire to get into touch with British firms importing Egyptian cigarettes.

111. Agents wanted in the Near East, with good connections in the Typewriter and Stationery Trade, to represent a first-class English firm of manufacturers, on commission basis or own account.

113. Import and Export Merchant in Smyrna invites inquiries from British firms wishing to trade with this territory. Will act as agent or on commission basis.

114. Importer in Karachi (India), travelling throughout India, wishes to get in touch with merchants and manufacturers in England and elsewhere. General merchandise.

115. An import and export firm in Spalato, Yugoslavia, wishes to enter into business relations with British manufacturers, importers, and exporters. Specialities:—Exports: Medicinal herbs, dried fruits, hides, timber. Imports: Oils, food products, tarpaulins, mackintoshes, sacks.

116. Import Merchants in Adana, Cilicia, Asia Minor, wish to represent British firms for any kind of British-made goods. Own account and commission basis. Good references provided. Send catalogues and samples, with prices and terms.

117. Importer in Roumania, interested in jute trade, wishes to get in touch with firms dealing in sacks, new and old, Dundee and Calcutta makes.



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